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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS | Sept. 9—Sept. 30

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Nominations are open for the offices of ELDER and DEACON at Christ Community Church during the month of September. Nomination forms will be available all month at the welcome desk in the foyer. Every member is encouraged to nominate! Our goal is to see at least 10 men nominated for each office.

**Who May be Nominated?** Any male member. Christ Community Church believes that men and women are created equal with distinct callings. At Christ Community, we hold men responsible to fulfill the offices of elder and deacon. If you have questions about our practice, please ask one of the elders.

**How to submit:** Please fill out a nomination form, fold it in half and place it in the offering basket, or in the designated nomination box in the foyer. You may also email your nomination to [info@christcommunitychurch.com](mailto:info@christcommunitychurch.com).

## Key Dates/Timeline:

**September 9**—Nominations open

**September 30**—Deadline to nominate

**October 2012**—Session review of nominations

**November 2012**—January Nominees attend officer meetings to observe

**February 2013**—April Officer training

**April 2013**—Officer Nominees examination, Congregational vote

**May 2013**—Ordination and installation

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## ABOUT THE OFFICE: Deacon

We see the deacon's origin in Acts 6:1-6. This office is designed to meet the physical needs of people, but it is also a spiritual ministry since it arises from spiritual motives (the experience of God's grace, Luke 6:33-36) and makes a spiritual impact (Acts 4:33, Philippians 4:10-20). The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus.

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## The Qualifications for the Office of Deacon

**Character:** Read I Timothy 3. Timothy 3:8-13 tells us deacons must be:

1. Realistic & practical ("dignified")
2. Honest ("not double-tongued")
3. Simple in their lifestyle ("not greedy")
4. Practicing what they preach ("holding to the mystery of the faith with clear conscience")
5. Self-controlled ("not addicted to much wine")
6. A good leader of his family ("managing his family well")
7. Experienced in the faith ("tested")

**Gifts:** Romans 12:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28 tell us of spiritual gifts of "deaconing" (service), "giving", "helps", and "administration", all of which can be displayed in a deacons.

## **The Work of the Diaconate:**

A. Mercy. To meet physical/economic needs inside and outside of the congregation. Visiting the sick, the poor, the elderly, single parent families and helping families in emergencies are included under this heading.

B. Stewardship.

C. Property. Caring for the facilities entrusted to us.

D. Helps. Providing assistance when those among us are in special need.

Note: Although these duties are not necessarily performed by the deacons, the deacons are responsible for their discharge.



## **ABOUT THE OFFICE: Elder**

### **Who is an elder?**

*Consider these texts:*

"I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy

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word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” --Paul’s letter to Titus, chapter 1

“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer (i.e. elder), he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”

–Paul’s 1st letter to Timothy, chapter 3

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” --Paul’s instructions to the Ephesian elders

**Thus, an elder is a mature, godly, man.**

**Mature:** It seems that an elder needs to have had time to learn to depend upon God and His grace. Wisdom, discernment, and patience cannot be microwaved. These are crockpot virtues.

**Godly:** Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ. In the same book (1 Timothy) Paul gives these character traits AND refers to himself as “the chief of sinners”. A humble heart dependant upon the grace of God that is experiencing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is the idea.

**Man:** The Scriptures implicitly teach that there are certain functions among God’s people that are to be carried out by men. The New Testament explicitly states that elder is one such office. Women and men who are not elders function in a plethora of other leadership places in Christ Community Church.

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## What are the duties of an elder?

The duties of an elder are fairly straightforward in the Scriptures. The elders are appointed by God to shepherd and lead the flock of Christ Community Church. Leading is not always easy nor pleasurable but as God continues to work through us by washing his church with His word the Lord is presenting himself a radiant church. The Elders convene regularly to discuss matters of sound theology, direction for the Church, and discipline with love for the people of Christ Community Church. We wish to preach, teach, and counsel to the glory of God. These matters are not taken lightly but with utter importance as we look onto all areas of Christ Community Church.

## Christ Community Church | Qualifications for Officers

The following guidelines, though they are not the final word on the matter, ought to help as you consider these questions. A much fuller account of the qualifications occurs in the Elder Training Class. Qualifications fall into five categories: calling, character, competency, compatibility and comprehension.

**Calling:** Calling is both inward and outward. A candidate should desire to serve and be recognized by others as possessing the gifts and graces necessary for the task.

**Character:** Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ. 1 Timothy 1:3 and Titus 1:5-9 offer a useful summary of the character qualifications.

**Competency:** God calls elders in distinct ways. A candidate should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role. Elder candidates should be able to equip and care for people spiritually and should know their way around the Bible and be able to teach it. They should be comfortable praying with people in need and should be good managers.

**Compatibility:** Candidates need to understand and fit into the CCC's life and vision.

**Comprehension:** Candidates need to understand and accept CCC's convictions about theology and church government. This involves commitment to the Bible's authority, to Presbyterian Church government, and to the Westminster standards.

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The following is from our Book of Church Order:

## *Chapter 8: The Elder*

**8-1.** This office is one of dignity and usefulness. The man who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the oversight of the flock of Christ, he is termed bishop or pastor. As it is his duty to be grave and prudent, an example to the flock, and to govern well in the house and Kingdom of Christ, he is termed presbyter or elder. As he expounds the Word, and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayer, he is termed teacher. These titles do not indicate different grades of office, but all describe one and the same office.

**8-2.** He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

**8-3.** It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted and make disciples. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

**8-4.** As the Lord has given different gifts to men and has committed to some special gifts and callings, the Church is authorized to call and appoint some to labor as teaching elders in such works as may be needful to the Church. When a teaching elder is called to such needful work, it shall be incumbent upon him to make full proof of his ministry by disseminating the Gospel for the edification of the Church. He shall make a report to the Presbytery at least once each year.

**8-5.** When a man is called to labor as a teaching elder, it belongs to his order, in addition to those functions he shares with all other elders, to feed the flock by reading, expounding and preaching the Word of God and to administer the Sacraments. As he is sent to declare the will of God to sinners, and to beseech them to be reconciled to God through Christ, he

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# OFFICER NOMINATIONS | Sept. 9—Sept. 30

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is termed ambassador. As he bears glad tidings of salvation to the ignorant and perishing, he is termed evangelist. As he stands to proclaim the Gospel, he is termed preacher. As he dispenses the manifold grace of God, and the ordinances instituted by Christ, he is termed steward of the mysteries of God.

**8-6.** When a teaching elder is appointed to the work of an evangelist, he is commissioned to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments in foreign countries or the destitute parts of the Church. The Presbytery may by separate acts from that by which it commissioned him, entrust to the evangelist for a period of twelve months the power to organize churches, and, until there is a Session in the church so organized, to instruct, examine, ordain, and install ruling elders and deacons therein, and to receive or dismiss members.

**8-7.** A Presbytery may, at its discretion, approve the call of a teaching elder to work with an organization outside the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church in America, provided that he be engaged in preaching and teaching the Word, that the Presbytery be assured he will have full freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of our Church, and that he report at least annually on his work. As far as possible, such a teaching elder shall be a member of the Presbytery within whose bounds he labors. (See BCO 20-1.)

**8-8.** As there were in the Church under the law, elders of the people for the government thereof, so in the Gospel Church, Christ has furnished others besides ministers of the Word with gifts and commission to govern when called thereunto, who are called ruling elders.

**8-9.** Elders being of one class of office, ruling elders possess the same authority and eligibility to office in the courts of the Church as teaching elders. They should, moreover, cultivate zealously their own aptness to teach the Bible and should improve every opportunity of doing so.