

Deacon Defined G-2.02

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Ruling Elder Defined G-2.03

As there were in Old Testament times, elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session.

President & Vice President

The President and Vice President should be persons of deep faith in Jesus Christ and have a demonstrated commitment to IPC. They should be wise, mature, and approachable.

President of the Congregation

Qualifications:

1. Has demonstrated commitment to IPC through attendance, giving, and service
2. Has contributed to the work of the church across multiple ministries
3. Knows and is known by the membership of the congregation
4. Is devoted to the mission of the church and its role in the community
5. Is an Elder who has previously served on the Session at IPC and understands and supports church polity

Term: 1 year

Responsibilities:

1. Serve as a cheerleader for the church and its ministries, helping to advance the goals of the church as set out by the Session and encouraging participation by the members
2. Participate actively in the worship, mission, and life of the church
3. Commit to praying regularly for our church and staff
4. Participate actively in the new member orientation and welcoming process
5. Serve as the church ambassador in the community, representing IPC at community, ecumenical, or interfaith events and gatherings

6. Act as liaison to the congregation, communicating Session priorities and actions as appropriate, including a quarterly article in the church newsletter
7. Deliver annual report at the Annual Meeting of the congregation
8. Attend meetings of Session without a vote
9. Serve on HR ministry team and the Representative Nominating Committee
10. Mentor and coordinate efforts with Vice-President

Vice President of the Congregation

Qualifications & Term:

1. Same as President

Responsibilities:

1. Attend meetings of Session without a vote
2. Serve on Finance ministry team and Representative Nominating Committee
3. Coordinate efforts with the President, acting as substitute when helpful or necessary
4. Serve as President for the year following the term as Vice President

Congregational Nominating Committee F-1.0403

Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: 1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; 2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and 3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote.