

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.

Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President of Independent Presbyterian Church is in training for the office of the President for the following year.

1. Serve as a member of the HR Ministry Team, which meet on the 1st Thursday at 8:00 a.m.
2. Serve as a member of the Benefits Sub-Committee of the HR Ministry Team. Benefits Sub-Committee calls meetings as needed.
3. Serve on the Representative Nominating Ministry Team. This committee's organizational meeting convenes in February and meets several times in March (as a rule) to provide a slate of officers for the coming year. The slate of officers is presented for congregational election in late August or early September.
4. Serve on the Session. The Session meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
5. Serves on the Executive Ministry Team, which meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Duties of the President

1. Serves as Chairperson of Executive Ministry Team which meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
2. Serves as Chairperson of the HR Ministry Team. This gives you a vote only in case of a tie. The HR Ministry Team meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m.
3. Serve on the Benefits Sub-Committee of the HR Ministry Team. Benefits Sub-Committee calls meetings as needed.
4. Serve on the Session, which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The President presents any personnel changes or additions for Session approval as necessary, and brings proposals of any changes that require a vote by the Session.
5. Serve on the Representative Nominating Ministry Team. This ministry team's organizational meeting convenes in February and meets several times in March (as a rule) to provide a slate of officers for the coming year. The slate of officers is presented for congregational election in late August or early September.
6. In early December, prepare two (2) reports:
 - a. The activities of the Personnel Ministry Team for the Annual Report. It is helpful to make a monthly note of items of concern addressed at each meeting for use in this report.
 - b. The President's Report – A written report is required, plus an oral report that is presented to the congregation at IPC's annual meeting, usually in January.

If copies of the Annual Report are to be presented to the Congregation, this oral report need not be too lengthy. It may be helpful to read some of the reports as preserved in the Yearly Annual Reports in the Church Library.

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.