

RULING ELDER

Position Description

(approved by Nominating: ?)

“The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.”
Session Responsibilities, Book of Order, G-3.0201

A Ruling Elder will:

1. fulfill the requirement of officers found in the Book of Order, G-4.0302 Mandatory Reporting: “Any member of this church engaged in ordered ministry and any certified Christian educator employed by this church or its congregations, shall report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of a confidential communication as defined in G-4.0301, (2) she or he is not bound by an obligation of privileged communication under law, or (3) she or he reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse.”
2. attend Session meetings, ordinarily one per month (allow two to three hours each);
3. serve on a committee, very likely serving as chair, apply personal skills to the work, and carry out that work in a timely fashion;
4. engage in discussion/debate, but then respect Session’s right to decide and be supportive;
5. serve communion and, if willing, serve as liturgist;
6. welcome newcomers and strangers;
7. be willing to serve as commissioner to Presbytery;
8. demonstrate and respect confidentiality;
9. be regular in worship and fellowship activities;
10. pledge;
11. attend training when elected to serve (allow seven to eight hours);
12. attend an annual retreat;
13. make this call a priority in life;
14. will fulfill the requirements in the Sexual Misconduct Policy; and
15. strive to fulfill “Qualities and Characteristics of an Officer.”