

QUALITIES and CHARACTERISTICS of an OFFICER

(approved by Nominating:)

“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 teaching elders, 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. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office.”

Book of Order, G-2.0301 Ruling Elder Defined

“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.”

Book of Order, G-2.0201 Deacon Defined

In addition to the above, an Officer will:

1. grow in and strive for a strong, passionate faith, being one who loves God in Jesus Christ, is led by and filled with the Holy Spirit as well as committed to worship;
2. have the ability and willingness to hear the will of God through others, achieving decisions prayerfully;
3. be a leader who will commit to this higher calling, making this responsibility a priority in their life;
4. demonstrate leadership and organizational skills;
5. demonstrate commitment to and knowledge of the Church and our particular congregation;
6. work well with others with the ability to compromise and be flexible;
7. be temperate in behavior, patient and possesses a positive attitude;
8. show strength of their own convictions and character and will communicate their thoughts and opinions well, but will abide by the will of the body;
9. embrace the principles expressed in the ordination and installation questions;
10. be responsible, dependable, punctual and follow through with commitments;
11. be generous, a good steward, and a pledger, possessing a servant’s heart; and
12. be ethical, possess good morals, and live a Christian life.