

OFFICER NOMINATION PROCEDURES AND TESTIMONIES

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AUGUST 2021





Dear Grace Family,

At our congregational meeting on August 1, our Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominees to enter training for elder or deacon. We are much indebted to the superb work Chairman Mike Flinn and his team have done to present these nominees to us. Those who complete the training in the fall will be examined by the Session in mid-November. Those approved by the Session will be presented to you for election in December.

The back of this booklet contains the slate of nominees. Typically, the congregation happily accepts the work of the committee; however, the floor will be open for additional nominations, following the procedures outlined on page twelve of this booklet. The Lord has richly blessed us with Christ-like leaders, and we pray he will continue to do so through the deliberative process established by our congregation.

As you will see in a separate communication, the session is also asking the congregation, at this meeting, to act on recommended bylaws changes. Following these two business items, we shall all join in a season of prayer for our Senior Pastor Search Committee. As always, I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours in Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Willson". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and personal.

Sandy Willson
Interim Senior Pastor

SUGGESTED STANDARDS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PEORIA, IL

I. Biblical Instructions

Acts 6:1-4

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

I Timothy 3:1-13

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, 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. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 1:5-9

This is why 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 word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

I Peter 5:1-4

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

We can summarize the Bible’s teaching in this area by speaking of four primary traits:

1. Godliness

- a. temperate, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined (Titus 1:7, 8) [including sexual purity, moderation and maturity with alcohol, honesty]
- b. sincere (I Timothy 3:8)
- c. not pursuing dishonest gain (I Tim 3:8; Titus 1:7), not a lover of money (I Tim 3:3); not greedy for money (I Peter 5:2)
- d. an example to the flock (I Peter 5:3)
- e. full of the Spirit (Acts 6:3, 5)

2. Desire to serve (I Timothy 3: 1; I Peter 5:2) in humility (Acts 6:2)

3. Love for others – hospitable, gentle, patient, not quarrelsome (I Tim 3:2, 3; Titus 1:7, 8)

4. Good Reputation

a. above reproach (I Timothy 3:2)

b. with good reputation among outsiders (I Timothy 3:7)

II. Constitutional Guidelines

A. The Elder

BCO 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.

BCO 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.

BCO 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

BCO 8-3 (cont'd)

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.

BCO 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.

B. The Deacon

BCO 9-1

The office of deacon is set forth in the Scriptures as ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need.

BCO 9-2

It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.

In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible for any reason to secure deacons, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the ruling elders.

BCO 9-3

To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

BCO 9-4

The deacons of a particular church shall be organized as a Board, of which the pastor shall be an advisory member. The Board shall elect a chairman and a secretary from their number and a treasurer to whom shall be entrusted the funds for the current expenses of the church. It shall meet separately at least once a quarter, and whenever requested by the Session. The Board of each church shall determine the number necessary for a quorum.

The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings, and of all funds and their distribution, and shall submit its minutes to the Session regularly, and at other times upon request of the Session.

It is desirable that the Session and the Board of Deacons meet in joint session once a quarter to confer on matters of common interest.

BCO 9-7

It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need. These assistants to the deacons are not officers of the church (BCO 7-2) and, as such, are not subjects for ordination (BCO 17).

III. Ordination Vows (with helpful questions)

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

- *Obviously submits to the Scriptures in belief and lifestyle?*
- *Regularly reads and studies the Bible?*
- *Leads his family in worship?*

2. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and do you further promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the fundamentals of this system of doctrine, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Session the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?

- *Thinks carefully and theologically?*
- *Committed to distinctives of evangelical and reformed faith?*
- *As an elder is apt to teach?*

3. Do you approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity?

- *Agrees to participate faithfully in the broader courts of the church?*
- *Commits to GPC standards for restoration and church discipline?*
- *Agrees with GPC standards for handling sensitive and confidential information, for disagreeing agreeably as a board member, and for handling congregational or church staff complaints?*

4. Do you accept the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church, and promise faithfully to perform all the duties thereof, and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your life, and to set a worthy example before the Church of which God has made you an officer?

- *Has no known sin in his life in which he is repetitively and unrepentantly engaged?*

- *Leads a healthy family, whose wife and minor children are actively engaged at GPC?*
 - *Faithfully tithes to GPC? Gives to Missions Fund at GPC?*
 - *Faithfully attends church worship services and Sunday School?*
 - *Courageously stands for God and His Word regardless of cost to self?*
 - *Seeks to lead unchurched people to Christ and to Church and disciple them?*
 - *Will give priority to ministry as officer above all other civic and faith-based commitments?*
 - *Will faithfully serve in SS as required by our shepherding model?*
5. Do you promise subjection to your brethren in the Lord?
- *Can work well with others under a common structure for a common goal?*
 - *Thinks independently and also works well with others for common solution?*
 - *Known for brotherly affection and mutual trust in working relationships?*
6. Do you promise to strive for the purity, peace, unity and edification of the Church?
- *Has no known unreconciled relationship in GPC?*

IV. The Officer's Marital Status

An officer may be either single or married. If a man is married, the best way to test his ability to lead in the Church is to observe his management in the home (1 Timothy 3:11). The children of an officer must be believers in Christ who are (as minors) obedient to their parents. (1 Timothy 3: 4, 5, 12; Titus 1: 6) The spouse of an officer must be a believer who is godly, loving, and supportive of the officer's ministry.

We believe that a person who is divorced in accord with biblical principles, whether remaining single or having remarried, may serve as a church officer. We must exercise special care, however, in the case of persons considered for church office who have divorced or remarried on unbiblical grounds. In such situations, guilt must be acknowledged and repentance

for sin expressed. The persons concerned must have been rehabilitated sufficiently in the confidence and respect of other Christians as to be able to fulfill in an exemplary way the requirements of church office with regard to marital and family relationships. The Session should consider that even when such care is exercised, there may be circumstances in which it would be inadvisable, even though technically permissible, for such divorced or remarried persons to serve as church officers. Community awareness of the situation might also be considered so that not even apparent scandal be attached to the church.

In the event an active elder or deacon becomes engaged in divorce proceedings while serving his term, then that officer, regardless of his level of guilt or complicity, is expected to move automatically to “inactive” status until after the Session deems either that the officer’s marriage is reconciled or that the officer, as the “offended party,” has biblical grounds for divorce and is sufficiently restored for leadership as an officer.

V. The Officer’s Duties

1. Attend monthly officers’ meetings regularly.
2. Participate fully in Sunday School-based shepherding ministry.
3. Join the Sunday School class where most needed, along with his wife.
4. Participate on teams and committees where needed to the best of his ability.
5. Attend officers’ conferences and officers’ retreats when convened.

A WORD FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Fellow Grace Members,

God is good! It has been truly uplifting to step back and see how the Lord has blessed our flock with so many leaders. Through a rigorous process, we have identified the men listed in this booklet as our recommended slate of candidates.

As our congregation transitions to our new pastor, broadens its emphasis on shepherding, leverages the Lord's past blessings, and continues to be used mightily in the future, it will be these men who will lead our flock along with our pastors, ministry leaders, and staff. Given the important shepherding focus for our flock and guided by the anticipated approval of our bylaw changes, the committee sought candidates to fill ten Session Elder positions and seven Diaconate Deacon positions on the slate this year. We are increasing the class sizes over the next couple of years to achieve twenty-four men serving on both the Session & Diaconate.

Please join me in praying that the Fall training will be a time of learning, edification, strengthening, and searching of hearts as they are equipped to serve. Please pray for their families, protection from the evil one, unity of spirit, wisdom, and discernment. Pray for current Session members and the November candidate examinations. Finally, please pray for the December congregational vote and subsequent ordination of our leaders in their roles.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and the Lord on the Nominations Committee this year. Please know that we took this responsibility very seriously and have sought to serve the church and the Lord humbly and prayerfully.

2021 Grace Presbyterian Church Nominations Committee

Sarah Alkire
Brian Doolittle
Pastor Kerry Frantz
Tom Giese
Craig Harlan
Greg Maston
Derek Tanis

Mike Flinn (Chair; humbly submitted)

PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE IN GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the Presbyterian Church, we believe that God in His Word has appointed two church offices: elder and deacon. The pastors and the ruling elders share the office of elder together and serve together on the session, which is the ruling body of the local church.

In the Old Testament, Moses told the people to choose from each of their tribes those who were to rule over them (see Deuteronomy 1:13-15). This principle of Divine leadership through democratic election remains today in our church.

At Grace Presbyterian Church, our congregation will elect a Nominating Committee each year, who prays, studies the Scriptures, receives recommendations from the congregation, and deliberates carefully before submitting to the congregation a slate of nominees for election as elders and deacons.

At the same congregational meeting when the Nominating Committee submits its slate, the congregation as a whole (as Robert's Rules of Order provide) has the right and privilege:

- 1) to close the nominations, or
- 2) to make further nominations to run against those on the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees.

Although it is common for the Nominating Committee's slate to be received unamended, if a nomination is given from the floor, the nominator, the seconder, and the one nominated must each have read the "Suggested Standards for Church Officers," and the one nominated must have given his permission to be nominated.

All of our officers, including those who have previously been through Officers' Training, will be expected to attend Officers' Training immediately prior to the year they begin their service.

(Newly ordained deacons and elders will also be mentored during their first nine months of service on their respective board.) After Officers' Training, followed by examination of the Session, those nominated by the congregation and approved by the Session will be put before the congregation for election. If the Nominating Committee's slate is uncontested, then each candidate, in order to be elected, must receive a majority of "yes" votes from all those voting. If the congregation has added to the Nominating Committee slate, then those candidates from the combined slate receiving the most votes will be elected to the number of offices equal to the number of Nominating Committee nominees presented for election.

ELDER SESSION CANDIDATES

(Class of 2023 - Two-Year Term)



Tom Allen — Member since 1978; Grace Connections Sunday School

Current Ministries: Elder, Session Steering Committee Member, Session Adult Ministries Committee Member, Grace Connections President, Worship Orchestra, Choir, Christmas Choir, Symphonic Winds, Monday Men's Work Fellowship

Past Ministries: Session, Clerk of Session, Session Council Utilization Committee Chair, Church Trustee, Small Group Leader, Christmas TV Production Crew, Boy's Brigade Helper, VBS Teacher

Testimony: I became a Christian late in high school and was disciplined through small group Bible studies.



Thom Simpson — Member since 1982

Current Ministries: Personnel Committee; Adult Ministries Committee Chair; Senior Pastor Search Committee; Steering Committee

Past Ministries: Elder, Session, Senior Pastor Search Committee Chair, Personnel Committee Chair, Nominating Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Umbrella Committee, Unlimited Grace CMF leader, Christian Education Committee Chair, 3rd/4th grade Sunday School Coordinator, Sunday School Superintendent

Testimony: I accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 27 as a result of the witness a Christian boss and the wife and her family.

ELDER SESSION CANDIDATES

(Class of 2024 - Three-Year Term)



Richard Driessnack — Member of Grace 1989-2008, member of Christ Presbyterian Church in Brentwood, TN 2010-2013, member of Grace Pres 2013-present

Current Ministries: Adult Choir, On-Call Physician during Sunday services

Past Ministries: Christmas Choir, Grace Singers, Series 33 Men's Bible Study, personal Orthopaedic Medical Missions Trips to Valladolid, Mexico, for fifteen years through Chosen Ministries, member Christian Medical and Dental Society since 1983, Peoria Christian School Board Member, 1997-2000.

Testimony: Having been raised by parents in a Lutheran church my entire life, I consciously accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in college at the University of Michigan in 1974.



Dan Hunt — Member since 2008; Foundations Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Foundations Sunday School teacher, Clerk of Session, COVID Task Force

Past Ministries: Prayer Team, Life on Life leader, High School Ministry volunteer, Special Needs buddy, Senior Pastor Search Committee, Nominations Committee Chair, Personnel Committee member, Oversight Committee Chair

Testimony: I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior while in college attending the college ministry (Oasis) here at Grace.



Andrew Kamm — Member since 2014; Foundations Sunday School, Eastside Community Group

Current Ministries: Shepherding Elder since 2019

Past Ministries: Lead Pastor at Christ Community Church (Champaign-Urbana, 2010-2014)

Testimony: I first trusted Jesus to give me new life at a youth group meeting in 1999.

ELDER SESSION CANDIDATES (cont'd)



Brian Livingston — Member since 1994; New Beginning Sunday School class.

Current Ministries: YAMS, Campus Outreach board, Springfield church plant session, small group Bible study leader, Young Adult Pastor search committee

Past Ministries: Elder, Succession Committee, various adult SS teaching roles, small group Bible study leader, college ministry

Testimony: Being raised in a Christian home, I accepted Christ as my own personal Savior at age 12. He has held me fast ever since!



Dustin Schumacher — Member since 2015; Eastside Community Group

Current Ministries: Hospitality (Greeting)

Past Ministries: Hospitality (Taste of Grace), Community Group Leader, Intercessory Prayer Team

Testimony: I came to Christ in 2009, during my sophomore year in college after the death of a friend and having conversations with a pastor at my mom's church, Calvary Mennonite Church.



Kevin Siscoe — Member since 2016; Cornerstone Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Sanctuary Choir

Past Ministries: Antioch Group, eleven years Christian counseling; Pastoral ministry, twenty-three years

Testimony: I trusted Christ as Savior at Faith Bible Camp as a child.

ELDER SESSION CANDIDATES (cont'd)



Mike Uno — Member since 1973; Jack and Marilyn Stevens Bible Study

Current/Past Ministries: Elder, Director of GPC ESL ministry, Teacher – ESL International Study Group (Sunday school class), Staff member – Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), Missionary – GPC

Testimony: I received Christ while a student at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, after a Cru presentation, “If I Should Die,” and immediately got involved in the Cru student ministry.



Steve White — Member since 2021; Growing in Grace Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Sanctuary Choir, Safety/Security Team, Grace Missions Committee, Monday Morning Men, Midwest Food Bank

Past Ministries: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Camp Leader, Grace Kidz Toddlers, Life on Life leader, Cuba missions trip

Testimony: I accepted Christ as my Savior at a Fellowship of Athletes (FCA) sports camp in Minnesota during high school.

DEACON CANDIDATES (Class of 2024 - Three-Year Term)



Matt Crow — Member since 2004; Families For Christ Sunday School class; Life on Life group

Current Ministries: Co-leading a Radical Mentoring group

Past Ministries: VBS table leader, Golf Cart ministry, Grace Security Team, Infant nursery, Ropp Memorial Golf Outing, Men Sharpening Men leadership team, Christian Center Soccer/Baseball/Basketball coach

Testimony: I gave my life to Christ at age 13 during an altar call at a youth conference in Decatur, IL.

DEACON CANDIDATES (cont'd)



T. J. Crowell — Member since 2001; Families For Christ Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Finance Committee, Deacon, Families for Christ leadership

Past Ministries: Small group Bible study

Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and came to Christ at a young age. I am committed to following Jesus as my Savior and Lord.



Matthew Kuntz — Member since 2008; Foundations Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Grace Media Ministry, Radical Mentoring

Past Ministries: Café, Golf Cart ministry, Nursery, VBS, Watchman Prayer Ministry

Testimony: I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior as a child. However, I chose to pursue the ways of the world as a teen and in early adulthood. In 2004, I was invited to attend Grace. I am grateful that He cared enough to bring me back into His flock.



Kevin Misura — Member since 2012; Patria Sunday School class.

Current Ministries: Coffee Ministry, Hospitality

Past Ministries: Campus Outreach, Young Adult Ministry, Belize Mission Trip

Testimony: I came to Christ in college through Campus Outreach during the spring of 2010.

DEACON CANDIDATES (cont'd)



Sean Murray — Member since 2000; Families for Christ Sunday School class

Current Ministries: Deacon, Kindergarten Sunday School teacher, Toddler Nursery volunteer, VBS Volunteer

Past Ministries: Junior High Sunday School small group leader

Testimony: I came to Christ shortly before I was married while speaking with Dr. Ben Johnston.



Cam Parr — Member since 1998; Growing in Grace Sunday School class.

Current Ministries: Finance Committee, Whole Life Stewardship Team, Hospitality Team, Life on Life Bible study

Past Ministries: Diaconate, Treasurer, Trustee, 5th grade Sunday School teacher, Grace 150 Capital Campaign

Testimony: At age five, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior during Sunday School.



Ben Streeter — Member since 2014; Families for Christ Sunday School class.

Current Ministries: Deacon, Whole Life Stewardship Team, Compassion & Concern Committee, Belize missions trip, Boys Brigade/Tree Climbers, Coach at The Christian Center

Past Ministries: Grace Kidz, VBS

Testimony: I came to Christ as a child, raised faithfully by parents who love the Lord and attended First Church of Merrimack in New Hampshire.



Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)

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