

## Officer Nominations

It is time for RPC members to consider nominations for the offices of Deacon and Ruling Elder. The Lord Jesus Christ gifts and calls men to two offices with two distinct sets of gifts to serve his church. The gifts mirror Jesus's personal ministry. Deacons are gifted to serve and meet the mercy needs of our church family. Elders are gifted to shepherd and provide oversight for our church family.

As you prayerfully consider nominees, please review the biblical qualifications from 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and three questions found below.

*Is the man's life shaped by the Gospel of grace?* He is not a perfect man, but he knows Jesus Christ's love for him. By God's grace, he models a life of humility, repentance, and faith.

*Is the man's home shaped by the Gospel of grace?* Before a man can care for a church family, he must first be able to manage his own household. If a husband, is he leading and serving his wife? If a father, is he leading and serving his children? Again, this does not mean that he is perfect. It means that he is pointing his family to Jesus.

*Is the man actively serving the church family?* The best way to sense a man's gifts is to see them already at work. Is the man already "eldering" or "deaconing"?

Additionally,

- A nominee must be a member of RPC
- A nominee must receive at least two nominations (only one per family)

Please nominate who you think is qualified without asking if the person is willing to serve. The elders will reach out to each candidate and talk through the discernment and training process.

Nominations can be dropped in the offering box (forms to nominate can be found in the foyer), or emailed to Robin at [admin@redeemerpres.church](mailto:admin@redeemerpres.church). Please include your name (anonymous nominations will not be received), the candidates name, and the office (i.e. deacon or elder). **Please note that all nominations must be submitted by Sunday, September 8.**

### **What is the office of Deacon?**

The office of deacon is one of sympathy and service (Acts 6:1-7) that reflects the community of God's people, especially in helping one another in time of need. The deacon is a man in whom God has fanned into flame the ability and the passion for mercy ministry. The deacon reflects the gospel of grace as he ministers to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress.

### **Qualifications for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13 (ESV))**

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.

### **What is the office of Elder?**

The elder is a man to whom God has given the ability and the desire to serve God's people as a shepherd (1 Pt. 5:2). An elder is a shepherd who knows and cares for members of the church and helps others to grow in grace through prayer, guidance, teaching, and visitation. The elder also shepherds by overseeing (Acts 20:28) the spiritual health of the church's members and ministries. The elder leads by guarding God's people (Acts 20:31) from spiritual harm and by protecting the faithfulness of the gospel as it is taught in the church. Lastly, the elder shepherds by reflecting an example (1 Pt. 5:1-3) of what it means to live a life of faith, hope, and repentance as he becomes more like Jesus.

### **Qualifications for Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7 (ESV))**

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.