

## **CALLED TO LEAD**

All Christians everywhere are called to discipleship, to the proclamation of the gospel in word and deed, to service, and to worship.

Some Christians are called to lead. The leadership of the church, at least in the reformed tradition, is exercised in certain offices: minister of word and sacrament, elders, and deacons.

At First Reformed Church, we make distinctions even within this order, as we identify care elders and administrative elders; ministry deacons and administrative deacons.

Care elders provide spiritual oversight of people within the church--offering care, encouragement, shepherding, wisdom, and counsel.

Ministry deacons are tasked with overseeing and leading ministries of mission, mercy, and service.

Administrative elders and deacons, along with ordained ministers, serve on our executive team, providing leadership of the whole church with a special focus on vision, policy, and staffing.

The process by which we identify care elders, ministry deacons, and administrative team members begins today. This is a deliberate process that seeks to best identify those whom God has most capably gifted in areas of care, ministry, and leadership. Your participation in this process makes it work.

- It begins with simply praying--asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom in nominating those who are best equipped, and also asking the Holy Spirit to prepare and equip you if you are so nominated. Look at the list of published names (this is a listing of all eligible members and can be found at the information table) and pray over this list the next two weeks.
- Nomination ballots will be given out beginning Sunday, August 27. Prayerfully complete your ballot and submit by September 17. Members of our nomination committee will be on hand during discipleship hour on the 10th and 17th to answer questions, provide direction, and pray with you.
- In November, the nominating committee will present a single slate of candidates to the consistory for approval. At our annual congregational meeting in December, we will vote on that single slate.

Leadership matters to God. When leaders lead, the church wins. Take this process seriously, church!

Pastor Travis Else

Team Lead