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## We Need People Who Will Listen to God

We obviously want leaders who care about us. But they must be jealous for God's concerns for us, for our church, for our world.



Our leaders have to commit a large portion of time in service to the church.



While we don't expect our leaders to BE Christ, they should be followers of Christ.



And while we care about the future of our church, we need leaders who will also be mindful of our history and heritage.

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# DISCERNMENT

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Some of our Ruling Elders at their meeting on June 22, 2017.

## Our Common Search

The work of the Nominating Committee is really the work of us all. While we task them with presenting to us a recommended slate for the Class of 2020 Ruling Elders (and someone for the Class of 2018 unexpired term) the responsibility for discerning leaders remains with the congregation. As you have thoughts or suggestions for the Nominating Committee, share them. Any time you think of our leadership, our church, or our future together, pray for them. And whether through this part of the process through to the time we actually vote together, be listening for God's voice to us as a church.

As always, before submitting a name, please (1) pray about your choice and (2) ask your candidate's permission. You can share your suggestions with anyone on the Nominating Committee: Jennifer Brogan, Linda Douglas, Nancy Montgomery, Phil Ray and Danny Thompson. David Ealy is staff to the committee but is NOT a voting member.

Please consider well the Class of Elders and the needs of our church both now and into the future.

For a detailed page of the requirements for the office of Ruling Elder, you can get a copy from the church office, on the website or emailed to you.

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# What's Required?

In plain language, the Session is responsible for everything that happens in the name of Hawfields Presbyterian Church with two important exceptions. The congregation is responsible for electing its leadership and for the disposition of church property. The Nominating Committee is particularly tasked with aiding the congregation in their process by having a sustained study of our congregation, our church's needs and prayerful seeking of God's will in choosing a slate of five (5) Ruling Elder Candidates and one (1) Youth Elder Candidate to form the Class of 2020. The Youth Elder will serve only a one year term (thus, their term will end with the Class of 2018). Among the qualifications you will review, bear in mind the ordination vows as listed in our Book of Order (see the right column).

The Youth Ruling Elder is a position recently adopted by the congregation under the following conditions:

1. They must be a confirmed member of the congregation
2. They must be at least a sophomore in high school or older
3. They must meet the other criteria for Ruling Elder
4. If a viable candidate is not available for a given class, it is not a given to fill this seat for that given class year

Above all else, nominations should be made because we feel led by Christ to do so.

From time to time questions arise about the viability of potential candidates under certain circumstances. Below are a few common circumstances.

## *Presently Serving Elders*

Ruling Elders may serve two consecutive terms but must take a break for at least a year before becoming eligible to serve again.

## *Members of the Nominating Committee*

Members of the committee are not technically prohibited from being nominated. It does, however, present a profound conflict of interest to both serve on the Nominating Committee and then also seek to be a part of the recommended slate.

## *Non-Members*

The Book of Order is clear that only members may be nominated for Ruling Elder.

## **The Ordination Vows**

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- i. Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?