

## ***The Nature of the Office***

### **Elders**

The office of **elder** is one of leadership, vision and spiritual discernment.

Elders should be persons of abiding faith, who have gifts for leadership, organization and discernment. With the pastors, they prayerfully determine God's mission for the church and provide oversight to the programs and ministry of our life together.

At Fox Chapel, much of the work of the session is delegated to committees. Each elder serves on a committee and may chair it for part of his/her term. It is the duty of an elder to serve communion, assist in other sacraments, and attend regular meetings. Candidates should attend worship regularly and give financially to the work of the church.

### **Specific time requirements:**

Attend Session Meetings (4th Monday of the month)

Serve on a church committee (1 meeting per month)

On average, plan on 8-10 hours per month

### **Deacons**

The office of **deacon** is one of sympathy, care, and service, after the example of Christ who came to serve.

Deacons should be persons of compassion, who have gifts for loving and caring for all of God's people in tangible ways.

At Fox Chapel, the deacons are organized into committees with the responsibility for a specific activity such as Dove Tree or Ronald McDonald House. It is the duty of the deacon to serve communion, write the Letters of Concern and/or shuttle members. Candidates should attend worship regularly and give financially to the work of the church.

### **Specific time requirements:**

Attend Deacon Meetings (3rd Monday of the month)

Serve on a deacon subcommittee (As scheduled)

On average, plan on 6-8 hours per month

## ***Vows for Church Officers***

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?

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?

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?

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will our church's polity govern you, 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?

Will you, in your own life, seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

*(For Elder)* Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

*(For Deacon)* Will you be a faithful Deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

## ELDERS AND DEACONS

### *Book of Order G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons*

Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403).

#### **Class of 2024**

Bill Dawson  
George Grune  
Mike Phillips  
Polly Swanson  
Janet Ummer  
Gwen Zaleski

#### **ELDERS**

#### **Class of 2025**

Leah Cullen  
Bill Follansbee  
Steve Huntington  
Chet Karas  
Cate Mettenburg  
Barbara Patterson

#### **Class of 2026**

Cindy Frolich  
Howard Havlicsek  
Harrison Lauer  
Ralph Miller  
Jay Thier  
David Tupponce

#### **Class of 2024**

David Garzarelli  
Sarah Jane Inglis  
JoEllen Leech  
Matt Scott  
Kathy Smith  
Jaye Tupponce  
Sheila Schmutz  
Isabel Tuttle

#### **DEACONS**

#### **Class of 2025**

Brian Baxter  
Courtney Borntraeger  
Susie Dull  
Sandie Enders  
Jane Flannery  
Connie Richless  
Megan Sweringen

#### **Class of 2026**

Bryan Bass-Riley  
Don Boyd  
Brenner Brown  
Toby Eberhart  
Brenda Karas  
Fay Powell  
Kim Power  
Katie Walker

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

(Mark 9:33)