

## INFORMATION FOR THOSE CONSIDERING THE CALL TO BE RULING ELDER, DEACON OR TRUSTEE

### WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS?

The following qualifications are particularly important and necessary for individuals serving our congregation:

- Works well with others
- Is a good listener and listens to reason
- Is able to delegate
- Takes initiative and follows through on assignments
- Relates well with all groups and ages
- Is able to articulate ideas and thoughts clearly
- Is enthusiastic about the church and its future
- Is regular in worship attendance
- Evidences a growing faith
- Shows creativity and imagination

### WHAT IS THE CALL PROCESS?

1. Should you accept this call, you will be elected at a special meeting of the congregation in September.
2. You will be ordained and/or installed shortly thereafter and begin service with the next meeting of your board.
3. Based on nominees' schedules, Pastor François and Pastor Taylor will hold a few orientation and training sessions to familiarize you with the duties and responsibilities of the office to which you have been nominated.
4. Your term of service is three years, ending in September of 2026. Back-to-back terms (meaning serving for 6 years) are not encouraged at WPC.
5. In the interim, if you accept this nomination, you are invited and encouraged to attend the meetings of your board where you will have voice but no vote.
6. We generally keep our meetings to 2 hours or less.

### MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE ROLES

#### **Ruling Elders**

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.

Ruling elders, together with teaching elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected as commissioners to higher councils, ruling elders participate and vote with the same authority as teaching elders, and they are eligible for any office. The Session presently meets at 7:30 on the first Monday of the month. Session members are responsible for serving on one or more Councils and/or Committees.

**The current Session is:**

Class of 2023

Elizabeth Hansen, Frank Noyes, Jim Oetinger, Helen Picher

Class of 2024

Diane Corbett, Roger Demos, Leslie Krowchenko, Gwyn Vernon

Class of 2025

Mary Lou Day, Brian George, Jr., Kristine Mulhorn, Shirley Rudd

**Deacons**

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. The Board of Deacons presently meets at 7:30 on the third Tuesday of the month.

**The current Board of Deacons is:**

Class of 2023

Dottie Celebre, Deb Dunbar, Tom Erickson, Nancy Oetinger, June Tolomeo

Class of 2024

Karen Emmons, Lin Floyd, Carol Freidinger, Danielle Haury, Kai Yokoyama

Class of 2025

Sally Clyde, Chris Dearnaley, Polly Sacco Ezzell, Tracy Moran, Cyndi Lacroix

## **Trustees**

Trustees are the agents of the corporation/church who handle its business and carry out its orders. Trustees function under the review and control of the session. Duties include managing and caring for the buildings and property of the church. The Board of Trustees presently meets at 7:30 on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

### **The current Board of Trustees is:**

Class of 2023

Roger Freidinger, David Haury, Jean Stromberg, Gail Weaver

Class of 2024

Ken Ezzell, Walt Kaminski, Vicki Lovecchio, Pat Tillson

Class of 2025

Bruce Clark, Mary Payne, John Tiedeck, Tony Tolomeo

### **WALLINGFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:**

- With grateful recognition that Jesus Christ is Lord of the church and of our lives, the mission of the people of Wallingford Presbyterian Church is to witness to Christ's presence and power.
- We recognize that we have been transformed, yet are always being transformed into the likeness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
- We witness through meaningful worship, Christian nurture, spiritual growth, caring service, fellowship, music, and mission in the broader community.
- In faithful response to God's call, we remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit so that we continually are shaped as individuals and as the body of Christ.

### **FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BOOK OF ORDER:**

The good news of the Gospel is that God creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people... The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church. In Christ, the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ.

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The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body.

The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world.

The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things.

The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.

The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

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The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; The maintenance of divine worship; The preservation of the truth;

The promotion of social righteousness; and  
The exhibition of the kingdom of Heaven to the world.

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