

## DEACON NOMINATION PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

Northwoods has been very blessed by the faithful labors of Dale and Jon. However, they and the Session see a need for more men to share the important work of diaconal ministry. Beginning today, we are asking the members of Northwoods to submit to the session the names of men who meet the biblical qualifications for the office of deacon. Nominations will be accepted at any time through the first Sunday in February (2/2). In the PCA, the process for electing deacons is as follows:

1. During the nominations period (Jan 5-Feb 2), communicant members of the congregation may submit names to the Session, keeping in mind that each prospective deacon should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
2. After the close of the nomination period, willing nominees will receive instruction in the qualifications for and work of the office of deacon.
3. Each nominee will then be examined in:
  - a. Christian experience, especially his personal character and family management,
  - b. Biblical knowledge,
  - c. Knowledge of the PCA's system of doctrine, government, and discipline,
  - d. Duties of the diaconate,
  - e. His willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination, including a promise to sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster standards, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures.
4. If there are candidates eligible for election, the Session will report to the congregation those eligible and call a congregational meeting for an election.

This careful process is our way of obeying scriptural commands like these:

*But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. (1 Tim. 3:10)*

*Do not lay hands on anyone hastily... (1 Tim. 5:22a)*

As you prayerfully consider what men you might nominate, please remember that the office of deacon is a spiritual office in Christ's church, for which godly character is essential. As Paul writes to Timothy:

*Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,<sup>9</sup> holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.<sup>10</sup> But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.<sup>11</sup> Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.<sup>12</sup> Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.<sup>13</sup> For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

(1 Tim. 3:8-13)

You may submit names to any of the elders, or to the church email account ([church@northwoodspca.org](mailto:church@northwoodspca.org)) or phone number (307-637-4817).

Thank you for your prayerful participation in this process. May the Lord guide us and may he call more men to serve faithfully as deacons here at Northwoods!