

2009 Elder/Deacon Nominations

Missio Dei Church

This Nomination Ballot is one of the first of many steps in the selection of Elders and Deacons to serve on the Consistory of Missio Dei Church. The Consistory governs the mission of the church. Listed below is a synopsis of the responsibilities of Elders and Deacons to further help you in the nomination process. For further reading and study, we would encourage you to read a pastoral letter from Missio Dei's leadership called *Created and Redeemed as Male and Female* which is found on the church's website.

The Office of Elder is one of spiritual leadership. The Elders have charge of all matters relating to the welfare and good order of the Church and exercise oversight of the spiritual welfare of the Church and its members. They have oversight over the conduct of the members of the congregation, one another, the Deacons, and the Pastor(s). They make certain that what is preached and taught in the Church is in accordance with the Holy Scripture. They assist the Pastor(s) with their good counsel and the task of visitation and discipline. They seek to guard the Sacraments of the Church from being profaned.

The Office of Deacon is one of servanthood and service after the example of Christ. Deacons are chosen members of spiritual commitment, exemplary life, compassionate spirit, and sound judgment, who are set apart for a ministry of mercy, service, and outreach. They are to receive the contributions of the congregation and distribute them under the direction of the Consistory. The Deacons give particular attention and care to the whole benevolence program of the Church. They have charge of all that is contributed for the benefit of the poor and distribute resources with discretion. They visit and comfort those in material need and perform such other duties as the Consistory may assign them.

Additionally, we are governed by collegial decision-making among elected elders. The pastor(s) do not act as "CEO" or anything of the sort. The pastors and Elders are called by God and affirmed by the church to serve the congregation. However, we are not a "representative government", nor do we serve "member interests". We serve the congregation by serving the mission that God has given Missio Dei Church. We are "owned" by that mission and strive to fulfill that mission.

It must be noted that normally within the Reformed tradition, nominations are to be members in good and regular standing of the Church who have attained the age of 21 years to be qualified to act as a member of the Consistory. However, since Missio Dei Church does not yet have a formal membership process in place, (but will have one in the Fall of 2009), we ask that you, after praying, reflecting thoughtfully, meditating over Scripture, and observing the behavior of the potential people, nominate up to four (4) biblically qualified individuals for Elder and four (4) individuals for Deacon.

Qualifications fall into five categories: calling, character, competency, compatibility and comprehension.

Calling: Calling is both inward and outward. A candidate should desire to serve and be recognized by others as possessing the gifts and graces necessary for the task.

Character: Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he or she must be exemplary, modeling in a consistent way the character of Christ. 1 Timothy 1-3 and Titus 1:5-9 offer a useful summary of the character qualifications.

Competency: God calls elders, deacons, and deaconesses to serve in distinct and varying ways. A candidate should evidence the inclination and ability to fulfill that particular biblical role.

2009 Elder/Deacon Nominations

Missio Dei Church

Elder candidates should be able to equip and care for people spiritually and should know their way around the Bible and be able to teach it. They should be comfortable praying with people in need and should be good managers.

Deacon and deaconess candidates should demonstrate a practical and caring spirit. They should be willing to serve under the authority of the elders and in such a way as to free the elders to focus on their particular responsibilities. At Missio Dei, deacons/deaconesses clean when something is dirty, visit when someone is lonely, feed when someone is hungry, pray when someone is sick, help when someone cannot do it alone. The boundaries are not set; the role of a deacon(ess) was left unwritten to provide much freedom for the global church and its ministers.

Compatibility: Candidates need to understand and fit into the Missio Dei's life and vision.

Comprehension: Candidates need to understand and accept Missio Dei's convictions about theology and church government. This involves commitment to the Bible's authority and to the Church government.

Once nominations are received, the Elder(s)/Pastor(s) will affirm or disqualify nominations. Elder and Deacon candidates will be invited into the Training and Discernment Course (nine months for elders and one month for deacons). After completing the TDC, candidates will be interviewed by current elder(s) and pastor(s). If calling is affirmed, then candidates will be presented to the congregation to share their Gospel stories, be publically examined (if elders) and then, if not disqualified, ordained to the appropriate office.

Please write in your nominations on the attached sheet and place it in the Ballot Box which will be found on the back table on or before Sunday, August 10, 2009.

If you have any further questions, please contact Elder Nathan Phillips (nathan@mdchurch.us) or Pastor Paul Vroom (paul@mdchurch.us).

Because of the cross,



Paul Vroom