

## Elders (Session)

The session is responsible for the mission and government of the particular church. Its duties include, but are not limited to, the responsibility...

- to provide opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced in and by the church, that members may be better equipped to articulate their faith, to witness in word and deed to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and to invite persons into a new life in Christ
- to lead the congregation in participation in the mission of the whole Church in the world
- to provide for the worship of the people of God, including the preaching of the Word, the sharing of the Sacraments, and for the music program
- to provide for the growth of its members and for their equipment for ministry through personal and pastoral care, educational programs, sharing in fellowship and mutual support, and opportunities for witness and service in the world
- to challenge the people of God with the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship of money and time and talents, developing effective ways for encouraging and gathering the offerings of the people and assuring that all offerings are distributed to the objects toward which they were contributed
- to establish the annual budget, determine the distribution of the church's benevolences, and order offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decisions in such matters
- to lead the congregation continually to discover what God is doing in the world and
- to plan for change, renewal, and reformation under the Word of God to provide for the administration of the program of the church, including employment of non-ordained staff to provide for the management of the property of the church
- to serve in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline
- to keep an accurate roll of the membership of the church

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**November, 2020**

### **AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer**

**Establishment of Quorum**

**Election of Clerk**

**Report of Nominating Committee**

**Election of Elders Class of 2024**

**Election of Trustee (2024)**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Benediction**

## STATEMENTS OF PERSONAL FAITH

Candidates for Elder, Class of 2024

### John Parris

I believe in God the Father, who created the Heavens, the Earth, and all of its inhabitants. I believe that Jesus, God's son in the flesh, was sent to Earth. I believe that through Christ's sacrifice, we have all been saved to live on into eternity in Heaven. Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I believe that Christ should be the center of any family and for that reason, I wish to be an active member of my church. Acts 20:35 reminds us that "...It is more blessed to give than to receive," and to that end, I wish to serve my church.

## STATEMENTS OF PERSONAL FAITH

Candidates for Trustee, Class of 2024

### Ray Beale

I truly believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is my Saviour and that through him all sins are forgiven. I feel that the Lord in all his wisdom has guided me through some difficult times. I believe in the power of prayer and what a difference it can make in a person's life. I pray that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I can continue to grow in worship and service.

## NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

### From the Session

Although a Presbyterian congregation entrusts its Nominating Committee to present to it the best slate of names for church office, it has the right to nominate people from the floor of the congregational meeting. In most churches this is rare and should be done prayerfully and carefully.

Before nominating a person from the floor, that person should be contacted to determine if he/she is able/willing to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. The person nominated should know what duties he/she is assuming and agree to them. Will this person be able to attend the monthly committee and board meeting? Church offices should never be used to coax inactive members back into the church nor used to award members for whatever reason. Because a person has been a member many years is not sufficient grounds for making him/her an officer.

Most importantly, much thought should be given to whether the person nominated will bring a healthy attitude, spirit and behavior to the work of the church. Will this person build up and strengthen the church? Will this person encourage fellow officers in this challenging work? Will this person take seriously all of his/her ordination vows?

# Thanks

Many thanks to our Nominating Committee who worked so hard this year in putting together this years slate of officers. We would like to thank their hard work and dedication to this important ministry of the church.

Tom Barrett, Chair  
Lisa Argyrakis  
Donna Parris  
Nancy Wilson  
Ray Beale

*Listed below is the slate of officers to be presented  
by the Nominating Committee at the  
Congregational Meeting  
on Sunday, November 8, 2020  
Statements of Faith for those nominated  
for the office of Elder is included.*

**Elders**

*Class of 2024— Three year term*

Thomas Gillespie  
Susan Mathena  
Kim Meadows  
John David Parris

**Trustee**

*Class of 2024—Three year term*

Ray Beale

*Congregation members are reminded that the Presbyterian way allows nominations from the floor for any of the above officers (Book of Order, G-14.0202e). These can be made at the congregational meeting; however, prior consent of the nominee is required.*

## STATEMENTS OF PERSONAL FAITH

Candidates for Elder, Class of 2024

### Thomas E. Gillespie

The opening affirmation of The Heidelberg Catechism is not simply a favorite, it serves as a summary of my faith statement: “That I belong-body and soul, in life and in death-not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.” By the grace of the triune God, this gospel message was brought to me through the scriptures and through a providential series of witnesses, each used by God for my benefit. I confess that I am not worthy of God’s love and continue to be humbled in the knowledge that Christ died for me while I was yet a sinner. With astonished joy at Christ’s resurrection and my redemption, I am called to serve as a witness just as others were called on my behalf. Specifically, I am called to praise God through my relationships with friends and family, to praise God in work tasks, to praise God in song and in Church service, and to praise God in ways yet to be revealed. I rest in the assurance from the same Catechism that “He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.”

### Susan Mathena

To know that God exists find a quiet spot in nature and revel at His creation. to know Christ exists feel His touch in the depth of sorrow or solitude or joy. I believe that Christ's guiding hand is with me and has been with me my whole life. I have no doubt that His sacrifice makes it possible to live eternally and I rejoice!

### Kim Meadows

I believe that keeping Jesus Christ at the center of my life ensures that my actions will be rooted in love, joy, compassion, kindness, generosity, and faithfulness. The adherence to my belief in the Trinity has been strengthened by my witnessing of the work of the Holy Spirit through ordinary people, and the acknowledgement that God became flesh in Jesus Christ, so He is one with God. I believe in the forgiveness of sins through Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection, giving hope and reassurance in the commitment to better ourselves.

## ORDINATION VOWS

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. 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?
4. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. 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?
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
8. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
9. (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?
10. (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?
11. (For Minister of the Word) Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in word and sacrament, teaching faith, and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in courts of the church, and , in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?