

*Class of 2022*

**Elder Recommendation Form &  
Trustee Recommendation Form**

**Due May 27**



# Seeking God's Servants

## Elder & Trustee Recommendation Checklist

Class of 2022

The Officer Nominating Committee seeks the names of individuals who love Jesus Christ, who have a strong faith and who are committed to him as their Lord and Savior to serve on the Session as elders. Persons who are recommended must be willing to devote substantial amounts of time, energy and talent to the ministry of First Presbyterian, Houston during the next three and one-half years. (Half a year for training and three years of active service on Session.)

Toward that end, we encourage you to use the following checklist:

- Prayerfully consider recommending several individuals for nomination
- Review the Qualifications, Eligibility, and Responsibilities of Elders and Trustees (pages 2-6)
- Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 (pages 9-10)
- Read the Statement of Faith (pages 7-8)
- Confirm that the individual(s) you wish to nominate are willing to serve, if selected
- Submit your recommendation(s) by 5pm on Sunday, **May 27, 2018**

To SUBMIT ONLINE, visit [fpchouston.org/elder-trustee](http://fpchouston.org/elder-trustee)

To SUBMIT HARDCOPY, tear out and complete pages 11-12 for EACH nominee, one nominee per booklet, then either:

1. Leave in the drop-off box at the Welcome Center or at the table in Palm Court on Sunday mornings in May.
2. Mail to:  
First Presbyterian Church of Houston  
Attention: Lisa Psillas  
Officer Nominating Committee  
5300 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77004

If you need more information please contact Brent Dorsey,  
**281.292.1545** or [bdorsey2015@outlook.com](mailto:bdorsey2015@outlook.com).

## **Qualifications for Elders**

The character traits and spiritual gifts which evidence a person's call to serve in the office of elder are principally described in three New Testament passages: 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4; (pages 9-10)

Just as Christ did not come to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28), Elders are called to be servant leaders as they oversee and shepherd the entire congregation;

Elders shall be persons of strong faith, dedicated to discipleship and good judgment, and above all shall have a love for the Lord, Jesus Christ;

Elders shall reflect and model the mission statement of First Presbyterian, Houston: *Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the Gospel to Houston and to the world (page 9);*

Elders shall affirm the Statement of Faith of First Presbyterian, Houston as the shared theology of the Session (pages 7-8);

Those nominated should attend worship regularly, participate in church programs and support the church financially.

## **Elder Eligibility Requirements**

The Officer Nominating Committee may not consider a candidate to the office of Elder who is a member of the Officer Nominating Committee or immediate family member thereof;

Those nominated must be members (covenant partners) of First Presbyterian, Houston for not less than three years at the time of election, with no minimum age requirement;

A non-active elder is ineligible for election to another Session term unless 36 months have elapsed from the close of his or her previous term on the Session to the start of the new term.

## Responsibilities of Elders

Elders are charged with oversight of the spiritual life of our congregation—leading, governing and, if necessary, disciplining its members (covenant partners);

Active elders will serve as committee liaisons, but will not chair standing ministry committees;

Elders will regularly attend monthly and called Session meetings and the annual Session retreat;

Elders accept the responsibility of active involvement in the ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Houston as a Gospel-centered church. This involvement includes:

- **Gathering** in worship, prayer, and small-group Bible study;
- **Growing** in his/her personal relationship with Jesus Christ;
- **Going** into the world to share the Gospel as individuals in our circles of influence and as a body in Houston and beyond;
- **Prioritizing** prayer as a central discipline in worship, discipleship and mission;
- **Serving communion**, and
- **Equipping and empowering** members (covenant partners) to live as Christ-centered, outward-focused disciples wherever God sends them to be His witness.

Elders are also expected to serve as fiduciaries and stewards of First Presbyterian, Houston and its assets and to serve as examples to our congregation and the community. These responsibilities imply certain spiritual and personal attributes which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Personal spiritual maturity;
- A demonstration of spiritual leadership;
- A willingness to be accountable to the Session, fellow elders and the congregation;
- Demonstrated commitment, historically and in the future, to meaningful financial support of First Presbyterian, Houston;
- A commitment to and capacity for engagement, teamwork and collaboration with other members of the Session and regular attendance at Session meetings, committee meetings, retreats, prayer meetings and other events;
- A commitment to confidentiality regarding Session proceedings held in executive session; and
- An appreciation for the heritage of First Presbyterian, Houston, a dedication for its mission and a commitment to Vision 2020.

The Presbyterian Church ordains elders for life. Therefore, elders who have completed active service on the Session will remain committed to fulfilling the personal and spiritual requirements of eldership.

## **Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is elected by the congregation and has responsibility for managing FPC's real property and the special permanent funds related to the real property.

The Board of Trustees has nine members serving three-year staggered terms. We elect three new Trustees each year to three-year terms.

The current standing Officer Nominating Committee selects nominees for Trustees from recommendations submitted by the congregation using the same procedure as that for nominating and electing members of the Session. Information and forms for recommending nominees follow.

## **Qualifications for Trustees**

- The character traits and spiritual gifts that evidence a person's call to serve in the office of Trustee are described in three New Testament passages: 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4 (pages 9-10).
- Just as Christ did not come to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28), Trustees are called to be servant leaders as they oversee and shepherd important administrative activities on behalf of the entire congregation.
- Trustees shall be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship and good judgment, and above all shall have a love for the Lord, Jesus Christ.
- Trustees shall reflect and model the mission statement of First Presbyterian Church of Houston: Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the Gospel to Houston and to the world.
- Trustees shall affirm the Statement of Faith of First Presbyterian, Houston as the shared theology of the Board of Trustees (pages 7-8).
- Those nominated should attend worship regularly, participate in church programs and support the church financially.
- Nominees should have experience with or a working knowledge related to real property and permanent funds, e.g. finance/budgeting, property management, facility operations and maintenance.

## **Responsibilities of Trustees**

Manage real property belonging to First Presbyterian Church of Houston. This would include:

- Preparing annual budgets for capital improvements, additions and maintenance of the land, buildings and facilities of FPC
- Managing the land lease and facilities lease with Presbyterian School
- Managing the facilities sharing arrangements with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH)
- Executing FPC's property acquisition strategy, subject to Session oversight and, where required, congregational approval

Manage permanent funds related to real property of First Presbyterian Church of Houston. This would include:

- Managing the disposition and investment of identified permanent funds dedicated in whole or in part to the acquisition, maintenance and improvement of the real property, buildings and facilities of FPC, subject to Session oversight.

## **Eligibility Requirements for Trustees**

- Members of the Officer Nominating Committee, FPC staff members, elders serving on Session, and persons nominated for the incoming Session class or their spouses are not eligible to serve as Trustees.
- Those nominated for Trustee must be members of First Presbyterian Church of Houston with membership duration of at least three years at the time of election.

## **Statement of Faith** *(To be affirmed by all Elder/Trustee nominees)*

**God.** God has revealed himself to be the creator and sustainer of the universe and the living and true God, perfect in love and righteousness in all his ways, one in essence, existing eternally in the three persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Jesus Christ.** God, who discloses himself to humankind through his creation, has spoken in the words and events of history — seeking to redeem creation and to establish the kingdom of God. This “redemptive history” is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, God’s eternal son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, the incarnate Word, fully human and fully divine, who is made known to us by the Holy Spirit through Scripture.

**The Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit — as the third member of the Trinity — inspired the writing of the Bible and enables the believer to read and hear the Bible as God’s Word. The Spirit also bears witness to Jesus Christ as he is attested in Scripture and works to both transform and restore all creation. The Spirit, through the proclamation of the gospel, renews our hearts, persuading us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit we are led to trust in God’s mercy, receive forgiveness for all our sins, are justified by our faith and granted the free gift of eternal life in God’s present and eternal kingdom.

**The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture.** Scripture is an essential and trustworthy record of God’s self-revelation. All the books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, are the written word of God.

- The Bible, as God’s word, is infallible in all that it teaches concerning the redemptive history of God’s people and in matters of theology, faith, ethics and the practice of day to day living as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- All Scripture is to be interpreted in light of Christ’s centrality in God’s plan for the salvation and redemption of all creation.
- Priority should be given to gaining the most “plain” (simplest or most direct) interpretation of a text within its narrative, grammatical, cultural and historical contexts.

- All Scripture is to be interpreted by other Scripture; searching the whole of Scripture when studying a particular issue or text and evaluating all texts within the larger context of the centrality of Jesus Christ.
- Scripture has precedence over all other authorities, including church tradition, human reason and experience, and culture. At the same time, the interpretation of Scripture is to be done in humility, with a deep understanding of the potential fallibility of human interpretation.

**Sin.** God, by his word and for his glory, freely created the world out of nothing. God made man and woman in his own image, as the crown of creation, that we might live in fellowship with him. Tempted by Satan, all have rebelled against God, consistently refusing to honor God or to give him our gratitude. In doing so, we became separated from God, inwardly broken, falling short of God's intended best for us and worshiping all manner of idols. Apart from grace, we are incapable of restoring our relationship with God.

**Salvation.** The only and exclusive mediator of God's grace — and the exclusive means by which we are saved — is Jesus Christ our Lord. By his voluntary death on our behalf, he revealed God's divine love while also upholding God's justice. In so doing, he removed our guilt, reconciled us to God and instituted God's Kingdom on Earth now, although not yet in its fullness. Having redeemed us from our sin, he rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and evil, and ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, he intercedes for his people and rules as Lord over all creation.

**Sanctification.** God graciously adopts us into his family and enables us to call him Father. As we are led by the Spirit, we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, freely keeping his commandments and endeavoring so to live in the world that all may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

**God's Redemptive Purpose.** God's purpose in history will be consummated by the return of Christ to raise the dead, to judge all people according to their acts of faith, and to establish his glorious kingdom. Those who have declined God's saving grace — will be separated from God's presence, but those made righteous by God's grace through Christ shall live and reign with him forever.

# Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the gospel to Houston and to the world.

# Missional Strategy

Gather in Worship

Grow in Community

Go on Mission

## 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

## Titus 1:5-9

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

**1 Peter 5:1-4**

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

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**Officer Nominating Committee**

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Sarah Brents  
Bruno Chumpitazi  
Brent Dorsey  
Carol Johnson  
Scott Mackey

Sally McMillan  
Susan O'Neil  
Evelyn Smith  
Jan Smith  
Jason Watford

*Class of 2022*

# Elder Recommendation Form & Trustee Recommendation Form

**Due Sunday, May 27**

Elder     Trustee     Either

The information on this form is solely for the use of the Officer Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Houston.

***As a member (covenant partner) of First Presbyterian Church of Houston and following prayerful consideration, I recommend the following member (covenant partner) to serve on the Session. I believe this candidate possesses the spiritual maturity and leadership to serve as an elder or trustee. My specific reasons for proposing this member for the office of elder are set forth below. These reasons include a demonstrated commitment to Christ, service to this church, special talents, gifts and experiences (teaching, committee work, volunteer activities, etc.)***

Person recommended information:

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please answer the following question:**

*(Use additional pages if necessary)*

Why are you recommending this person?

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**Please acknowledge by initialing the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prior to submitting this form, I have confirmed the willingness of the person recommended to serve, if called.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have encouraged the person recommended to review the qualifications and eligibility requirements of elders and/or trustees and determined that they affirm the Statement of Faith (items can be found at **fpchouston.org/elder-trustee**). To the best of my knowledge, he/she meets all stated qualifications and requirements.

Recommended by (**print name**):

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Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_





**First Presbyterian Church of Houston**

5300 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77004

713.620.6500  
[fpchouston.org](http://fpchouston.org)