

Member Recommendations for the

**Elder Class of 2028  
and the  
2025 Elder Nominating  
Committee**

*The current Elder Nominating Committee and  
the Standing Nominating Committee asks the FPC  
Congregation to recommend members to serve as either  
Elders or on the next Elder Nominating Committee (ENC).*



**FPC HOUSTON**

# Elder and Elder Nominating Committee Recommendation Form

Please submit your recommendation by **April 15, 2024**.

If you prefer to fill out the online version, visit [fpchouston.org/enc](http://fpchouston.org/enc).

## Recommendation for (select ONLY ONE):

- Elder (Class of 2028)
- Elder Nominating Committee (2025)

## Candidate Requirements:

- Covenant Partner for at least 3 years at time of election
- At least 18 years of age at time of election
- Demonstrated a pattern of service and financial support to FPC
- Not a staff member or spouse of a staff member
- I have confirmed the candidate is willing to serve, if called

**Person recommended** (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you think this person should be considered?**

**Recommended by** (print your name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Your phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your email** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Who Should Be Nominated as an Elder?**

Elders are leaders of our Church. In fact, “Presbyterian,” refers not to our doctrines or beliefs but to how we govern ourselves with Elders, presbuteros in Greek. Candidates for Elder should possess spiritual maturity and a desire to lead in a Christ-like manner. A Covenant Partner who is nominated for Elder should have a demonstrated commitment to Christ, service to this church, talents, gifts, and experiences (teaching, committee work, volunteer activities, etc.), or knowledge and experience that equip the person to serve. In filling out this form please consider the descriptions of elders provided in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

## **Why Form a Nominating Committee?**

Each year an Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) is seated to recommend to the congregation a slate of six candidates for the next class of Ruling Elders. Together with Teaching Elders (pastors) the Ruling Elders make up the Session, the governing board of FPC. This form of governance was developed in Geneva under John Calvin as a rejection of governance by bishops. Ruling Elders are elected at our annual Congregational Meeting and serve three-year terms.

## **What is an Elder Nominating Committee (ENC)?**

The ENC is composed of two active elders and nine other church members who have not served on an ENC or Pastor Nominating Committee within three years. The ENC meets during the first half of each year, with particular effort spent after Easter to deliver to Session the recommended candidates before September 1. The committee studies and reaches a shared understanding of the role and nature of a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. It solicits nominations from the congregation, vets and interviews those nominated, and prayerfully selects the slate of officers to recommend to the Session and then to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting held each year in the fall. The ENC will strive to put together a diverse slate of Elders reflecting a range of areas of involvement, gender, age, faith, and life experience, and approach to problem-solving so that the Session is well equipped to represent our congregation.

## **Who Should Be Recommended for an ENC?**

The ENC must be able to work together to discern the will of the Lord in recommending officers to govern the church. As such, members recommended for the ENC should have deep faith, a close walk with Christ, and a commitment to Him as their Lord and Savior. Essential qualities of ENC members include demonstrated spiritual maturity, service, relatively high involvement with FPC, and sound theology with knowledge of and agreement

with the mission, vision, and Core Values of FPC and the ECO Tenets of Faith. You can view these documents at [fpchouston.org/eco-vision](http://fpchouston.org/eco-vision).

They should be forward-thinking and focused. They should be good team players, willing to speak up but without a personal agenda, and even more willing to listen to diverse views. Those recommended must be willing to devote substantial amounts of time, energy, and talent to the work of these committees. The makeup of the committee will represent the multiple ages, needs and interests of the congregation.

## How Do I Nominate Someone?

First, take it to the Lord in prayer. If after prayer you decide to recommend a member who meets the general criteria above, ask your potential candidate about their willingness to serve. This will be a significant commitment of time and energy. Next, fill out the **Recommendation Form** (pg. 2 or online) in full via the following options (1) by visiting [fpchouston.org/enc](http://fpchouston.org/enc), (2) via e-mail to the SNC Chair at [SNCchair@fpchouston.org](mailto:SNCchair@fpchouston.org) or (3) drop off in the marked box at the FPC Welcome Center. You may be contacted for clarification or further information. For more information, please contact one of the people listed below.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration,

### The Standing Nominating Committee (SNC)

**Roby Norvell**, Chair | [rbnorvell@gmail.com](mailto:rbnorvell@gmail.com)  
**Tom Brents**, Vice-Chair | [thomas.e.brents@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.e.brents@gmail.com)  
**Meredith Cocke** | [mfc-3@swbell.net](mailto:mfc-3@swbell.net)  
**Shikha Hansen** | [shikha\\_batra@yahoo.com](mailto:shikha_batra@yahoo.com)  
**Dan Morris** | [Dan.Morris@EndPointEnergyllc.com](mailto:Dan.Morris@EndPointEnergyllc.com)  
**Hilary Reed** | [hilary.s.reed@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.s.reed@gmail.com)

### The Elder Nominating Committee (ENC)

**Jan Smith**, Co-Chair | [jsmith3430@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsmith3430@sbcglobal.net)  
**Wei Yang Tse**, Co-Chair | [weitseyang@yahoo.com](mailto:weitseyang@yahoo.com)  
**Madison Baldwin** | [madi8.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:madi8.baldwin@gmail.com)  
**Bob Chenoweth** | [cweth@aol.com](mailto:cweth@aol.com)  
**Fielding Cocke** | [fielding@cafita.com](mailto:fielding@cafita.com)  
**Lesley DiBello** | [lesleyd53@me.com](mailto:lesleyd53@me.com)  
**Sabrina Espinoza** | [sabrinaespinoza@me.com](mailto:sabrinaespinoza@me.com)  
**Becca Herbold** | [rlherbold@comcast.net](mailto:rlherbold@comcast.net)  
**Claudia Hutcheson** | [cthutcheson@gmail.com](mailto:cthutcheson@gmail.com)  
**Bryan Miller** | [albryhno@gmail.com](mailto:albryhno@gmail.com)  
**Rebecca Turner** | [rturner@greenwoodking.com](mailto:rturner@greenwoodking.com)

The Standing Committee on Nominations (SNC) is a committee of the Session charged with nominating to the congregation an Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) each year and when needed a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The members of this standing committee serve for two years and include Ruling Elders active on Session and members of the congregation at large. The SNC requests and then receives recommendations from the congregation to evaluate and select for the aforementioned committees.

## SNC

### Standing Nominating Committee (SNC)

2-year commitment

Yearly task: nominate Covenant Partners to serve on Elder Nominating Committee (ENC)

Only when required: also responsible for nominating Covenant Partners to serve on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Session has final approval/election of nominees

## ENC

### Elder Nominating Committee (ENC)

1-year commitment

Formerly the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC)

Yearly task: nominate Covenant Partners to serve as Elders.

Session has final approval/election of nominees

## Elders

### Elders (Session)

3-year commitment

New class of Ruling Elders elected each year; three classes of Elders comprise the body of the Ruling Elders at any time.  
*Ex. Class of 2025 serves from 2023–2025*

Charge: oversight of the spiritual life of the congregation—leading, governing, and if necessary, disciplining of its members (Covenant Partners)

# Session

## Session Committees

### Community Life

- Ldr: Session Elder**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Elder, Chair  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Elder V-Chair  
- 1<sup>st</sup> yr Elder (4)

**Total Elders: 6**  
- Plus Shepherding Elders

**Responsibilities:**  
Neighborhood Connect Gatherings

- Visitations  
- Seniors (shut-ins)  
- New Parents  
- Crises

### Governance

- Ldr: Session Elder**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Elder, Chair  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Elder V-Chair  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Elder,  
Chair - Nominations  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Elder,  
V-Chair -  
Nominations

**Total Elder: 4**

**Responsibilities:**  
Lane Enforcement  
Model Assessment  
Policy (Risk) Issues  
Nominations/SNC  
- ONC  
- APNC  
- PNC  
Denomination (MAG)

### Finance

- Ldr: Session Elder**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Elder, Chair  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Elder, V-Chair

**Total Elders: 2**

**Responsibilities:**  
Treasurer  
CFO  
Budget  
Review/Reporting  
Permanent Funds  
Property & Asset Mgmt.  
Audit Team  
Stewardship/Dev  
- Encouraging  
Generosity  
- Donor Relations

### Personnel

- Ldr: Session Elder**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Elder, Chair  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Elder, V-Chair  
- 1<sup>st</sup> yr Elder

**Total Elders: 3**

**Responsibilities:**  
Compensation Issues  
- Staff Salaries  
- Benefits  
- Bonuses  
Review Process  
HR Functions  
- Compliance  
- Ombudsman Role  
- Position Descriptions  
Hiring Approvals  
- Senior Leadership  
Level  
Annual Pastor  
Evaluation

### Advisory

- Ldr: Session Elder**  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> yr Clerk  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Clerk  
- 1<sup>st</sup> yr Clerk

**Total Elders: 3**

**Responsibilities:**  
Advisor to Lead Pastor  
- Strategic Planning  
- Setting Session  
Agendas  
- Annual Session Retreat  
- Congregational Meeting  
- Issues and Concerns  
- At-Large Conduit  
Quarterly Goals  
Assessment  
Committee Assignments  
Session Special Task  
Forces

## FPC Mission

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

## FPC Vision

We are a gospel-centered church seeking to encourage, equip, empower, and deploy outwardly focused disciples who desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ where God sends them.

We move toward this vision as we:

- **Gather** together to worship, pray, learn, encourage and celebrate;
- **Grow** into maturity as followers of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and small group studies;
- **Go** into the world to share the gospel as individuals in our circles of influence, and as a body, in Houston and beyond.

## FPC Core Values

- **We sincerely want people to know Jesus.** An evangelistic-minded church, motivated by the Gospel, with a heart for people to know Christ and experience life transformation.
- **We are a church of leaders and doers with a desire to affect change in the world.** So much of what we do as a church is guided by an entrepreneurial spirit—from church planting to the ministries and even what members are doing in their personal lives and work. We try things. We take chances. We do.
- **We see strategic opportunity in our building and location.** We see possibility in the physical location where God has placed us and the impact this can have in the community—and in Houston—as we look toward the future.
- **We value the life of the mind.** We believe in the power of learning and being intellectually challenged, digging deep into God’s Word and all He has for us.
- **We encourage and invest in relationships.** For so many people at First Pres, this church is a home space, and the people inside are family. Members deeply invest in relationships with others at the church, finding community and offering support.
- **We are a persevering church.** Over its history, FPC has weathered many tough seasons. But through it all, it has not shrunk back, relying on God for strength and direction.



**FPC**HOUSTON

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