Covenant Partner Recommendations for the

Elder Nominating Committee (2027)

Standing Nominating Committee (2028)

& Elder Class of 2030

The current Elder Nominating Committee (ENC) and Standing Nominating Committee (SNC) ask the FPC congregation to recommend Covenant Partners to serve as either Elder or on the next ENC or SNC.

FPC HOUSTON

Elder, Elder Nominating Committee, & Standing Nominating Committee Recommendation Form

If you prefer to fill out the online version, visit **fpchouston.org/recommend**.

Recommendation for (select ONLY ONE):
If you are recommending the same person for multiple roles, please fill out separate forms.

- ☐ Elder Nominating Committee (2027)
- ☐ Standing Nominating Committee (2028)
- ☐ Elder (Class of 2030)

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 Covenant Partners 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, covenant partners 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**.

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/recommend**, (2) via email to **nominations@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)

Gene Alford - Chair | ealfordmd@gmail.com
Mary Alford | maryalford60@gmail.com
Barney Giesen | barneygiesen@sbcglobal.net
Shannon Going | shannon@johngoing.com
Emily Patton | emily.tignor.patton@gmail.com

The Elder Nominating Committee (ENC)

Chris Wolfe - Co-Chair | christia.wolfe@att.net
Alan Sexton - Co-Chair | jsexton614@aol.com
Paul Askenasy | aquenio15p@gmail.com
Kathryn Bragan | klbragan@comcast.net
Lydia Hance | Lydia.Hance@gmail.com
Michelle Hung | drmichellehung@yahoo.com
Laura Petersen | laurap@bcm.edu
Jenn Rustay | jennbrustay@gmail.com
Kate Thomas | catherine.m.hitchcock@gmail.com
Evelyn Smith | esmith1856@comcast.net
Steve Winstead | steve.winstead@att.net

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

Yearly task: nominate Covenant Partners to serve as Elders.

Formerly the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC)

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 (*e.g. Class of 2026 serves from 2024–2026)*

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

Session

Session Committees

Community Life

Ldr: Session Elder
- 3rd yr. Elder, Chair
- 2nd yr. Elder, V-Chair
- 1st yr. Elder (4)

Total Elders: 6
- Plus Shepherding Elders

Responsibilities:
Neighborhood Connect
Gatherings
Visitations
- Seniors
- New Parents
- Crises

Governance

Ldr: Session Elder
- 3rd yr. Elder, Chair
- 2nd yr. Elder, V-Chair
- 3rd yr. Elder, Chair - Nominations
- 2nd yr. Elder, V-Chair - Nominations

Total Elders: 4

Responsibilities:
Lane Enforcement
Model Assessment
Policy (Risk) Issues
Nominations
Denomination (MAG)

Finance

Ldr: Session Elder
- 3rd yr. Elder, Chair
- 2nd 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
- 3rd yr. Elder, Chair
- 2nd yr. Elder, V-Chair
- 1st 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
- 3rd yr. Clerk
- 2nd yr. Clerk
- 1st 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

Cultivating Community in the Way of Jesus for the Flourishing of the City.

FPC Missional Values

GOSPEL GROWTH
We dedicate our hearts not to mere religion, but rather the good news of God, as revealed by the ministry of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONTINUAL CURIOSITY
We devote our minds to lifelong learning, digging into the depths of all that God seeks to reveal to us in His Word.

RELATIONAL ROOTS
We strengthen our souls in committed community, because Jesus has joined us together as His people.

INTENTIONAL INVITATION
We extend our hands to welcome others to church in the same way we have been welcomed in God's Spirit.

FPC Rhythms





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5300 MAIN ST. | HOUSTON, TX 77004 | 713.620.6500 | FPCHOUSTON.ORG