

ON THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Adopted by the Session – March 2018, amended August 2022

CHURCH OFFICERS:

The ordained offices in the church are the office of Elder and Deacon. The office of deacon as set forth in scripture is one of sympathy and service after the example of Christ. The office of elder as set forth in scripture is one of governing, disciplining, and shepherding. The responsibility of elders, both individually and jointly, is to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Although ruling elders represent congregations by election, they are to seek the will of God in all church court decisions.

-ARP Form of Government 5.1-6.4

TERM OF SERVICE:

At Christ Covenant, we follow the non-rotary model, which means that elders and deacons are elected and ordained for life unless deposed in the process of discipline. Sabbaticals are at times requested and granted in the event that an elder or deacon in the normal course of life needs to focus his attention on other matters for a season.

-ARP Form of Government 8.4

NOMINATIONS, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION:

At Christ Covenant, the Session constitutes itself as the nominating committee for church officers (ARP Form of Government 8.11A). The process for nomination and certification of new officers is as follows:

- 1.) Nominations from the congregation are always welcomed. Any man nominated by someone in the congregation (or self-nominated) will be invited to participate in the leadership training class.
- 2.) The certification of nominees begins with the leadership training class where the men learn about the qualifications for office together with the doctrines, principles, and positions of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and of Christ Covenant Church.
- 3.) Upon completion of the training, the men who desire the office of either elder or deacon, feel God's call to serve, and desire to stand before the congregation for election, are instructed to make their intentions known to the Session. These men then confer privately with the Session to determine their eligibility based on the standards set by the Session (ARP Form of Govt 8.11). The Session shall give due consideration to all men at this stage but are not bound to put forth any or all the names available to them (ARP Form of Govt 8.11B).
- 4.) The final step of certification is a written and oral examination administered by the Session, where the individual's affirmation of the questions of the "Formula for Ordination and Installation" are discussed. In addition, the Session shall inquire if the individual has any exceptions or scruples to the Standards, and whether these are acceptable or if they would be such as to prevent the nominee from being put forth for election. (ARP Form of Govt 8.11C, 8.17)

-ARP Form of Government 8.11

ELECTION AND ORDINATION:

Once the list of certified nominees is complete, a congregational meeting is called to elect these men to office. The congregation shall decide the number of elders and deacons necessary to serve the life of the congregation, limited to the number of certified nominees. (ARP Form of Govt 8.9). This decision should be in close consultation with the Session and ordinarily the Session will bring a specific recommendation for consideration. The general practice is to add a small number of men to the Session and Diaconate each cycle to allow the new men to be effectively integrated into both bodies. The congregation will then decide by vote the election of the certified nominees to office (ARP Form of Govt 8.10, 8.12). At the time of the ordination and installation service, the officers-elect shall present themselves before the congregation, and shall solemnly promise to maintain the doctrine, government, discipline, and worship of the ARPC.

-ARP Form of Government 8.9-8.16