

From the Pastor's Desk - October

2011

During the month of October, all confessing members of Spring Valley will have the opportunity to give their nominations for elder and deacon. The nominations will be voted on at the November 13 congregational meeting. The election of elders and deacons is one of the most important decisions that we make as a church. It should be done prayerfully and with much consideration. We don't simply look for those who are willing to serve, but for those whom God has called to serve, to lead, and to direct the spiritual life and ministry of Spring Valley.

Scripture reveals the type of qualifications that God looks for in a leader in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. These qualifications set a standard for church leadership, which admittedly, cannot be attained perfectly by anyone, but which nevertheless illustrates the serious responsibility of elder and deacon. I encourage you to read through Paul's words in 1 Timothy before making your nominations.

Here are some things that Paul mentions concerning elders and deacons. Elders don't need to be older, but they must be mature. Elders are people who pray and study the Scriptures. Growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ, they are able to teach and guide others to do the same. Elders have a mature self-awareness, neither thinking too highly of themselves than they out to think, nor insecure and reluctant to use their God-given gifts. Elders are open and sensitive to people. They think, pray, and work will with others. Elders have the courage to stand firm on major issues of faith and ministry, the grace to yield minor points for the peace of the church, and the wisdom to know the difference. Elders must also be committed to their families.

Likewise, those who are considered for the office of deacon are to have certain qualifications. Deacons are to be members of spiritual commitment, exemplary life, compassionate spirit, and sound judgment. They are to manifest the love and care of Christ. Deacons shall serve those in distress and need and shall minister to the sick, poor, hurt and helpless. They are asked to gather and distribute the offerings of the congregation. Deacons must also be committed to their families.

In essence, those who lead the church should have a vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This personal commitment should be visible in their lives.

Making nominations of individuals for service is a privilege and responsibility that should not be taken lightly. We must seriously consider the criteria for leadership that Paul lays before us. Please give prayerful thought to those you will nominate to serve on the Consistory at Spring Valley.

Similarly, a decision on whether or not to accept a nomination is not one that should be made lightly either. Those who are nominated should prayerfully consider God's call. In your decision to accept or decline an invitation to serve, you must ask yourself if God would be pleased and honored by your decision.

In Christ,
Pastor Scott