



CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATIONS

A CALL FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION

This year's Nominating Committee wishes to invite members and staff of Third Church to nominate candidates for the offices of elder, deacon and trustee. **As we trust the Spirit to move among and speak through the Body of believers, the committee will honor and prayerfully consider all nominations.**

1. Please begin by studying **1 Timothy 3:2–13** and **Titus 1:1–9**.
2. Pray and ask God to illuminate those men and women who may be humble, gifted and spiritually equipped to lead with a desire to serve.
3. Make a nomination online before **March 1** by visiting thirdrva.org/nominate.

All nominees should be active covenant partners who are known to be growing in their spiritual maturity, learning to exercise their gifts and skills, and contributing to the worship and life of our church. All officers are congregationally elected and serve a 3-year term.

For the office of Elder:

- **Governing Elder** – Along with our lead and associate pastors, the Governing Elders form the Session. Together they oversee the spiritual health of our whole community and establish the vision, strategy, and policy for our church. They guide our finances, personnel, and development of new leaders and spur our community to grow in prayer and generosity. Nominees should be spiritually mature and demonstrate wisdom, prayerful discernment, and strategic thinking.
- **Parish Elder** – In faithful response to God's call to oversee and shepherd his people, Parish Elders build connection and cultivate discipleship in their parish. They engage with individual members to help them connect to the body of Christ and foster their spiritual growth, as well as tend to the life and health of the parish as a whole. Nominees should be servant leaders who have demonstrated gifts to help others grow in their spiritual journey with Christ, to counsel in spiritual matters, and to explain or teach the truths of the Scriptures.

For the office of Deacon – In faithful response to God's call to offer hospitality and care for neighbors, Parish Deacons lead their parish in service and mission. They mobilize people within their parish area to minister to physical needs both within the Third family and beyond it, and stimulate engagement in local mission and evangelism. Nominees should be servant leaders who have demonstrated gifts in care and service.

For Trustees – Trustees steward Third's facilities, grounds and financial resources and manage the legal and safety needs of our church. They guide "big picture" planning and decision-making as relates to our maintenance, facilities, finances, lease agreements, contracts, and risk management. Nominees should demonstrate gifts of discernment, management, and administration.

THE 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Beth Sprinkle and Andy Burgess (Elders), Patrice Foster (Deacon), Doug Brown, Tracie Meadows, Chris Payne, Annhorner Truitt, and Ed Satterfield (Ex Officio)

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

At Third, leadership nomination is an important process that calls on church community to identify, affirm, and call men and women to leadership. We hope to give you a better look into how this process happens. If you have any other questions, feel free to reach out to the chair of the nominating committee, Beth Sprinkle: bethsprinkle@me.com.

• **SELECTING THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- The Nominating Committee is elected by the congregation and led by several of our Governing Elders.
- The congregation elected the Committee in November to serve on their behalf.

• **GATHERING NOMINATIONS (FEBRUARY)**

- We request nominations over a period of about 4 weeks.
- Nominations come from covenant partners within our congregation and those who serve in our leading communities such as session, staff, and Parish Area Teams.

• **THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS (MARCH)**

- The Nominating Committee gathers the nominations, and through seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, works to discern giftedness and fit for each particular person.
- The committee also weighs criteria such as the number of individuals needed for each office—some of which are set by our By-Laws—and what is needed for each Parish Area, which changes year to year.
- After months of strategically working through our church's needs, and listening to the Lord's leading, a prioritized list of nominees for each role is developed and committed to prayer.

• **CALLING PEOPLE TO SERVE (APRIL – MAY)**

- Each person is called to ask if they will discern whether they will serve for their nominated role.
- As they pray and discern with their family and community, some will affirm the call, and others may decide this is not the time for them to serve.
- If we need to, we can then follow up with other individuals on our nominations list until we fill all the needed offices.

• **PREPARING TO SERVE (MAY – OCTOBER)**

- In a spirit of great responsibility, we prepare those who will serve as officers with significant training and preparation.
- The training ends with an examination of all the candidates by the current Session (Governing Elders) to make sure they affirm the ECO Essential Tenets and are ready to serve.

• **ELECTION AND ORDINATION (NOVEMBER–JANUARY)**

- In November of each year, the candidates who completed their training and passed the Session examination are presented to our covenant partners for a vote at a congregational meeting.
- Following the vote, these new leaders begin their service after being ordained and installed in January, a time when the congregation surrounds them with hands raised in prayer, commissioning them to the work of the Lord at Third Church.