



HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST 2017 ELDER SELECTION

ROLE OF AN ELDER

Elders serve as shepherds of the church at Highland. This role, based on scripture, is to be fulfilled with humility.

- Elders will teach, lead, guide, protect, and model spiritually mature behavior.
- Elders will pray for and with God's people.
- Elders will prayerfully discern and oversee the guiding vision of Highland.
- Elders will lead the church in relevant faith discussions.

SELECTION PROCESS

Last spring, a task force of Highland members, staff, and elders prayed, researched, discussed and offered suggestions for a process to select new elders. The process we are beginning is based on those recommendations.

Two elders and two staff members have assembled a 12-person congregational team of Highland members. This diverse group, along with a team of Highland staff and a team of elders, will spend the next several weeks in prayer and in conversation with Highland members.

Each team – elders, staff and congregational – will create its own list of potential elders, and in mid-December, two representatives from each group will meet to form a combined list. The elders will then finalize the recommendations and begin reaching out to those men. The prospective elders will have time to consider the role, and those who are willing will be presented to the church. The new elders will be installed in January 2018.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or would like to discuss the process in more depth, elders will be available Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6-7 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 5, 5-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 12, 5-6 p.m. in Room 100. Anyone is welcome. You can find this information and a video explaining the process at highlandchurch.org and on the Highland app.

This elder selection process will follow the current Highland policy, which designates men as elders of the church. That policy was developed in 2001 as part of a congregational study about the role of women in public worship. However, acknowledging that we are one in Christ, the Highland elders have voted to engage in church-wide study, conversations, prayer and fasting about spiritual giftedness and leadership within the next two years. The priority at this time is to involve new leaders before beginning the study of that significant topic. After that study, another elder selection process could take place.

Please pray for this process. In addition, talk with others to better understand the role of elders. Be available to the elders, staff and congregational team members as they seek to have conversations during the process.

The elders are confident that the Spirit will lead us as we humbly and prayerfully seek to serve Him and lead this body of believers into God's future. Please join us in that faith and in that prayer.

CONGREGATIONAL ELDER SELECTION TEAM MEMBERS

Suzanne Allmon (co-chair), David Kneip (co-chair), Valerie Awtrey, Annie Bailey, Jennifer Crisp, Steve Fullerton, Lucas Gibbs, Ryan Hunter, Doris James, Rheannon Mathis, Frankie Montgomery, Qi Xu