

December 20, 2024

Dear Christ Church Family,

As you know, Christ Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Our Book of Church Order (BCO) lays out a process for electing and ordaining officers (elders and deacons) to govern and serve the local church. We began that process towards the end of 2023 by asking you, the members of Christ Church, to submit names of qualified men who you feel are equipped by God to lead our congregation in accordance with the Scriptures 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. After the submission deadline, the session of Christ Church reviewed those names and began a process of prayerful discernment and discussion, seeking to choose men to invite into a time of training and reflection, specifically asking the Lord if the timing of this calling was in line with his will.

Beginning in January, 2024 and throughout the entire year, the candidates received training on marriage and family, covenant theology, leadership dynamics, and PCA church history and polity, including the Westminster Confession of Faith and the BCO. They also completed an extensive written exam and thorough interviews with multiple current officers (both elders and deacons). At any point during the process, the candidates had the freedom to withdraw their names from consideration, and the session had the freedom to release the candidates from the process, if they discerned that this significant commitment was not in line with God's timing and call. We began with over a dozen names and the year-long process of discernment has come to an end. The elders of Christ Church are excited to bring to you four candidates for ordination: three deacon candidates and one elder candidate.

The deacon candidates are Bryan Enneking, Daniel Myerscough, and Brent Stong. The elder candidate is Nathan Stong. The members of Christ Church will have an opportunity to vote on these candidates at our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Our BCO stipulates that we announce these names at least 30 days prior to a vote so you, the members, have an opportunity to do your due diligence. We encourage you to get to know these men and vote in accordance with your conscience. This is also a time for any members to bring questions or concerns to the session. Please be in prayer for these men, our church, and our current officers. Our desire is to serve the Lord together as we participate in cultivating gospel transformation through the local church.

Love,
Pastor Brad

Deacon Candidate Bryan Enneking (wife Naomi)

Bryan came to Christ Church in 2004 and his wife Naomi began attending shortly after that. They were married in 2007 and have been members of Christ Church ever since. They have three children, Samuel, Sophia, and Jeremiah.

Deacon Candidate Daniel Myerscough (wife Ashton)

Daniel and Ashton were married in May of 2018 and have been at Christ Church serving faithfully since August of 2019. They became members in September, 2023.

Deacon Candidate Brent Stong (wife Morgan)

Brent and Morgan came to Christ Church in 2017 as staff members of Campus Outreach at Illinois State University. They have been married since 2016 and have two children, Owen and Lucy.

Elder Candidate Nathan Stong (wife Morgan C.)

Nate came to Christ Church in 2017 and his wife Morgan began attending in 2018 prior to their wedding in 2019. Nate has been serving as a deacon since 2021. They have one daughter, Rylan.