

Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Lynchburg, Virginia
Concerning the Nomination and Election of Church Officers

“The particular church has the right to elect its own officers. ... The congregation may nominate and elect its Ruling Elders and Deacons by any procedure it desires to establish.” [EPC Book of Order, G6-2; G10-10]. The Session, therefore, commends the following process to the congregation for approval and adoption.

Ruling Elders and Deacons

1. Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall have three rotational classes of elders and deacons, with a new class elected annually. In order to fill unexpired terms, elections may be called as needed. Except in the case of filling unexpired terms, terms shall ordinarily begin in January and shall be for three years. An officer who has served all or part of two consecutive full terms shall be ineligible for re-election for one year.
2. Ordinarily, each class of Ruling Elders shall have four (4) members; however, providence may require or dictate a variance in this number in any particular class.
3. Ordinarily, each class of Deacons shall have eight (8) members; however, providence may require or dictate a variance in this number in any particular class.

Officer Nominating Committee

1. The Session shall annually propose, usually at the December congregational meeting, an Officer Nominating Committee for election by the congregation.
2. The Officer Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) members with two rotational classes of members, with a new class elected annually; ordinarily, each member of the Officer Nominating Committee will serve in a consecutive two year term as proposed by the Session and so elected by the congregation.
3. The Officer Nominating Committee shall be comprised of two installed elders, two ordained deacons, and three congregational members at-large.
4. Members of the Nominating Committee and their spouses shall not be eligible for nomination to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon.
5. One of the installed elders shall be designated by the Session as the Chairman of the Officer Nominating Committee; the second installed elder, in the alternate class, shall be designated by Session as the Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee. Ordinarily, the Vice-Chair will become Chairman in his second year.

Officer Nominating Committee Process

1. **The Nominating Committee shall follow Biblical qualifications for Elders and Deacons as well as the EPC Book of Order in consideration of nominees, as outlined in “Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church: Elders and Deacons.”**
2. The pastors shall serve as confidential counsel to the Nominating Committee and may exercise confidential discretion with regard to those being considered by the Nominating Committee.

3. The Officer Nomination Committee shall begin to solicit suggested names from the congregation for consideration no less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of officer election.
4. The Session shall review the Officer Nominating Committee's proposed slate of nominees prior to the publication of those names.
5. The Officer Nomination Committee shall publish the names of those it will nominate for election no less than two weeks prior to the date of election.
6. The written personal testimonies of faith of the nominees shall be made available to the congregation no less than one week prior to the date of election.

Congregational Meeting and Vote of Ruling Elders and Deacons

1. Active Members present at the congregational meeting shall have the right to vote on each individual nominee according to their conscience by means of a secret ballot. At a duly called Congregational Meeting, the Active Members present at the Congregational Meeting shall receive a written ballot with the names of the nominees listed individually.
2. The number of nominees on the ballot should ordinarily correspond to, but shall never exceed, the number of spaces open in each particular class.
3. Nominations from the floor shall not be accepted.
4. There shall be no discussion of the individual nominees during the Congregational Meeting.
5. The written ballot shall indicate the full endorsement of the Nominating Committee for each nominee and the recommendation by the Committee for the election of all those whose names appear on the ballot.
6. Those nominees who receive "yes" votes of at least 50% of the ballots tendered shall be elected to office.
7. The ballots shall be counted by at least three members of the Officer Nominating Committee, and the names of those elected shall be announced either during the week following the election or no later than the next Lord's Day.
8. Those elected to office should attend the Officers' Training Class, even if they have attended a previous Officers' Training Class.

The spirit of this nomination and election process seeks to preserve the integrity of officer elections and to protect the members' right to vote according to conscience. Anything resembling the politicization of the election process or the competition of secular election campaigns shall be deemed an abuse to this process and an offense to the Body of Christ, and subject to the discipline of the Session.