

The Board of Deacons

of Peekskill Presbyterian Church

This guide has been prepared for those wishing to suggest names to the Nominating Committee for the office of deacon and for those who have been asked by the Nominating Committee to consider service on the Board of Deacons..

Expectations for deacons in the Presbyterian Church (USA) **-- from the *Book of Order*:**

G-6.0106 Gifts and Requirements of Church Officers

To those called to exercise special functions in the Church--deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament--God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the Church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a governing body of the Church.

G-6.0401 Ministry and Gifts

The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of **compassion**, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, **sincere compassion**, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office.

G-6.0402 Responsibilities of Deacons

It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.

Expectations for deacons at Peekskill Presbyterian Church -- from the Moderator of the Session

1. Training

Those elected to this office will be asked to undertake some reading and meeting with other deacons-elect.

2. Term of Office

The three-year term will commence in February at the stated deacons meeting.

3. Deacons Meetings

The deacons meet six times per year for 1½-2 hours, currently on the 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm. In addition, the deacons have an annual retreat with the session.

4. Care Group Assignments

Each deacon is responsible for providing regular compassionate care for an assigned segment of the congregation which has been divided alphabetically among the deacons.

5. Worship and Other Programs

Deacons are expected to take part in Sunday worship faithfully and to support other programs of the church with their presence when appropriate.

6. Preparing the Lord's Supper

The deacons are responsible for setting up the Lord's Supper for Sunday worship and other worship services as needed.

7. Personal Piety

Deacons are expected to pray daily, to study scripture, and to strive to lead lives worthy of their calling.

8. Financial Stewardship

Deacons are expected to contribute regularly to the operating budget of the church.