

Leadership

as a Deacon or Elder

at Knox Church



*Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?*



Who can serve Knox? Is it time for you to step up?

You've been at Knox for a while. You've joined the church. You've volunteered, donated to missions, attended social events, maybe even served on a committee. Or maybe not.

But you're thinking **it's time to do more.**

It may be time to serve as an officer.

Knox members become leaders by stepping into the roles of Elders (on Session) or Deacons.

The terms **Elder and Deacon** can sound intimidating. But they're just the Presbyterian titles of those who lead our church. You don't have to be old to be an elder, or young to be a deacon. Just be **willing to serve.** For some, that sounds like a big commitment -- it means a lot of time, attendance at meetings, usually three years of service, and sometimes making difficult decisions.

All that's true

It's also true that serving as an Elder or Deacon at Knox can be one of the most worthwhile and rewarding acts you have ever done. You'll help make a difference in lives. You'll help build a growing body of Christ.

You could even help

change the world.



"This service opens doors to new friendships, satisfying involvement and unexpected blessings."

*Craig Richmond
five-time ruling Elder and Deacon*



What does it take to serve as an officer?

An Elder is a member of Session who is committed to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation. Beginning with formal training in a relational style of leadership, Elders maintain Knox's vision and mission by leading our decision-making on these Committees:

- Budget and Finance
- Building and Grounds
- Christian Education
- Growth and Outreach
- Mission and Social Concern
- Nominating
- Personnel
- Stewardship
- Worship and Music

An elder attends committee meetings throughout his or her term, and usually serves as a committee chair for one year. Session meets on the third Monday of the month except August at 7:00pm. Committees usually meet on the first Monday.

A Deacon carries out ministries of congregational care and hospitality both within and beyond the walls of Knox, modeling Christ's example as servant-leaders.

A deacon may serve in several of these capacities:

- Overseeing ushers
- Preparing, serving, and/or cleaning up after Communion
- Welcoming people at the Michigan Avenue desk on Sunday mornings
- Watching for and welcoming newcomers to Knox
- Helping with Coffee and Conversation on selected Sunday mornings
- Baking and/or delivering loaves of bread to Knox visitors around the city
- Delivering flowers to those who can no longer attend services
- Sending notes of celebration or support when needed
- Accompanying a pastor to deliver Communion to the homebound
- Participating in Knox mission work

Deacons commit to several hours or more of service per month, including 7:00pm on the fourth Monday of most months.

***No matter where you are on your spiritual journey,
are you committed to traveling that road
and helping others do the same?***

Here's how.

No special experience is needed to be an Elder or Deacon. The Nominating Committee's goal is to find a mix of members representing the ages, genders, gifts, and interests that will fill the needs of our elected boards and serve God gracefully.

Adult officers serve three-year terms, but some may be called to fill a shorter uncompleted term. Youth Elders and Deacons serve one-year terms. Nominees must be members of Knox and not have a spouse or partner currently serving as elder or deacon.

How does the election process work?

As Presbyterians, we have representative governments in our congregations and denomination. Knox's nominating process begins in the Spring to elect officers who are trained the following Winter and begin serving that Spring.

Knox members can suggest other members — or themselves — to be nominated. The Nominating Committee considers all suggestions and prepares a slate of nominees to be elected in the Fall. Nominations are also accepted from the floor during the Congregational meeting at which officers are elected.

For more information about the responsibilities of Elders or Deacons, contact a member of the Nominating Committee as listed below. You'll find contact information in the Knox Directory or by calling Knox at (513) 321-2573.

Nominating Committee members

Co-Chairs: Jill Moormann &
Sheree Allgood

Sarah Aldrich
Peggy Dewan
Paul Gaffney
Rebecca Gibbs
Mary Lyon
Alexa Naramore
Sally Ryan

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Daniel L Schutte
from "I The Lord of Sea and Sky"

