

Youth Officer Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to create positions of Youth Elder and Youth Deacon. The Youth Officers would serve as full voting members of the Session or Board of Deacons. The Book of Order (BOO) states the following, "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership." (F-1.0403) And, in regards to ruling elders, the BOO states, "The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness." (G-2.0401) As such, our youth members should be given every opportunity to serve on Session and the Board of Deacons and participate in the governance of our church.

Youth Ministry Team (YMT) proposes adding a Youth Elder to Session and a Youth Deacon to the Board of Deacons, which will increase the total number of members by one for each group. The Youth Elder will be a full voting member of the Session of First Presbyterian Church. The Youth Elder will be assigned to a ministry team as a co-liaison, and will be a full voting member of the assigned team. The Youth Deacon will be a full member of the Board of Deacons. The Youth Officers will be expected to be active participants and leaders in the life of First Presbyterian Church.

In order to serve, the Youth Officers must be confirmed members of First Presbyterian Church and must be nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved to serve by a congregational vote. The Youth Officers will serve a one year term.

All nominations will be submitted to the Nominating Committee by YMT. The Nominating Committee will then decide whether to nominate the candidate or not. It is important to note that the positions do not always have to be filled. If the desired candidates decide not to serve, or if no qualified candidates are identified, the positions can go unfilled until the next nominating cycle.

YMT feels that placing our qualified youth in leadership roles sends an important message, both to the youth and to perspective members, that we value our young people and recognize their ability to be leaders in our church and community.