

Member Recommendations for the 2022

# **Officer Nominating Committee & Pastor Nominating Committee**

*The Standing Committee on Nominations asks the  
congregation to recommend members to form a new  
Officer Nominating Committee (ONC)  
and Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).*



**FPC HOUSTON**

# Officer Nominating & Pastor Nominating Committee

## Recommendation Form for 2022

*Please submit your recommendation by August 13, 2021*

**I am recommending for (please check appropriate box)**

- Officer Nominating Committee (ONC)
- Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)
- Either ONC/PNC – let the Standing Committee decide best fit

**Candidate Requirements:**

- Covenant Partner for at least 3 years prior to nomination
- At least 18 years of age prior to nomination
- Demonstrated a pattern of service and financial support to FPC
- Have not been informed that I am being considered for the office of Elder
- Not a staff member or spouse of a staff member
- I have confirmed the candidate is willing to serve, if called

Person recommended (print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Is this person an Elder not currently serving on Session?  Yes  No

Why do you think this person should be considered?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Recommended by (print your name) \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Your email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Why Form a Nominating Committee?**

The name of our church, “Presbyterian,” refers not to our doctrines or beliefs but to how we govern ourselves with elders, presbuteros in Greek. Each year an Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) is seated to recommend to the congregation a slate of six candidates for the next class of Ruling Elders. Together with Teaching Elders (pastors) the Ruling Elders make up the Session, the governing board of FPC. This form of governance was developed in Geneva under John Calvin as a rejection of governance by bishops. Ruling Elders are elected at our annual Congregational Meeting and serve three-year terms. As Pastors and Associate Pastors retire and or are called into service elsewhere there is the need to create a Pastor (PNC) or Associate (APNC) Pastor Nominating Committee to fill the vacant role. It is this committee that does a nationwide search to find the right Pastor to be called to the available opportunity to serve.

## **What is a Pastor Nominating Committee?**

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has the responsibility of nominating a candidate to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The committee is composed of covenant partners who have been recommended and elected by the congregation. The members of the PNC identify and contact potential pastoral candidates. In collaboration with Session, the PNC will present to the congregation the person they believe God is calling to lead FPC as Pastor. The pastor selection process includes prayerful consideration of the needs and goals of the church, communication with the congregation, and careful examination of the candidates. The PNC is a tool for the Holy Spirit to use to identify and call the Pastor to lead FPC as it continues to preach and practice the gospel.

The PNC will be composed of 11 church members, per FPC bylaws, the majority must be Elders. The breakdown is as follows: two Ruling Elders with the remaining 9 being a combination of Shepherding Elders (ordained Elders not currently serving on Session) and Covenant Partners. It is important to note that the PNC meets for as long as it takes to find the right Pastor for the position available. This committee’s role can last for a year or longer and at times could potentially require travel. The PNC studies and to fully understand the job description provided by session to ensure alignment with the long-term vision of the church and therefore the qualities needed in the Pastor being called. The committee, in partnership with a search firm, will solicit potential candidates.

## What is an Officer Nominating Committee?

The ONC is composed of two active elders and nine other church members who have not served on an ONC or Pastor Nominating Committee within three years. The ONC meets during the first half of each year, with particular effort spent after Easter to deliver to Session the recommended candidates before June 1. The committee studies and reaches a shared understanding of the role and nature of a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. It solicits nominations from the congregation, vets and interviews those nominated, and prayerfully selects the slate of officers to recommend to the Session and then to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting held each year in the fall. The ONC will strive to put together a diverse slate of Elders reflecting a range of areas of involvement, gender, age, faith and life experience, and approach to problem solving so that the Session is well equipped to represent our congregation.

## Who should be recommended for an ONC or PNC?

Both the ONC and PNC must be able to work together to discern the will of the Lord in recommending officers/pastors to govern the church. As such, members recommended for the ONC/PNC should have deep faith, a close walk with Christ, and are committed to him as their Lord and Savior. Essential qualities of ONC/PNC members include demonstrated spiritual maturity, service, and relatively high involvement to FPC, and sound theology with knowledge of and agreement with the mission, vision, and Core Values of FPC and the ECO Tenets of Faith. You can view these documents at [fpchouston.org/eco-vision](http://fpchouston.org/eco-vision).

They should be forward-thinking and focused. They should be good team players, willing to speak up but without a personal agenda, and even more willing to listen to diverse views. Those recommended must be willing to devote substantial amounts of time, energy, and talent to the work of these committees. The makeup of the committee will represent the multiple ages, needs and interests of the congregation.

## How do I nominate someone?

First, take it to the Lord in prayer. If after prayer you decide to recommend a member who meets the general criteria above, ask your potential candidate about willingness to serve. This will be a significant commitment of time and energy. Next, fill out the **Recommendation Form** in full via the following options (1) by visiting [fpchouston.org/onc-pnc](http://fpchouston.org/onc-pnc), (2) via e-mail to the SNC Chair at [SNCchair@fpchouston.org](mailto:SNCchair@fpchouston.org) or (3) drop off in the marked box at the FPC Welcome Center. You may be contacted for clarification or further information. For more information, please contact one of the people listed below.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration,

**The Standing Nominating Committee (SNC)**

Sheila Heinle, Chair, [SNCchair@fpchouston.org](mailto:SNCchair@fpchouston.org)

Mary Alford, [maryalford60@gmail.com](mailto:maryalford60@gmail.com)

Al Dupont, [allandupont@att.net](mailto:allandupont@att.net)

Rebecca Turner, [rturner@greenwoodking.com](mailto:rturner@greenwoodking.com)

Tim Williamson, [tim.williamson@cadencebank.com](mailto:tim.williamson@cadencebank.com)

Stephanie Zamora, [slzamora@texaschildrens.org](mailto:slzamora@texaschildrens.org)

The Standing Committee on Nominations (SNC) is a committee of the Session charged with nominating to the congregation an Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) each year and when needed a Pastor Nominating Committee. The members of this standing committee serve for two years and include Ruling Elders active on Session, members of the congregation at large, and the Senior Pastor. The SNC requests and then receives recommendations from the congregation. From the qualified recommendations the SNC strives to put together a diverse team reflecting a range of areas of involvement, gender, age, faith and life experience, and approach to problem solving so that the ONC and PNC are well equipped to represent our congregation.

## FPC Mission

Compelled by the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the gospel to Houston and the world.

## FPC Vision

We are a gospel-centered church seeking to encourage, equip, empower, and deploy outwardly focused disciples who desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ where God sends them.

We move toward this vision as we:

- **Gather** together to worship, pray, learn, encourage and celebrate;
- **Grow** into maturity as follower of Jesus Christ through biblical teaching and small group studies;
- **Go** into the world to share the gospel as individuals in our circles of influence, and as a body, in Houston and beyond.

## FPC Core Values

- **We sincerely want people to know Jesus.** An evangelistic-minded church, motivated by the Gospel, with a heart for people to know Christ and experience life transformation.
- **We are a church of leaders and doers with a desire to affect change in the world.** So much of what we do as a church is guided by an entrepreneurial spirit – from church planting to the ministries and even what members are doing in their personal lives and work. We try things. We take chances. We do.
- **We see strategic opportunity in our building and location.** We see possibility in the physical location where God has placed us and the impact this can have in the community – and in Houston – as we look toward the future.
- **We value the life of the mind.** We believe in the power of learning and being intellectually challenged, digging deep into God's Word and all He has for us.
- **We encourage and invest in relationships.** For so many people at First Pres, this church is a home space, and the people inside are family. Members deeply invest in relationships with others at the church, finding community and offering support.
- **We are a persevering church.** Over its history, FPC has weathered many tough seasons. But through it all, it has not shrunk back, relying on God for strength and direction.





**FPC HOUSTON**

5300 Main St | Houston, TX 77004 | 713.620.6500 | [fpchouston.org](http://fpchouston.org)