



Christian Education Chair Job Description

JOB TITLE: Chair, Christian Education Committee

Term Begins:

Term Length: Three Years

JOB SUMMARY:

This ministry is called to inspire, nurture, and support the faith formation, intellectual curiosity, and call to justice for all generations who participate in the life of FPCPA.

The Elder also works with the Director of Operations to ensure that safe church policy is in place and certifications for safe church training are kept updated and on file.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Facilitate two teams; Children Youth and Family, and Adult Education.
- With committees:
 - Develop Curriculum
 - Plan Events
 - Stay in touch with families
 - Acknowledge graduations and promotions of children, youth and college students of the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto.

REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS

- The ideal candidate would have experience developing and facilitating Christian Education initiatives
- The candidate should be organized
- The chair must be an Ruling Elder on Session.
- Comfort working with or delegating computer assisted surveys and organizational aids would be useful (eg Google Forms).

TIME AND SUPPORT

- Time: Varies depending on time of year
- Support: The chair has numerous supports from the church staff, church family, including committee members and former chairs who are willing and able to help advise when needed.

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND LINKS

- [Session Handbook](#)
- [Book of Order](#)
- If not already, all Ruling Elders will need to become an official member which requires a meeting with the pastor and session. This is not a scary process.
- Elders are ordained and installed as part of a public worship setting generally held at the beginning of each calendar year.
- Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm via Zoom.

WHY TAKE THIS VOLUNTEER JOB?

As the church emerges from the pandemic, this is a vibrant time! The Christian Education Committee will greatly impact how we go into the future.

ROLL OF ELDER IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA (Book of Order G-2.0301)

“As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God’s Spirit and governance of God’s people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.”

SUMMARY ROLL OF SESSION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA (See Book of Order G-3.02)

The session is the council for the congregation. It shall be composed of those persons elected by the congregation to active service as ruling elders, together with all installed pastors and associate pastors. All members of the session are entitled to vote. The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.

As it leads and guides the witness of the congregation, the session shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed congregations have identified themselves throughout history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).

In light of this charge, the session has responsibility and power to:

- a. provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.
- b. provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.
- c. nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.