



## **FPC Class of 2018 Officer Nominees**

On Sunday, October 28, FPC Starkville will elect four Elders and four Deacons to the class of 2021 to serve three-year terms. The Congregational Meeting will commence at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, following announcements prior to the 8:30 a.m. service. During that opening part of the meeting at 8:30 a.m.: (a) The Nominating Committee's Slate of Candidates for the Session and the Diaconate will be received. (b) In addition, nominations by active members of active members who are ready and willing to stand as candidates may also be received and, if approved by vote, any nominee approved on the floor will be added as a candidate. (c) Following this, nominations will be closed prior to the beginning of the election itself. The election will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

All active members are invited and encouraged to take part in this important event in the life of our church. Please take time to review the information presented by each nominee and prayerfully consider your choices for leadership.

Please refer to the following Biblical Standards guiding and governing members and officers in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), as you consider the nominees:

### **The Office of Ruling Elder**

In the Old Testament, the office of Elder was established for the oversight of the Church. In the New Testament, this office is continued (today called Ruling Elders). Chosen by the people of a local church, these ruling Elders are to watch over the spiritual welfare of that congregation. When appointed to participate in Presbytery or General Assembly, they shall watch over the spiritual welfare and participate diligently in the workings of that portion of the Church to which they are commissioned ... The Ruling Elder shares authority with the Teaching Elder in all of the courts of the Church, in both rights and duties. It is the first duty of the Ruling Elder to represent the mind of Christ, as that person understands it, in the various courts of the Church.

### **The Office of Deacon**

The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for needs, and of serving others. Therefore, the first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service. Historically, to this office has been given the duty of being the Church's instrument for the ministry of compassion.

### **The Life of the Ruling Elders and Deacons**

According to Scripture, those who bear the office of Ruling Elder should be mature believers, led by the Holy Spirit, who exhibit a manner of life that conforms to the biblical description of an officer in Christ's Church.

## Membership Vows for First Presbyterian Church, Starkville as a Congregation in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

- I acknowledge myself to be a sinner in the sight of God and without hope for my salvation *except in His sovereign mercy*.
  - I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and I receive and depend upon *Him alone* – as He is offered in the Gospel – for my salvation.
  - I now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that I will endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Jesus Christ.
  - I promise to serve Christ in His church by supporting and participating with the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in its service of God and ministry to others – to the best of my ability.
  - I submit myself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual shepherding (the pastoral oversight and encouragement) of the pastor and ruling elders of the FPC Session, and I promise to promote the unity, purity, and peace of the Church.
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### EPC ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION VOWS FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

1. Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
4. Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?
5. Do you affirm and adopt the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?
6. Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
7. Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord?
8. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the office of the holy Ministry from love to God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the gospel of His Son?
9. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
10. Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a Ruling Elder/Deacon, whether personal, or interpersonal, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the congregation of which God is making you overseer?
11. Are you now willing to accept the call of this church as Pastor/Associate Pastor/Ruling Elder/Deacon, and, relying upon God for strength, promise to discharge to it the duties required of that office?

### QUESTIONS TO, AND AFFIRMATIONS OF, CONGREGATION AND EACH MEMBER

1. Are you, the members of this congregation ready to receive as officers of the church each ruling elder and deacon being installed today?
2. Do you promise to submit to your pastor and ruling elders in matters of spiritual discipline, and to receive with humility and love the word of truth?
3. Do you promise to support each ruling elder and each deacon with your prayers, to give encouragement and assistance to them in every way, as they seek to instruct you in the things of the Lord and to lead you in the building of the Kingdom of God in this place?



## FPC Class of 2018 Officer Nominees

### Nominees for Deacon



**Jack Atkins**

I have attended FPC Starkville for several years and became a member in July, 2017. During this time it has been a blessing to serve as greeter and usher as well as to host the Young Adult Bible Study Group in my home. I also enjoy participating in the Faith for Life Sunday School class. I am fortunate that God has blessed me with such a wonderful church family. Through this association I have drawn much closer to the Lord and I can feel and see it in my life every day. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Him in an even greater capacity.



**Glenda Clark**

I was very fortunate growing up that I had God loving parents! They had me in Sunday School and church every Sunday. I was baptized at the age of 13 and have had God in my heart ever since.

I sang in a quartet for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and my faith grew through that. I still try to do everything I can to make God proud. It is so wonderful to be filled with the Holy Spirit!



**Jack Cook**

I returned home to Starkville after retiring from the Air Force in 1990 and came to First Presbyterian Church. Since that time I have enjoyed serving as usher and greeter on numerous occasions. At a time when the Church had no sexton, it was my pleasure to perform some routine and periodic maintenance in the education building and grounds for the child care center. I was also able to help with periodic grounds maintenance with the Men of the Church both on the Hill and at Robinson Lake and support their cooking efforts. And since retiring from Delta, I have been able to use some of my leisure weekday time to make some necessary repairs to our underground sprinkler system.

My faith is in the one true God that presents Himself to us in Three Persons, and the Bible is His true word that provides the guidance for living our lives. I believe that by God's grace and thru our faith alone we are forgiven our sins and will live with Him for eternity. Personally, as I look back at my life I know of two specific instances that had God not been walking with me on those days I would not be here. I now thank Him for giving me the opportunity to give more of me to Him by serving His Church.



### **Leslie Corey**

I have been a member of First Presbyterian Church for thirty-five years. My missionary focus has been the Casserole Kitchen, which I have been involved with since its inception. I have been a steadfast member and supporter since I joined. One of the things I appreciate most about our church is the ability to serve in a way that best utilizes individual talents. There is a place for all of us.

My belief as a Christian is quite fundamental. We need to continue to grow in our faith, be an example for others, and give back to the church. My hope is that First Presbyterian continues to provide opportunities for all members to participate and feel this is a place to worship and grow in their personal faith.



### **Peyton Fandel**

My wife, Catherine, and I joined FPC Starkville a year and a half ago. Since joining, our love for this church has continued to grow thanks to the loving and supportive congregation that has become our church family. As a full member of the church, I have had the privilege of assisting with sound and recording of services, serving with the Campus Ministry Team, and assisting with the young adult/post graduate Bible study and 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade boys' Sunday school.

My hope and vision for this church going forward is that it will be a replica of the eternal kingdom of heaven, open and welcoming to all who come to rest at the foot of the cross of Jesus. I pray that our church continues to love and serve each other well just as we have been for so many years.



### **Robby Holditch**

I joined First Presbyterian Church in October of 2009. It is a blessing and great honor to be nominated as deacon to serve our church family. I was raised a Southern Baptist where I ask the Lord to be my personal Savior in March of 1991.

Since joining our church in 2009, I have witnessed and felt our church family face very difficult challenges. We have overcome the challenges with a tremendous steadfast love for God and His son Jesus. I absolutely love that Foley and I can witness our girls, Ann Carlton and Grace, as well as the increasing number of young people develop their understanding of God's love. My wish is for our church family to continue to grow by showing our love for God and demonstrating that love to others through our actions and words!

I consider my nomination to serve as deacon a great honor! However, elected or not, I will continue to be diligent in serving my church in any capacity where there is a need. Thank you for your prayers to deliver God's will for our church family!



## FPC Class of 2018 Officer Nominees

### Nominees for Elder



#### **Wallace H. Cade**

I grew up in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. I made my public confession of faith and was baptized in June 1962. After Gloria and I were married, we became members of Brooksville Baptist Church where I was elected and ordained as a deacon on June 7, 1987. There I served on the deacon family ministry, including secretary and chairman of deacons, taught deacon leadership classes, a member of the Noxubee Baptist Association, and served four years on the 100 member board of the Mississippi Baptist Association in Jackson, MS. My family and I moved to Starkville in 2007. We became members of First Baptist Church. There I served as a deacon, served on the stewardship

– Finance – budget committee, and served as one of the church's trustees. After First Baptist Church grew larger than we were accustomed to, we moved our membership to First Presbyterian Church with the belief that this move was in God's will for our lives. I currently serve on the Childcare Committee, Finance/Budget Committee, and currently facilitate the Men's Study group on Wednesday nights.

I believe in the *Sovereignty of God*, the *Authority of the Scriptures*, and the *Necessity of Grace through Faith in Christ as my Savior*. I believe in the *Essentials of our Faith* as set forth by the EPC Church and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* as the standard of doctrine as founded in *Holy Scripture* for the reformed faith.



#### **Jack Forbus**

I have been a member of First Presbyterian Church for over 40 years. During that time I have served as a Deacon and Elder and I am currently serving as an Elder. I have served on numerous Committees during that period of time.

I have been a Christian and believer in Jesus since I was a young child. The process of sanctification has been a life-long adventure and the growth in the Lord and the leading of the Holy Spirit has been a wonderful experience. I have taught Sunday school for some time and it truly affords me the opportunity for spiritual growth. The growth in the Holy Spirit has led me to the vision I have for outreach. At present this church has

organized itself into 5 major areas and I have chosen to chair The Outreach Committee. The committee is currently involved in local, national and international outreach. The possibilities are endless for our church in outreach to spread the gospel of Jesus.



#### **Ernie George**

In the past I have served as both treasurer and chairman of the Diaconate, as well as serving several terms as Elder. I have served as a member of the Building Committee and Pulpit Committee and have taught both children's and adult Sunday School classes. I was married in this church and have been a member for over 40 years and my children and grandchildren have been baptized in this church.

I believe God has called me to participate in the life of our church. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our members in any way needed through God's grace and forgiveness, I seek to continue my growth in faith at First Presbyterian and believe we are a church family who cares for each other and our community.



### **Thomas Gregory**

I grew up in Greenwood, MS, and was baptized and confirmed at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwood. After attending MSU for undergrad and the University of North Carolina for graduate school, I moved back to Greenwood, where I worked as the city's chief administrative officer for eight years. During this time, I was elected to serve on the FPC Board of Deacons, and served as moderator for one year. I also worked part-time as the church's Interim Youth Director and Youth Activities Coordinator. In those two roles, I planned and led youth activities including weekly Bible Study and PYF meetings, winter retreats to Camp Hopewell, summer retreats to Montreat Youth Conference, and an international mission trip to the Dominican Republic. I also taught Sunday School classes and served on the Nominating and Kirkin' Committees. My wife,

Anne Marie, and I moved to Starkville a year ago and over the past year, we have enjoyed getting to know the congregation and serving on the church's Fellowship Committee and University Ministry Team.

I grew up in the Presbyterian Church, where my faith was nurtured over many years by faithful Christian teachers and leaders. I believe in a triune God, that God is the creator of all things, and that God created humankind in his image. I believe we are all sinners who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who lived the perfect life and died to save us from our sin. I believe that the Holy Spirit calls and equips men and women for ministry and service in the church. I believe in prayer and that God answers our prayers according to God's perfect plan. I also believe in God's sovereign providence and that nothing happens by chance. My vision for FPC Starkville is a thriving community of welcoming Christians who love and serve Christ through regular worship, fellowship, learning, and service. Recently, I began praying that God would present an opportunity for me to get more involved in our church and I am truly grateful for the nomination to serve as an Elder. If elected to the position of Elder, I will work hard to advance the mission and vision of the church, to serve our congregation faithfully, and to glorify God in all that I do on behalf of FPC Starkville.



### **Will Martin**

I have served First Presbyterian Church as a Deacon, I currently teach the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade children on Wednesday nights as a leader of SOS fellowship, I am a member of the New Covenant Sunday School Class, I have volunteered on various mission outreach projects such as Casserole Kitchen, and I continue to help with maintenance of church grounds.

I am a Christian who has been saved by the grace of God our Father. I am a sinner in need of mercy and forgiveness. I believe in the Holy Trinity, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the sovereignty of God. I will humbly serve our church body as a Godly servant, empowered by His grace, guided by scripture, and seeking wisdom from His promises.



### **Cal Rackley**

I am a lifelong member of FPC Starkville and am proud to be raising my family in a church that has been a guiding light in my life. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve this church family that is such a blessing to me. I have served in several capacities throughout my time at FPC. Most recently I have served as a Deacon, Chair of the Missions Committee, a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, and as financial advisor to the Church and the Childcare Center. I am a member of the New Covenant Sunday School class, and I also enjoy Wednesday night fellowship and other fellowship activities at our church.

I believe in the one true God and Holy Trinity; that we are all created in His image; that scripture is His inspired and infallible word; that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior; and that acceptance of God's grace through faith is the only path to salvation. I believe that our church is once again on firm footing and we are positioned to do amazing things for each other, our community, and God's Kingdom. My goals in service are to continue to press forward in our many opportunities for mission and outreach, to provide care and support for our current members, and to work towards growing our church family.

## The Evangelical Presbyterian Church - Essentials of Our Faith:

All Scripture is self-attesting and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks.

On this sure foundation we affirm these additional essentials of our faith.

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To Him be all honor, glory and praise forever!
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts us of sin and draws us to the Savior, indwelling our hearts. He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service. He instructs and guides us into all truth, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting she awaits the return of her Lord.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead, and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10)

These Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

*In Essentials..... Unity*

*In Non-Essentials..... Liberty*

*In All Things..... Charity*