



Here comes **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** looking for a few good men and women to serve as Elders (Session), Deacons, and Trustees for the Class of 2015. Once we have the Class of 2015 filled for each board, we will be looking for at-large members for the 2013 Nominating Committee and the 2015 Swenson Fund Allocation Committee--lots of opportunities!! You will find a recommendation form on the back side of this page.

We have a unique challenge ahead of us. Our church is without a permanent pastor. Our church is even without an Interim Pastor. Right now it's falling to a group of dedicated boards and members of the congregation to try to fill that void by leading Sunday morning worship services (with the help of the occasional ordained minister as specified by Presbytery) and by addressing the needs of the congregation on as many levels as possible. This isn't easy and everybody involved, Session, Deacons, and Trustees, are extremely grateful for your patience as we work through this transitional time.

As of the date of this *Messenger*, Nominating Committee knows it will be looking to fill at least one spot on Session, with the potential of needing two more. The committee also knows it will be looking to fill at least one spot on the Board of Deacons, with the potential of needing one more. And it knows that it will be looking to fill at least one spot on the Board of Trustees, with the potential of needing four more.

That's a lot of vacancies and that's where you, the congregation, come in. Over the last few years, we have heard concerns voiced from members of the congregation that there were vacant seats on a specific board and that the committee needed to work harder to fill these vacancies but when committee members approached you, the members of the congregation, to sit on one of the three boards, we were more often than not turned down. We have also heard concerns voiced that there are very few new faces on the boards. Again, when the committee members approached you, the members of the congregation, to sit on one of the boards, we were more often than not turned down. If no one agrees to sit on a board, there will be vacancies. We can't have it both ways. We can't have people complaining about vacancies if they aren't willing to fill them.

We know and understand people are intensely committed in their lives outside the church. But what better way to serve God than with a commitment inside the church? Sitting on a board can be very rewarding, and it gives one the opportunity to play a role in the functioning of our church. One concern we hear a lot is "I don't want the responsibility of making decisions for the congregation." That responsibility is not yours alone but is shared by all board members, is taken very seriously by all board members, and no decision is made without a lot of thought, discussion and prayers.

We have all been given certain gifts from God. The committee would like each member of the congregation to start prayerfully considering how these gifts will allow you to take a place on Session, Deacons, or Trustees when asked. Please be a part of the solution, not the problem. We do have some very exciting challenges ahead of us as a church and a denomination, and you can be a positive part of those challenges.