

## **Outline for Elder Selection Process.**

Having begun teaching about the Role and Function and selection of Elders the beginning of April, both on Wednesday evenings and Sunday a.m. Bible Class, the time has arrived for us to present to the congregation the process developed and approved by the Men's Meeting.

**Prayer and Fasting:** A congregation-wide season of prayer and fasting is critical to our process. Through the discipline of prayer and fasting we hope to "hear" the voice of God as He identifies the shepherds among us. We encourage the whole congregation to participate in a season of prayer and fasting that will call their own families together for such specific purpose. We hope this time of prayer and fasting will continue until the process is completed. The process will begin with a 12 hour commitment to pray to be concluded by a call for the whole congregation to commit to pray for 15 min. One Call now will be used to alert the whole congregation. There will be a designated time to pray as a congregation towards the conclusion of the process.

**Nomination:** At the conclusion of the time of prayer and fasting nomination ballots will be handed out to all. People are called to prayerfully fill in the names of the men they believe God is calling to shepherd this congregation and place the completed form in the secure box provided in the foyer, or hand their nomination form to one of the Elder Selection Administration Team members. All of the available blanks DO NOT need to be filled (you do not need to fill in all blanks), but no ballot may have more than 8 nominees. Ballots will be given to a member of the Elder Selection Administration Team (E.S.A.T.) and this team will contact all nominees to determine if the nominee desires to pursue his nomination.

**Personal Counting the Cost:** The men whose names appear on the ballot will be contacted and asked to pray and reflect about their willingness and capacity to fill the role. Those men, who after prayer and reflection are willing to serve as elders, will be asked to complete an introspective questionnaire and submit a personal biography that will be presented to the congregation. This will begin the scriptural validation phase.

**Scriptural Concerns:** If you believe that there are scriptural reasons why a nominee is not eligible to serve as an elder, you are asked to submit your concern in writing to a member of the Elder Selection Administration Team. Those raising scriptural concerns about a nominee cannot be anonymous, but the identity of any who submits a concern will remain strictly confidential. Only the scriptural concern about a man's eligibility will be brought to his attention and he will be given an opportunity to respond to the concern. A meeting between that prospective Elder and the individual who has submitted the concern will be conducted with two members of the Elder Selection Administrative Team also attending. There will be a time of prayer and discussion of the matter with hope for a mutually acceptable outcome. Any man whose nomination is still of questionable biblical eligibility will be expected to withdraw his nomination. Any nominee whose nomination has no scriptural concern or whose possible concern has been resolved will be balloted together with all proposed Elders for a simple YES or NO ballot requiring all to sign an acknowledgment of acceptance and willingness to follow the Elders.

**Evaluation and voting for the Elders:** It is imperative that each man who is ultimately chosen to be an Elder at the Warrensburg church of Christ is confident that he has the support of the congregation. To ensure this support, an acceptable percentage of favorable ballots of the total cast will be established by the Team in consultation with the nominees for Elder. A ballot with complete instructions for completion will be mailed to adult baptized Christians who have made this congregation their church home. A yes or no vote will be for the entire slate of Elders. Following this ALL these men will be presented to the congregation and following an additional time of prayer and fasting they will be affirmed and installed as Elders during the following Sunday a.m. worship time.

### **Timeline for the Elder Selection Process**

**Octobers 2 & October 9:** Distribution of nomination ballots

**October 8:** Saturday, prayer vigil

**October 19 (Wed.):** Last date to collect nomination ballots -Ethan designated as nominations collector

**October 20:** Admin Team meets and contacts all nominated to ask if they are willing to serve.

**October 23:** Have completed the distribution of the Introspective Questionnaire to those agreeing to serve.

**October 30:** Deadline for Questionnaires returned.

**Nov. 9:** All responses edited and formatted for final approval by nominees before general distribution in preparation for Elder Biblical Examination forms .

**Nov. 11:** mail out Elder Biblical Examination forms to all eligible members to record their vote.

**Nov.13 :** Mass distribution of Elder profiles and questioner to whole congregation .

**Nov. 30:** Cutoff date for any scriptural concerns to be communicated by this date. All communication regarding this part of the process will be handled with confidentiality. All responses to be handed only to **E.S.A.T.** members.

Depending upon the volume of concerns that have to be processed, the actual affirmation ballot process will be distributed and collected at a date to be established. A final day of prayer/fasting will take place and the date for official affirmation of elders will be set.

We confess this is not a perfect process, but we believe it is one guided by prayer. An imperfect process filled with men and women of prayer will function far better than a perfect process without prayer.

Prayerfully on behalf of the Elder Selection Administration Team  
Deb Rice; Ethan Morrison; George Lipps; Jeff Kenee ; Mollie Dinwiddie;