

Edict and Procedure for Elder Election

Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Shawnee RPC Edict Notice of a Congregational Meeting to Elect Ruling Elders:

The Session having decided to conduct an election for up to three ruling elders, the congregation is called to meet on the 24th day of March in the year 2021, 7:00 p.m. at the church. Members unable to be present may participate by absentee vote or by virtual vote, written guidelines for which are provided in the weekly bulletin. Given this 10th day of March in the year 2021, by order of the Session.

Dennis Wing, Session Clerk
Bill Boyle, Session Moderator

The order of the meeting that evening shall be as follows:

(from the RPCNA Directory for Church Government)

- a. The congregation having been called together for the election, the session shall be constituted by the moderator or presbytery's appointee.
- b. The session shall have a complete list of all communicant members of the congregation in good standing from which a quorum is to be determined (one-half of the active communicant resident members). A quorum is necessary for each ballot.
- c. Inquiry by the moderator if the congregation still desires to proceed with the election.
- d. The final reading of the edict.
- e. Worship, with a sermon, shall be conducted under the direction of the session.
- f. The election shall be conducted.
- g. The court shall be adjourned with prayer.

Balloting *(based on excerpts from the RPCNA Directory for Church Government)*

The election shall be conducted as follows:

1. Nominations can be made by communicant members.
2. The election may also proceed without nominations.
3. Even when nominations have been made, votes may be cast for any qualified candidate.
4. Voting shall be by ballot with the session taking due precaution to ensure the integrity of the vote.
5. When the number to be elected is determined, the number of names per ballot is not to exceed the announced number to be elected.
6. Communicant members unable to attend the meeting may either send in an absentee ballot or vote virtually as per the written guidelines which are provided in the bulletin.
7. Only those receiving at least two-thirds of the votes cast shall be declared elders-elect. Blank ballots shall not be counted in determining the total number of votes cast. A ballot marked "No," indicating that the person desires not to vote for any candidate, should be counted in determining the total number of votes cast.
8. If a two-thirds vote has not been reached after three ballots, the moderator, in consultation with the session, may postpone the election.
9. Two tellers shall be appointed by the moderator to collect the ballots and tabulate the results of the election and report to the moderator.

Those eligible to be called as ruling elders must: *(from the RPCNA Directory for Church Government)*

1. Be male communicant members in good standing of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.
2. Evidence the standards of character and conduct consistent with those set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; in Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-3.
3. Be knowledgeable and committed to the subordinate doctrinal standards of the denomination as being consistent with the Scriptures.