

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NASHVILLE
OFFICER TRAINING

**Top Ten List of
What I Expect from Elders & Deacons**

1. Someone who knows he or she is called to be an ambassador for First Presbyterian Church, both within and outside of our church. (“So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” II Corinthians 5:20)
2. Someone who leads by example, and is a vital, regular part of the worshiping community at FPC. (“I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord!’” Psalm 122)
3. Someone who possesses a working knowledge of the Bible, engaged in the regular study of it. (“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4)
4. Someone who is a person of prayer, able to enjoy a quiet relationship with God, and able to pray with and for others. I assume every Elder and Deacon will pray for our church, for our pastors and staff, and for each other. (“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” I Thessalonians 5:16-18)
5. Someone who is learning of the gifts God has given to them, and knows that they are called to share these gifts in ministry and service. (“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit, to use it for the common good.” I Corinthians 12:4-7)
6. Someone who is intentionally involved in growing in grace, and someone who is also committed to mission and service in and through the church, both inhaling and exhaling God’s grace. (“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3)
7. Someone whose family relationships, friendships and relationships at work and in the church are healthy and reflective of Christ’s call. (“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” I John 4:12)

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8. Someone who is a flexible, joyful person with a sense of humor, who works positively for health and wholeness in the church. Someone who likes to laugh and is fun to work with in ministry and service. (“The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” II Corinthians 9:6,7)
9. Someone who offers public praise and private criticism. A person who is an encourager, who is supportive and can be trusted to do what is best for the church. (“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24) (“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8)
10. Someone who is a cheerful and generous giver, committed to proportionate giving and striving to become a tither. (“You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints, but also overflows in thanksgivings to God.” II Corinthians 9:11,12)