

Management Committee Officer Election Subcommittee by Elder David Cleland

- (1) A motion was made, seconded and passed that the following call for a Congregational Meeting be given Sessional approval:

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

By action of the Session, a meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, is called to be held in the sanctuary of the church at the close of the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 6, 2008, for the purpose of considering and acting on the recommendation of the Session that the Congregation elect ten (10) additional Ruling Elders and twenty-five (25) additional Deacons in the manner outlined in the *Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America*, and, if the way be clear, to proceed to the election of such Ruling Elders and Deacons.

- (2) On motion made, seconded, and passed, the Session gave approval to the following Resolutions for presentation to the Congregation for their approval:

RESOLUTION TO ELECT ADDITIONAL RULING ELDERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, that:

The Congregation elect ten (10) additional Ruling Elders, the election to be held in the sanctuary of the church after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday, September 7, 2008, and each Sunday thereafter, after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, until such additional Ruling Elders are elected in accordance with the procedure hereinafter outlined. For the purpose of this election only, the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., services shall be considered as one Congregational Meeting, with the presence of a quorum to be determined after the 11:00 a.m. service, and with the ballots cast after the 8:30 a.m. service to be preserved and counted with those ballots cast after the election.

Section 24-1, the *Book of Church Order, Presbyterian Church in America* provides:

Every church shall elect persons to the offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon in the following manner: Public notice shall be given of the time, place, and purpose of this meeting at least one month prior to the appointed time, during which time the Congregation is asked to submit names to the Session, keeping in mind that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The prospective officer shall be examined in:

- a. his Christian experience,
- b. his knowledge of the system of doctrine, government, discipline contained in the Standards,
- c. the duties of the office to which he has been nominated, and
- d. his willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination. (BCO 24-5)

The Session shall examine and approve those nominated and then report to the Congregation before election day those eligible for election.

This plan will be followed, and each communing member of the Congregation in good and regular standing will have from April 6, 2008, until 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2008, to submit up to, but not exceeding ten (10) written nominations to the Eldership. Only those men who have been members of First Presbyterian Church for at least three years, who meet the qualifications of Scripture, whose reputation and character are known, who are committed to the doctrines of our church, and who show the gifts for the specific office being considered are eligible for nomination.

Each full communing member is allowed to nominate as many men as have been approved to be elected. By submitting and signing an officer nomination form, church members are attesting that they have spoken with the person being nominated and have gained his permission to do so.

For a male member of the congregation to be considered for nomination for either Elder/Deacon, he shall be required to receive at least three nominations. All nominations for either office shall be handed or mailed to the Executive Minister's office on the provided form.

For multiple nominations, a separate form for each nominee should be provided.

The Moderator will appoint at once nine (9) managers to conduct the election and count the votes until ten (10) additional Ruling Elders shall have been elected. The voting will be by secret written ballot which will be prepared by the committee of managers, and on election day one (1) ballot will be furnished each communing member of the Congregation present. The names of the nominees will be alphabetically listed on the ballot and the nominee or nominees receiving the highest and a majority of the votes cast by the communing members present shall be declared elected.

If ten (10) additional Ruling Elders are not elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, a similar ballot shall be prepared by the committee of managers, which ballot shall contain the names of twice the number of Ruling Elders yet to be elected, the nominees on that ballot to be those with the highest number of votes next after those who were elected, and the voting at a reconvened meeting of the Congregation after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on September 14, 2008. If the election is not completed on September 14, 2008, then the election will be continued from Sunday to Sunday after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services until ten (10) additional Ruling Elders have been elected by the highest and a majority vote of the communing members present and voting. For each election, a similar ballot will be prepared by the committee of managers, which ballot shall contain the names of twice the number of Ruling Elders yet to be elected, the said nominees to be those with the highest number of votes next after those elected.

Because a majority vote of those present is required for election, each member is encouraged to vote for the full number of officers to be elected under each ballot. A member's ballot may, however, record a lesser number of votes and still be valid.

RESOLUTION TO ELECT ADDITIONAL DEACONS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi, that:

The Congregation elect twenty-five (25) additional Deacons, the election to be held in the sanctuary of the church after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday, October 12, 2008, and each Sunday thereafter, after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services, until such additional Deacons are elected in accordance with the procedure hereinafter outlined. For the purpose of this election only, the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., services shall be considered as one Congregational Meeting, with the presence of a quorum to be determined after the 11:00 a.m. service, and with the ballots cast after the 8:30 a.m. service to be preserved and counted with those ballots cast after the election.

Section 24-1, the *Book of Church Order, Presbyterian Church in America* provides:

Every church shall elect persons to the offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon in the following manner: Public notice shall be given of the time, place, and purpose of this meeting at least one month prior to the appointed time, during which time the Congregation is asked to submit names to the Session, keeping in mind that each prospective officer should be an active male member who meets the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The prospective officer shall be examined in:

- a. his Christian experience,
- b. his knowledge of the system of doctrine, government, discipline contained in the Standards,
- c. the duties of the office to which he has been nominated, and
- d. his willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination. (BCO 24-5)

The Session shall examine and approve those nominated and then report to the Congregation before election day those eligible for election.

This plan will be followed, and each communing member of the Congregation in good and regular standing will have from April 6, 2008, until 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2008, to submit up to, but not exceeding twenty-five (25) written nominations to the Diaconate. Only those men who have been members of First Presbyterian Church for at least three years, who meet the qualifications of Scripture, whose reputation and character are known, who are committed to the doctrines of our church, and who show the gifts for the specific office being considered are eligible for nomination.

Each full communing member is allowed to nominate as many men as have been approved to be elected. By submitting and signing an officer nomination form, church members are attesting that they have spoken with the person being nominated and have gained his permission to do so.

For a male member of the congregation to be considered for nomination for either Elder/Deacon, he shall be required to receive at least three nominations. All nominations for either office shall be handed or mailed to the Executive Minister's office on the provided form.

For multiple nominations, a separate form for each nominee should be provided.

The Moderator will appoint at once nine (9) managers to conduct the election and count the votes until twenty-five (25) additional Deacons shall have been elected. The voting will be by secret written ballot which will be prepared by the committee of managers, and on election day one (1) ballot will be furnished each communing member of the Congregation present. The names of the nominees will be alphabetically listed on the ballot and the nominee or nominees receiving the highest and a majority of the votes cast by the communing members present shall be declared elected.

If twenty-five (25) additional Deacons are not elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, a similar ballot shall be prepared by the committee of managers, which ballot shall contain the names of twice the number of Deacons yet to be elected, the nominees on that ballot to be those with the highest number of votes next after those who were elected, and the voting at a reconvened meeting of the Congregation after the regular 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday, October 19, 2008. If the election is not completed on October 19, 2008, then the election will be continued from Sunday to Sunday after the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services until twenty-five (25) additional Deacons have been elected by the highest and a majority vote of the communing members present and voting. For each election, a similar ballot will be prepared by the committee of managers, which ballot shall contain the names of twice the number of Deacons yet to be elected, the said nominees to be those with the highest number of votes next after those elected.

Because a majority vote of those present is require for election, each member is encouraged to vote for the full number of officers to be elected under each ballot. A member's ballot may, however, record a lesser number of votes and still be valid.