

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

February 15, 2018

My dear Friends:

I wanted to remind you that this coming Sunday is the last day for nominations to the office of deacon for the class of 2024. And this is really important. One of the things the congregation gets to do in our Presbyterian system of government is select their leaders. In fact, we believe the resurrected and ascended Christ gives officers as a gift to his church (Eph 4:7-12), but he does this through our nomination and election of them. There is a concurrence between Christ's choice and our choice; that's how Christ continues to care for and rule his church.

And especially with the office of deacon, that is the case. You remember Acts 6, I trust. There the apostles tell the church in Jerusalem that they can't get into the details of issues related to mercy and justice, caring for widows, and making sure there is equity in that care. So, what was the solution? "Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty" (Acts 6:3). Notice, the apostles didn't pick these men out. Rather, they urged the congregation to look among themselves and determine whether there were men whom God was raising up for this responsibility.

How would they know whom to nominate? They were to look for men of good reputation; they were to look for spiritual men; and they were to look for wise men. Each of those qualifiers are important and they all hang together. Good reputation means that these were men whom everyone could trust. People knew that they were high character guys, people of integrity. They were also spiritual men—men filled with the Holy Spirit, men seeking after godliness and holiness, men earnest about following Jesus. And they were wise men. These leaders had skill in living, recognizing God was watching them, and in turn, they had their eyes on God (which is the "fear of the Lord").

And these all have to be present—someone could have a good reputation and be wise, knowing how to get things done, and be utterly unspiritual. Someone could be spiritual and wise, but may have some reason why people question his character, perhaps in relationship to something in his past. Someone could have a sterling reputation and be a spiritual man, but not really be wise; his judgment isn't always on point. All three of these characteristics are required for deacons (and for elders too!); these are the men we want.

And I believe there are men just like that ready to be nominated at IPC. Please turn in those nominations by Sunday, February 18!

In the grip of God's grace,



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