

The Session

(Book of Order, G-2.0104, G-2.0301, W-4.4003, G-3.0201)
(Bylaws, Art V)

Purpose. Provide spiritual leadership, conduct short and long-term planning, determine goals and policies, conduct current operations, and provide resources to meet the congregation's needs.

Qualifications of Elders. "...persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world." (G-2.0104) They should be "...persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit." (G-2.0301)

Role of Elders.

Ruling Elders "are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships." (G-2.0301)

Responsibilities of the Session. (G-3.0201)

1. **Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.** This responsibility shall include providing a place where the congregation may regularly gather for worship, education, and spiritual nurture; providing for regular preaching of the Word by a teaching elder or other person prepared and approved for the work; planning and leading regular efforts to reach into the community and the world with the message of salvation and the invitation to enter into committed discipleship; planning and leading ministries of social healing and reconciliation in the community in accordance with the prophetic witness of Jesus Christ; and initiating and responding to ecumenical efforts that bear witness to the love and grace of God.

2. **Provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.** This responsibility shall include authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper at least quarterly and the administration of Baptism as appropriate, in accordance with the principles of the Directory for Worship; and exercising pastoral care among the congregation; in order that the Sacraments may be received as a means of grace, and the congregation may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments.

3. **Nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ. This responsibility shall include receiving and dismissing members; reviewing the roll of active members at least annually** and counseling with those who have neglected the responsibilities of membership; providing programs of nurture, education, and fellowship; training, examining, ordaining, and installing those elected by the congregation as ruling elders and deacons; encouraging the graces of generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources; managing the physical property of the congregation for the furtherance of its mission; direct, delegate and supervise the ministry of deacons, trustees, and all organizations and task forces in the congregation, providing for support, report, review and control; employing the administrative staff of the congregation; leading the congregation in participating in the mission of the whole church; warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within the congregation and community; and serving in judicial matters in accordance with the Rules of Discipline.

Stated Monthly Session Meetings:

Third Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Meetings, September through June (excluding December)

SESSION COMMITTEES 2025-2026

Clerk of Session: Lynn Stein • Deputy Clerk: Mercedes Sheldon

ADULT MINISTRY

To provide spiritual and educational support for the adults of the congregation.

Chair: Bill Johnston

Staff: Phil Romine

ARTS

To provide the congregation with visual and dramatic arts.

Co-Chairs: Laura Merriam and Elly Verhagen

Staff: Julia Carlson

BUDGET

To prepare the annual operating budget for Session and congregational approval and ensures that expenditures throughout the fiscal year fall within approved budget limits.

Clerk of Session and Chair: Lynn Stein

Staff: Scott Jones and Michelle Freyholtz

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

To provide spiritual and educational support programs for our congregation's children, youth, and their families.

Chair: Leslie Erickson

Staff: Phil Romine, Jimmy Hoke, Elsa Kendig

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

To deepen relationships within the congregation, and with neighbors and the broader community.

Co-Chair: Charlie Mahar and Elizabeth Sanson

Staff: Scott Jones, Julia Carlson, Phil Romine

MISSION OUTREACH

To plan and administer the congregation's mission and benevolence programs.

Chair: Jan Parkman

Staff: Scott Jones

PEACE AND JUSTICE

To respond to local, national and international issues in which advocacy is needed.

Co-Chairs: TBD

Staff: Julia Carlson

PERSONNEL

To manage the church's personnel system.

Co-Chairs: Steven Yetter and Judy Gensmer

Staff: Scott Jones

STEWARDSHIP

To encourage the congregation to contribute time, talent, and financial resources to support the work of the church.

Co-Chairs: Sarah Walbert and David Cleveland

Staff: Scott Jones, Michelle Freyholtz

WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS, AND MUSIC

To provide for services of worship, the administration of the sacraments, and provide for music programs to support and enhance worship and other activities of the congregation.

Chair:

Staff: Scott Jones, Aaron David Miller, Matthew Culloton, Sofia Ardalan