

LTCC ANNUAL AFFIRMATION PROCESS

<p>WHY AN AFFIRMATION PROCESS?</p>	<p>While it is God who raises up men and women to serve His church, the New Testament indicates that the early church was actively involved in recognizing those called to lead the church and those called to serve the church.</p> <p>Concerning elders, the Body of Christ is encouraged to recognize those who are over them in the Lord and to esteem them highly (1Thess. 5:12-13). Those who “direct the affairs of the church well” are worthy of honor and especially those whose primary work is preaching and teaching (1Tim. 5:17 NIV). Christians are to “remember their leaders” and submit to their leadership (Heb. 13:7, 17 NIV).</p> <p>Concerning deacons, the model of Acts 6 indicates those who served the church were recognized by the whole gathering as those among them who were “known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3-5 NIV).</p> <p>An annual process affirming those called to serve in the offices of the church provides a practical approach for a congregation to remember, recognize, and renew their followership of those God has called to lead.</p> <p>Regular affirmation of those in leadership:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforces that church members have a responsibility for the overall testimony of their fellowship.</li> <li>2. Safeguards against leaders who go astray in doctrine or life.</li> <li>3. Strengthens church governance through the consent of those governed.</li> </ol> <p>At LTCC, we seek annual affirmation by the church members for those leading as elders and those serving on the Church Council.</p>
<p>HOW WILL THE ANNUAL AFFIRMATION PROCESS WORK?</p>	<p>Each November, the congregation will be formally asked to prayerfully prepare to affirm those in leadership at the annual members meeting in January. The members will also be asked to affirm any new candidates recommended to serve as elders or on the Church Council.</p> <p>As part of preparing for the affirmation vote in January, the congregation will be invited to raise any concerns about those in leadership, or recommended for leadership, so that any impediments to affirmation might be addressed.</p> <p>Where possible, in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-16, the one with a concern is encouraged to speak personally to the elder, Church Council member, or candidate involved. However, should they be uncomfortable with a direct discussion, they are encouraged to contact one of the elders to discuss the matter.</p> <p>In light of 1Timothy 5:19, a serious accusation against an elder is to be raised carefully and only then with supporting evidence.</p> <p>The intent of the process is not to find fault, but to intentionally affirm those God has called to lead and serve His flock.</p> <p>In the spirit of authentic transparency and accountability, we hope that the church would not depend solely on this annual process in order to deal with any leadership concerns. But that, as with any church member, we would have a spirit that desires that anything that comes between us is dealt with lovingly for the purpose of maintaining the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:2-3).</p>
<p>WHAT HAPPENS AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING?</p>	<p>It is expected that all concerns will be addressed and any necessary actions taken prior to the annual members meeting in January.</p> <p>At the members meeting a motion will be made and voted on by the members to affirm those serving as elders and on the Church Council, including those newly recommended to serve.</p>