

January 8, 2010

Dear Church family,

On January 23rd and 24th, we will affirm our elders during our regular church services. Willamette Christian Church elders are responsible for ensuring the teaching of sound doctrine, and guarding and protecting our overall church structure and body. As leaders, they help formulate and direct our church strategies, and by their character, spiritual giftedness and philosophical compatibility they help lead, teach, shepherd, pray and support the mission of our church. The annual process of conducting an affirmation vote of acting elders is in keeping with our church by-laws and is a part of our regular church business.

With this year's affirmation, we will also be changing our by-laws to incorporate tenure limits for the roles of elders. We believe this change serves to help us strengthen our church structure, build on the foundation of leadership, and will bring in new and fresh ideas, while maintaining a solid base of ongoing leadership. The change moves the role from one that is in perpetuity, to a role that is a three year term, with opportunity to extend to an additional three year term. At a minimum, an elder will take a one year break every six years of service for rest and rejuvenation. At the end of the break an elder may return to acting status based on the needs of the church and decision of acting elders. As elders move off the acting board, they move into a role of elder emeritus, supporting our church family as an extension of the elders. As we launch into this first observance of tenure, Bruce Carpenter and Chuck Schroeder will be the first elders to move into the emeritus status, taking the next full year off.

We will be asking for affirmation of the elders on the back page, including Chairman Dale Anderson, Rod Cruickshank, Lee Dummer, Mark Foley, Chuck Gault, Gary Parkin, and John Woolley. As Lead Pastor, Joel Dombrow is considered a voting member of the elders and is not subject to affirmation.

The selection of new elders to present for affirmation is an essential part of the health and foundation of our church. It is a process of prayer, nomination, qualification and affirmation by our elders and the body. We are currently not presenting any new elder candidates for affirmation, and are spending time in prayer, planning and review for the needs of our growing church. At such time that we feel called to bring before you men that we believe meet the qualifications as defined by 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and our by laws, we will share that with you and invite your affirmation vote.

Feel free to contact me or any of our elders if you have questions regarding the process. If you would like to request an absentee ballot, or would like to obtain a complete copy of the by-laws, please contact Dale Gibson, Business Pastor, at dale@willamettechurch.com or 503.656.2328.

On behalf of all the Elders, we thank you for your faithfulness, for your prayers for God's continued blessings on our church, and for being a part of what God is doing here at Willamette Christian Church.

Faithfully yours,

Dale Anderson
Elder Chairman

Acting Elders presented for Affirmation in 2010



Dale Anderson



Rod Cruickshank



Lee Dummer



Mark Foley



Chuck Gault



Gary Parkin



John Woolley

Elder Emeritus for 2010 (no affirmation required)



Bruce Carpenter



Chuck Schroeder

Brief Synopsis of WCC By-laws changes

- Document title added, grammar errors corrected, document format adjusted, use of the word Elders in place of Elder Board inserted throughout.
- Introduction of Elder tenure: New Excerpts at 4.4: *“Elders shall serve one three year term with annual affirmation by the church body, with an opportunity to extend to an additional three year term based upon the approval of 2/3rds of the other elders. After the first or second term an elder shall take a one year break. After one year, the elder may be reinstated according to need.” “A person who continues to meet the Elder qualifications of subsection 4.1 shall be considered Elder Emeritus. In this capacity, the Elder Emeritus shall be an extension of the acting Elders and their role shall be based on the needs of the church body, their gifting and the direction of the acting Elders. Service as an Elder Emeritus shall not preclude future service as an Elder, subject to the process outlined in subsection 4.”*
- Staff Qualifications and Responsibilities added (see 7.1 and 7.2)
- Language in Books and Records added (see 12.2)
- Language in Fiscal Matters amended (see 13)