



June 2025

The Lighthouse

The Nomination, Training, and Election of Church Officers According to the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America; along with the Qualifications and Duties of Each Office

During the month of June, FPC Biloxi will be accepting nominations for the offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon. Our denomination has a very specific process we follow which is given below from The Book of Church Order. Please be in prayer for this very important process in the life of our church. -- Tim

24-1. Every church shall elect persons to the offices of ruling elder and deacon in the following manner: At such times as determined by the Session, communicant members of the congregation may 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 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. After the close of the nomination period nominees for the office of ruling elder and/or deacon shall receive instruction in the qualifications and work of the office. Each nominee shall then be examined in:

- a. his Christian experience, especially his personal character and family management (based on the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9),
- b. his knowledge of Bible content,
- c. his knowledge of the system of doctrine, government, discipline contained in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America (BCO Preface III, The Constitution Defined),
- d. the duties of the office to which he has been nominated, and
- e. his willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination. (BCO 24-6) If there are candidates eligible for the election, the Session shall report to the congregation those eligible, giving at least thirty (30) days prior notice of the time and place of a congregational meeting for elections.

The Elder

8-1. This office is one of dignity and usefulness. The man who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the oversight of the flock of Christ, he is termed bishop or pastor. As it is his duty to be spiritually fruitful, dignified, and prudent, an example to

the flock, and to govern well in the house and Kingdom of Christ, he is termed presbyter or elder. As he expounds the Word, and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayer, he is termed teacher. These titles do not indicate different grades of office, but all describe one and the same office.

8-2. He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

8-3. It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted, make disciples, and demonstrate hospitality. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

The Deacon

9-1. The office of deacon is set forth in the Scriptures as ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need.

9-2. It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation. In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible for any reason to secure deacons, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the ruling elders.

9-3. To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.



MISSIONS



Two Mission Reports!

First from
West Africa...



Dear Friends and Family

Thank you all for your prayers as I have been traveling so much recently. As I'm sure most of you know by now, my dad, David Jones has home to the Lord. We've had a hard few months, grieving over that loss, but we continue to be thankful that he's no longer in pain and that we will see him again.

The twins have occupied much of our time and we are reminded every day in some new way what fun and exciting blessings they are. It is hard to believe they are already four months old and growing so quickly. Bonnie has gotten into a good routine with the babies as we have found we definitely need them on the same schedule in sleeping and eating in order to get much of anything done throughout the day. Their personalities are already very different as Irene is very sociable and is trying

desperately to roll from her back to her stomach, while Ransom is usually far more cautious.



Recent Travels

The past few months have been extremely busy for both Bonnie and me as I have traveled to Africa and completed a well training here in America, and Bonnie has held down the fort at home. We're thankful for all the extra help with the twins we have in Bonnie's extended family, especially while I'm gone, sometimes two weeks at a time. I am excited and encouraged about the work that has taken place in just a year. Last year we trained over 2,000 people in West Africa with many pastors and missionaries taking the course. Because the cost of implementing our training is little to nothing, as we can prepare the fields and compost with weeds, leaves, and manure alone, it has meant many people have adopted our method when they otherwise might have found it too cost-prohibitive. That has been an encouraging thing to see. During this past trip to Nigeria, I was able to meet with pastors and Nigerian Missionaries who have been able to see their livelihood stabilize because of our help through farming. It has been so exciting to be able to see Equipping Farmers International's goal of finally seeing stable churches created even in hostile and impoverished areas.

Below I have attached an interview with a Nigerian Pastor, Solomon, who has felt called to be a missionary to the Muslim dominated northern region of Nigeria. When

he left Northern Nigeria, Solomon had little support from the south and was living in areas dominated by the Muslim terrorist organization Boko Haram. But through our training with the Decapolis Center in Nigeria, he has been able to see his harvest increase food security for his family and minister to the poor farmers in his community. Please watch the video below from YouTube. Unfortunately, I had issues with the audio being quiet, but I added subtitles. In the description I have also posted a link to his video showing his harvest from last year. This is just one of the stories we have. We are seeing more and more churches return to farming to both minister to the poor farmers and in sending pastors who can provide for themselves.

Solomon Interview



Support Raising Focus

For the next month I will be based in America and will be updating on the first year with working so heavily with farming and agriculture. But during this time, I will also start focusing on writing letters seeking to increase financial support. The new role I'm

now fulfilling has kept me busy, especially with the increased amount of traveling I do, but it's now time to focus on reaching our goal of raising \$20,000 in either one time gifts or through monthly support over the next few months. In order to be able to continue supporting the churches in West Africa achieve financial independence. If you have been praying and seeking a direction to go with ministerial giving, please consider the work we are doing at in West Africa as we seek to help the local African churches become sustainable. The Lord is moving in a mighty way, and we see his provision every day.

Please consider clicking the link bellow and donating to our ministry through the link bellow. Or you can mail a check to (Please put our support number 13727 in the memo line):

MTW

P.O. Box 744165

Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

[Click here to Donate](#)

Thank you all for your encouraging prayers and support. We pray that your summer has begun well and that you have a safe, happy time with family!

God bless,

Evan, Bonnie, Charlotte, Lucas, Aidan, Irene, and Ransom



And Now from
Chile...

John and Cathy Rug

Mission to the World - Chile



During our many years in Chile, while on HMA we have often been asked...Is it chilly in Chile? Do you eat chili in Chile? Well, to put those questions to rest, I officially declare...Right now it IS chilly in Chile, and today for lunch we will be eating chili, although it is not a traditional nor well know dish here! I'm sure many of you have been waiting with bated breath for that clarification!

As far as the ministry here in Chile...it's anything BUT chilly!



Hugo Rosales



Iglesia la Trinidad:

1. We are thrilled that Hugo Rosales, our student pastor in charge of the Concon church plant has passed his ordination exam with flying colors. After finishing a few more steps in the process, we look forward to his ordination, and shortly thereafter, the particularization of the church. ITC (Iglesia la Trinidad, Concon) has been growing by leaps and bounds! it urgently needs a permanent meeting place of their own. They are paying exorbitant rents to have services in a hotel. Please pray for this whole process and for a solution to a permanente meeting place.
2. The Reñaca congregation has also been growing! We have had the need to rethink our worship area and set-up of the sound system to maximize space for the growing number of people attending! Please pray as we go through the process of calling a new pastor. It has been encouraging to see the Search Committee diligently meeting for prayer, and we have been blessed with the opportunity to hear several candidates. Please pray the Lord reveals the perfect candidate soon.



CEMIPRE:

1. The Lord has been blessing the CEMIPRE ministry in so many ways! Of course, our greatest desire is for the participants to come to see Jesus, in and through their blindness. Yesterday, John shared that at the beginning of his class with a woman who is in the process of losing her sight, and who realizes she will eventually lose it all, she shared that she was depressed (a very common reaction to this news). She currently has a job and faces learning adaptive technology to be able to continue in her position as a blind person. John asked for permission to pray with her at the beginning of class. As she was leaving she asked him if he would be willing to take 10 minutes of the next class to talk with her about "church" because over the years she has distanced herself from it. Please pray that soon, she will come to know the Lord of the Church and

begin experiencing a relationship with the living God and his people. THIS IS THE MAIN POINT OF CEMIPRE! Please pray for more and more people to come to him through this ministry.

2. There is a steady flow of people coming to CEMIPRE with many varied needs. The building is at its maximum capacity, and we have people on a waiting list for some services. We desperately need a bigger building, but sometimes it seems like an impossibility as real estate prices, including rents, have skyrocketed, and we are unable to even think of purchasing anything at this point. We have been blessed where we are! The owners have been more than generous and have been charging us ridiculously low rent for the area for the past 20 years, but they too are feeling the pinch and will gradually be raising the rent to market value. BUT we know the God who makes the impossible, possible. Please pray with us for a solution to this happy problem.
3. Praise the Lord with us that we were recently able to hire a person through a grant from MTW, whose job description is to find ways for Cemipre to become increasingly funded nationally. So far, through her efforts, we were able to apply for 3 different national grants. She will also investigate other avenues for fund raising, but we are also being very careful that in the process, our spiritual emphasis not be compromised. Please pray that we be granted those funds, and that CEMIPRE become more diversified in its funding.
4. This past Friday we were excited to sponsor a Jazz Night, which had as it's goal to introduce new people to CEMIPRE and it's ministry, and to raise funds for it. Although at first we worried a bit as to whether it would be well attended, it eventually SOLD OUT! It was a wonderful night of testimony, fun, excellent jazz, including a renowned drummer from our own Trinity Church, along with several other excellent musicians. Pray this event will bear fruit!

Of course, we know that none of this would be possible without your prayers, encouragement and financial support. The warmth of the gospel is extending to this "end of the earth" because of you. We are humbled and grateful!

*We always thank God, the Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.*

BIRTHDAYS for JUNE



Elliana Smith 3rd

James Pizzari 3rd

Chris Calmes 10th



Diane Bowden 4th

Tim Horn 27th

Dates to Remember for June

June 1 Communion

June 1 Office Nominations [for the whole month of June]

June 2 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

June 7 Men's Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

June 8 Monthly Luncheon, after the worship service, please bring a dish to share.

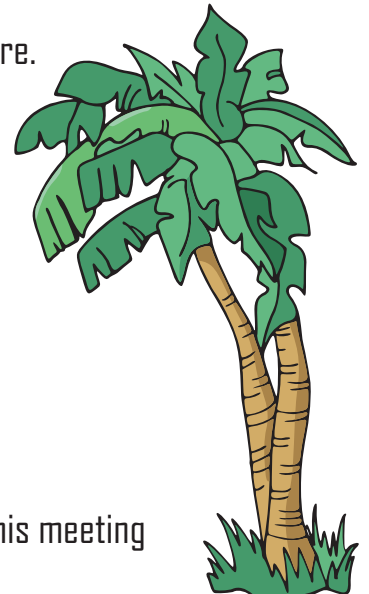
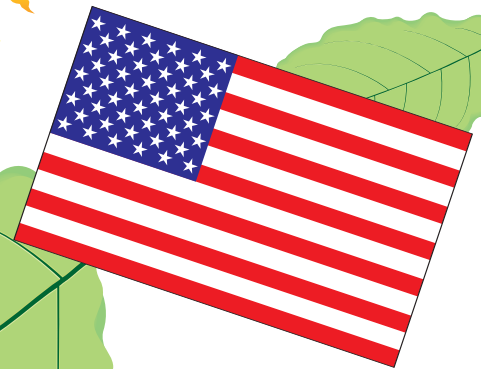
June 15 Father's Day

June 15 Baby Bottle campaign ends

June 16 Deacons meeting at 5:45pm in the church

June 16 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor

June 23-27 PCA General Assembly, Chattanooga, TN. Please be in prayer for this meeting





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Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
228.374.6880
firstpresbiloxi.org**

**First Presbyterian Church of Biloxi is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.
To learn more about the PCA, log on to pcanet.org**

Elders

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Deacons

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Melba Sipriano	Pianist/Organist	melba.sipriano@firstpresbiloxi.org

Church Secretary

Kim Clark	228-374-6880	info@firstpresbiloxi.org
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Church Facilities Manager

Greg Mann	601-954-1241	greg.mann@firstpresbiloxi.org
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