

## **SECTION III:**

### ***Nominating Policies and Procedures for Electing***

### **Youth Deacons and Youth Elders**

Like the elected offices of adult Deacon and Elder, Youth Deacons and Youth Elders are similarly set apart for specific acts of service and leadership in the life of the church. It is also a time of learning and formation in providing leadership opportunities for students who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the church. Youth Deacons and Elders are invited to serve the congregation in broader and more visible ways with the hope that such experience and exposure will help shape them into mature, faithful leaders.

#### **Nominating Process for Youth Deacons and Elders**

Each September, the Youth Minister shall solicit nominations for Youth Deacons and Youth Elders from active members of the Youth Group, Youth Sponsors, and Youth Sunday School teachers. The nominations shall be considered by the Youth Minister with input from Youth Sponsors in order to create a proposed slate to be forwarded to the Nominating Committee Chair by the third week of August. The nominations of proposed Youth Deacons and Youth Elders will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee in conversation with the Youth Minister. Once the Nominating Committee has approved a final slate, the list shall be provided to the Executive Board for final approval.

The terms of Youth Deacons and Youth Elders shall run concurrently with the Elders, Deacons, and Executive Board, (term beginning January 1 each calendar year), Youth Deacons and Elders shall serve a one-year term and may be nominated again for additional term(s) following the same procedure above, provided that they have actively fulfilled the responsibilities of their position the prior year. The Youth Minister may submit a petition to the Executive Board to remove a Youth Deacon or Youth Elder from their office during the year if they are not serving in the role appropriately.

#### **Youth Deacon Qualifications and Duties**

Youth Deacons should be active members of Beargrass Christian Church and in at least the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Nominees shall be engaged in youth group activities and demonstrate a commitment to fostering a supportive, caring community with their fellow students and adult volunteers.

Youth Deacons shall covenant to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Contribute their time in acts of service to the community through various forms of outreach offered by the youth group (mission trips, community service, etc.).
- Attend worship services regularly.
- Attend at least 1 team meeting per year (Ministry Team Night, or some other specific church ministry team meeting).
- Regularly signing up (at least once per month) to serve as a volunteer during Sunday morning worship through the online worship serving schedule. Youth Deacons are responsible for their own online signups to serve (which includes both serving communion during worship AND greeting at an assigned exterior door).
- Participate in Sunday School and/or Youth Group setting an example for other youth.
- Active participation and attendance in Sunday School and/or Youth Group.

## Youth Elders Qualifications and Duties

Youth Elders should be active members of Beargrass Christian Church and in at least the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Nominees shall be engaged in youth group activities and demonstrate a commitment to fostering a supportive, caring community with their fellow students and adult volunteers. Youth Elders are expected to be active and visible leaders in the youth group and the church.

Youth Elders shall covenant to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Serving as an exemplary leader who models Christian behavior for other members of the Youth Group in building a loving, caring environment for all participants.
- Being willing to pray and help guide discussions during Youth Group discussions.
- Contribute their time in acts of service to the community through various forms of outreach offered by the youth group (mission trips, community service, etc.).
- Attend worship services regularly.
- Attend at least 1 team meeting per semester (Ministry Team Night, or some other specific church ministry team meeting).
- Regularly signing up (at least once per month) to serve as a volunteer during Sunday morning worship through the online worship serving schedules. Youth Elders are responsible for their own online signups to serve (which includes both serving communion during worship AND greeting at an assigned Sanctuary door to pass out bulletins).
- Youth Elders should sign up to serve as the “Praying Elder” at least once per school year.
- Serve as a youth representative to Ministry Teams as needed and requested by the Youth Minister.
- Regularly participate in Sunday School and Youth Group, setting an example not only in active participation but also in engaged leadership.
- Active participation and attendance (at minimum twice per month) in Sunday School and Youth Group.

## SECTION IV:

### *Nominating Policies and Procedures for Electing* **Emeriti Positions**

Bestowing the position of Elder Emeritus or Deacon Emeritus is one of the highest honors Beargrass can present to a long-time servant of the congregation. These prestigious and honorific positions are considered for members with extended and distinguished service to the mission of Beargrass as an exemplary Elder or as an exemplary Deacon across many years and who have modeled a Christian life of the utmost integrity with the unselfish devotion of one's time and talent to God, our church, and community. Generally the church may typically recognize up to one or two individuals for Emeriti positions each year, though there is not a set limit.

Emeriti may or may not choose to consider serving in an active term on the respective council for their position (retirement from the Elder or Deacon Council is not a required expectation for an individual being considered for an Emeritus position). Emeriti may be eligible for new terms on the Deacon Council or Elder Council following the standard nominating process if they choose to continue active service.

#### **Nominating Process for Emeritus Positions**

Nominations for an Emeritus position may originate either during the time of the standard Nominating process (outlined in Section I above) or at any other point throughout the year.

In order for an individual to be considered for an Emeritus position, an application form (approved by the Executive Board and made available to the congregation) shall be completed and signed by no fewer than five active members of the congregation (an individual may not self-nominate or self-sign for an Emeritus position). As part of the application process, the person nominating should consider the responsibilities in the covenant for the respective position and reflect on how the individual has faithfully modeled a commitment to their role across time.

Once an application is completed, the form should be submitted to the current Nominating Committee Chair. Upon receiving an Emeritus nomination, the Chair shall determine an appropriate time to meet with the Nominating Committee (whether at a specially-called or regularly-scheduled meeting) to discuss and review the application.

The application will then go through each of the following steps in order if approved:

1. The **Nominating Committee** may approve the Emeritus application with a three-fourths vote in favor of the nominee.
2. If approved by the Nominating Committee, the **Executive Board** shall then hold a discussion and vote on the Emeriti recommendation and may approve the recommendation with a three-fourths vote in favor of the nominee.

Following approval by the Executive Board, the application may then proceed to the corresponding Council for their consideration; **Deacon Emeritus nominations shall be considered by the Deacon Council**, and **Elder Emeritus nominations shall be considered by the Elder Council**. A simple majority vote of the respective Council shall then vote on final the approval for the nominated Emeritus candidate. The respective Chair (Deacon Chair or Elder Chair) shall determine the manner of the voting process (electronically or in-person).

After receiving approval from each of the three bodies as listed above, the nominated Elder Emeritus or Deacon Emeritus candidate (or the surviving family members if the nominee is being recognized

posthumously) will be informed of the honor via a visit from the Senior Minister and the respective Elder or Deacon Chair. A public recognition may also be scheduled during worship and/or through church communications as the nominee (or nominee's family) determines is appropriate.

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