



# 2021 Election of Elders Discernment Process

## A Process of Discernment and Nomination

Elders are the leaders, and offer spiritual oversight, of the congregation. Collectively the Elders form the Church Council which is the key governing body of the congregation. The responsibilities of the Church Council are listed on the last page.

At this time nominations are sought for Elders. All elders serve on the Church Council

Our process for election is a discernment process. Over the coming days we are each asked to spend time listening for whom God might be calling us to nominate, elect and honour as Elders. Our Council may consist of up to 9 elected elders.

### **Current elders:**

#### Continuing elders:

Peter Coombes, Rosemary Costello, Bronwyn Cox, Christine Manning, Noel Pinkerton, Nathan Robertson, Ross Wakem, (*Continuing members don't need to be renominated*)

#### Elders whose term is concluding:

Alison Anderson and Kristy Johnson  
(*these members may renominate.*)

New elders: There is room for another one or two new elders

### **The time frame for our election process will be:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August to 12<sup>th</sup> September** – opportunity to make nominations. Nominees should not be approached at this time. Nominations are made individually, with an individual requiring two nominations to be considered. To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form available with this pamphlet place in the nomination box located in the foyer.

**12<sup>th</sup> September** – close of nominations.

Beginning **12<sup>th</sup> September** –nominees will be contacted advising them of their nomination, including the names of those who nominated them. Nominees will meet with the Minister to discuss nomination and share in discerning God's calling.

**10<sup>th</sup> October** Nominees announced and the profiles of those who have accepted nomination will be displayed in the foyer and on the website.

**24<sup>th</sup> October** Congregational meeting and election of elders.

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2022** Commence elder's term and duties

**Note :** Those elected will take up their role at the start of 2022.

In considering your nominations, please consider the role description for elders.

## Role Description for Elders

### Personal characteristics:

- A growing disciple of Jesus Christ who seeks to say no to self and yes to Jesus daily (Luke 9:23).
- A person who is committed to God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), trusts Christ deeply, is open to the Holy Spirit, whose life is characterised by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5: 22-23) and godly character (2 Pet 1:5-7).
- Possesses at least one of the spiritual gifts of wisdom, discernment, leadership, faith or knowledge
- Committed to the purpose and core values of Emmanuel Uniting Church.
- In the power of the Holy Spirit, seeks to express 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-8
- A person of insight, vision, forward, abstract and lateral thinking
- Possesses a deep love for God, other people and the church that leads them to build God's church

### Responsibilities:

- Make attendance at Church Council meetings a high priority
- Ensure proper preparation for each meeting and full participation
- Be willing to explain Church Council decisions within the congregation
- Undergird the work of the Church Council and congregation in prayer

### Conduct:

- In the power of the Holy Spirit seeks to live as a growing disciple of Jesus Christ and express the purpose of Emmanuel by seeking to Exalt, Explore, Engage and Embody the way of Jesus in our daily lives.
- Work together with the Church Council as a team, under the headship of Jesus Christ, in the best interests of the whole congregation and community.
- Be courageous and endeavour to make the right decisions at all times.
- Be open to more effective ways of doing ministry.
- Care about, respect, and trust one another (1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- Deal quickly and biblically with any disagreements among themselves.
- Recognise that they have no authority over others except when acting corporately as the Church Council.
- Respect the confidentiality of matters discussed.

## The Regulations

The regulations no longer define the responsibility of an elder individually but rather corporately as being those of the Church Council.

They are listed in regulation. 3.1.2 The Responsibilities of the Church Council

- (a) The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.
- (b) The responsibilities of the Church Council include:
  - (i) sharing with the Minister(s) in mission and in the pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the Congregation;
  - (ii) nurturing the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
  - (iii) making decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmation and membership, and the keeping and reviewing of the rolls of the Congregation;
  - (iv) assisting the Minister(s) in the conduct of worship and in the administration of the sacraments;
  - (v) determining the time and place of services of public worship;
  - (vi) carrying out its functions in accordance with the Regulations concerning applicants for the specified ministries;
  - (vii) managing the financial affairs and the general administration of the Congregation including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, statements and reports;
  - (viii) arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts of all the funds of the Congregation; (See Reg. 3.8.7)
  - (ix) managing and controlling property in accordance with the Regulations; (See Reg. 4.4.1)
  - (x) preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;
  - (xi) exercising oversight of the appointment of officers and leaders of Congregational organisations;
  - (xii) referral of matters to Presbytery as prescribed;
  - (xiii) discipline of members (See Reg. 5.1.2 – 5.2.5);
  - (xiv) carrying out its functions in relation to Ministers-in-Association (See Reg. 2.11.1)

## Nomination for election as elders

- *Please do not discuss this nomination with the nominee prior to their nomination.*
- *You can nominate more than one person, complete a separate form for each person you are nominating.*

I wish to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

for election as an Elder

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (or emailed from your known address)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form no later than Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021