

Brief Description of Duties for Elders and Deacons

An active **Elder is a member of the Session.** Elders serve on one of five church commissions: Proclamation and Worship, Congregational Life, Mission, Spiritual Growth and Support (finances, buildings and grounds, stewardship and personnel). Jobs on the Session are numerous and varied. Some duties may be to greet, serve communion or assist in the worship service. The Session is the ruling body of the church. When Elders vote in Session, they vote their conscience with the help of God. An Elder must be a member of Grace Presbyterian Church. The Session is best made up of men and women of various ages who are representative of all areas of interest within the church and all cultural backgrounds. A normal term of active service is three years with the option of a second three-year term.

A **Deacon is a member of the Deaconate.** Deacons visit shut-ins and members under special care. They send cards, prepare gift baskets, prepare meals and care for persons after hospitalization and during times of grief. Deacons greet on Sundays and may arrange for flower deliveries to ill members after services. In conjunction with Lutheran Social Services, they administer a housing assistance program. In a program sponsored by Family Promise, they join with other local churches to provide housing and meals at Grace for homeless families as that organization helps the families to secure jobs and affordable housing and achieve independence. Deacons “do” the famous Brown Bag ministry and many other projects which help individuals in our church family, the congregation as a whole and our community.