**VENTURA CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**ELDER SELECTION PROCESS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The Ventura Church of Christ has been without an eldership for several years and will now begin a process for selection of Elders to shepherd this congregation of disciples. The Elders selection process will begin Sunday, September 7, with a series of lessons along with the nomination process. The selection process allows for all of the church family to be involved in the selection of their Elders. It also prompts introspection by Elder nominees. The congregation is encouraged to spend time in prayer during this process asking God to be with those men being called out to serve our church family. An overview of the selection process follows.

**NOMINATION PHASE (September 21- October 12):**

The purpose of the Nomination Phase is to encourage the congregation to personally seek out spiritual leaders at Ventura Church of Christ. Therefore, on **September 21 through October 12,** Elder nomination forms will be available to the members. We should seek men who have the goal to fill the following examples, characteristics and responsibilities of an Elder:

He is relational- Acts 20:28 He will teach the Word to the Flock- 1Timothy 3:5

He is willing and eager to be an example - 1 Peter 5:1-4 He will encourage the Flock - Titus 1:9-10

He is a servant- Matthew 20:25-28 He will refute falsehood - Titus 1:9-10

He will guard the Flock- Acts 20:28 He will pray for the Flock- James 5:14

He will watch over the Flock- Acts 20:28 He will anoint the sick- James 5:14

He will feed the Flock- Acts 20:28 He will serve the Flock -1 Peter 5:1-5

He will equip the Flock for ministry- Ephesians 4:10-12 He will lead the Flock -1 Peter 5:1-5

He will care for the Flock- 1 Timothy 3:5 He will be an example to the Flock -1 Peter 5:1-5

He will direct the affairs of the Flock- 1 Timothy 3:5 He will keep watch over the Flock- Hebrews 13:17

He will preach the Word to the Flock-1 Timothy 3:5

You maynominate as many men as you wish and you feel would qualify as an Elder. The deadline for returning these forms will be **6:00 p.m., October 12th**. You *may* give your Elder nomination forms to any member of the Committee at any time during this phase, or leave them in a designated box on the visitor’s sign-in table in the lobby. Unsigned nomination forms will not be processed by the committee.

A minimum of 40 nominations must be received for someone to be considered further as an Elder candidate. Thus, it is very important that you nominate every person you wish to be considered - even if you know that others will be nominating a particular individual. Please do not assume that even if someone has previously declined a nomination to serve as an Elder that he would do so again.

**INTROSPECTION PHASE (October 13 – October 22):**

During this time, all qualified individuals are notified of their nomination, furnished with an introspective information sheet and asked whether they will accept the nomination. The deadline for the committee to receive all acceptances of nomination will be **7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 22**.

Names of all nominees will be announced to the congregation on Sunday, October 26.. Introspective information sheets will be available for review.

**OBJECTION/RESOLUTION PHASE (October 26- November 09):**

On **Sunday, October 26,** the committee will provide the congregation with a list of men who have accepted the nomination.

**Anyone who has a significant scriptural or personal objection to a nominee serving as an Elder must talk directly with that man.** This is a time of tremendous vulnerability on the part of everyone, but also a time of great potential benefit. Those who have any non-resolved scriptural objections will be asked to prayerfully submit a completed and signed objection form by **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 09**. Unsigned objections will not be processed by the committee**.** Objections should be scriptural (rather than personal) and as objective and absolute in nature as possible.

All objections will be held in strict confidence. The names of those objecting will be known only by members of the committee, **and**, at the discretion of the committee, may ask the minister to assist in resolving the objection.

If the committee believes that an objection is not scripturally absolute (i.e., a matter of relative compliance with a quality or personal opinion), they will notify the objector of their judgment regarding his/her objection, and encourage them to vote "No" for that candidate in the final evaluation.

However, if either the objector or the Elder-candidate about whom the objection is made is dissatisfied with the outcome, the committee may then ask two current leaders not nominated to assist, examine the issue as an attempt to resolve the objection. If the objection cannot be resolved, then the candidate will be requested to withdraw his name from consideration, or else agree that the issue involved be made public to the congregation (prior to the Confirmation Phase) in order to allow the church to decide.

All objections should be delivered to one of the Committee members. The deadline for receiving objections will be **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 09.**

**CONFIRMATION PHASE (November 9- December 14)**:

**On Sunday November 9,** the final selection of all nominees will be announced to the congregation.

Final confirmation forms will be available for all members at the door as you leave on November 9th, on a table in the lobby or in the church office.

Final confirmation forms will be accepted by the Committee until 6:00 **p.m. on Sunday, November 23.** You will be directed to place the final confirmation form in a sealed envelope. (Envelopes will be available next to drop in box). You will be asked to place your name on the outside of the envelope and place in the designated box on the visitor’s sign-in table in the lobby. Only forms submitted by Ventura Church of Christ members will be processed.

Your confirmation response must be in writing. It is **important that every member of the congregation submit a confirmation form.**

 On **Sunday**, **December 07**,the committee will present to the congregation the men that the church has chosen with

 at least 70% confirmation to serve as an Elder. On **Sunday, December 14,** a special confirmation service will take

 place to confirm all selected men as Elders of the Ventura congregation.

**CONCLUSION:**

Feel free to address all questions or concerns about the process to any of the committee members. We earnestly solicit you to a season of prayer to ask God's blessings on us all in this process.