



LOVING GOD • LOVING ONE ANOTHER • GOING TO THE WORLD

August 7, 2012

Dear Fellow Member,

On Sunday, August 12, in compliance with the church bylaws, the elders will initiate the 2012 elder and deacon nomination process. The process will result in the announcement of four elder and three deacon candidates on Sunday, November 4. The secret ballot election of those candidates will be held two weeks later at the church's annual business meeting on Sunday, November 18. This letter provides instructions on how to nominate a candidate and the process timeline.

Also included are elder and deacon qualifications and duties, special circumstances for this year's election and a list of frequently asked questions. These materials are also available online at www.treasuregod.com.

We request you review this information prior to August 12 and be prepared to discuss with an elder who will be present in your Adult Bible Fellowship class on that date. If you are unable to attend or have questions that you would like to discuss either before or after class, please feel free to contact any of the elders listed at the conclusion of this letter. You may also address your questions or comments to the elders via e-mail to elders@metroeastbaptist.com.

Nominating a Candidate

The process to select elder and deacon candidates will run concurrently and be directed by the elders.

Enclosed with this letter is a card for your use in nominating a candidate for either office. Nominations begin on Sunday, August 12 and conclude on Sunday, September 2. You may nominate as many candidates as you wish for either office.

To nominate a candidate, please review the qualifications enclosed with this letter and, if your candidate meets these qualifications, please complete the card by providing the following information:

- Candidate's name
- Office, elder or deacon, to which you are nominating them
- **Confirmation by the candidate to you (i.e. you asked him and he said "yes") that he is willing to be nominated and, if elected, serve**

After you have completed the card, please provide it to any elder, drop it in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. If you need extra cards, they are available in the church office. If it is more convenient for you to send your nomination by e-mail, please include all the information requested above and send it to elders@metroeastbaptist.com.

Please note that all nominations must be received by Sunday, September 2. Nominations received after that date will not be considered.

M E T R O E A S T B A P T I S T C H U R C H

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Timeline

- **August 12** Elder/deacon nomination process begins. Elders in Adult Bible Fellowship classes to discuss process and answer questions
- **September 2** Nomination process ends
- **September 3** Elders begin contacting candidates to reconfirm willingness to continue in selection process
- **September 7** Confirmation of candidates' willingness to serve is completed. Distribute questionnaires to candidates and evaluation forms to candidate references
- **September 23** All questionnaires and evaluations forms from references are due
- **October 10** Candidate interview process completed
- **October 24** Elders determine final list of elder/deacon candidates to be nominated to church for election
- **November 4** Elders announce list of elder/deacon candidates to church during morning worship services
- **November 18** Elder/deacon candidates presented to church for secret ballot vote at annual business meeting
- **December 2** Ordination/recertification service for newly elected elders and deacons

Elders Contact Information

Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
Greg Breazeale	None	(316)832-5400	gbreazeale@metroeastbaptist.com
Robert Bragg	None	(316)214-4351	rlbmanager@yahoo.com
Warren Hansen	(316) 733-2954	None	wahansen4972@sbcglobal.net
Tom Harwell	(316)733-7066	(316)841-2899	tharwell2@cox.net
Dale Folsom	(316) 733-7109	(316) 619-1965	dalefolsom@yahoo.com
Dick Peckham	None	(316) 648-1359	peckhamrj@aol.com
Harley Alderson	(316) 688-4451	(316) 204-2517	harleyandkena@att.net
Jonathan Thorne	None	(316) 312-6299	builderjonathan@gmail.com
Jeff Claybrooks	(316) 630-0155	(316) 204-5386	jrclaybrooks@sbcglobal.net

In closing, the elders request your prayerful participation in this process by forwarding your elder and deacon nominees to them by September 2. Your participation will allow us to present four elder and three deacon candidates to the church on November 4 with your opportunity to vote on those nominations on November 18.

Please contact any of the elders if you have questions or would like to discuss further.

On behalf of the elders and in Christ,



Greg Breazeale
Senior Pastor



Warren Hansen
Chairman - Elders

Elders

Duties as defined by the MEBC bylaws:

- Individually and jointly with the pastor, lead the church in the service of Christ.
- Watch diligently over the people committed to their charge to prevent corruption of doctrine or morals.
- Visit the people, especially the sick, and comfort the mourning.
- Pray with and for the people.
- Support the senior pastor's preaching -teaching ministry, coordinate and disseminate the vision for the church, and ensure doctrinal integrity.
- Oversee all matters concerning the conduct of public worship and promote the spiritual growth and evangelistic witness of the congregation.
- Interview prospective new members, execute any required member discipline and oversee an exit interview process.
- Establish, maintain and execute a process whereby the senior pastor and pastoral staff are held accountable for their spiritual life, family responsibilities, and overall conduct and behavior.
- Have final authority on all matters except those which are delegated to such other boards in the bylaws and subject only to the congregation.

Qualifications

MEBC has adopted the following Scriptural and Bylaw qualifications for the office of elder.

The Scriptural qualifications come from 1 Timothy 3:1- 7 and Titus 1:5-9 and are grouped in three general headings.

- **Their character must be godly** – Above reproach, well thought of by outsiders, upright, holy, sober-minded, disciplined, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, not arrogant, not a drunkard, not violent, not quarrelsome, not quick-tempered, not a lover of money, not greedy for gain, not a recent convert, lover of good.
- **Their family life must be in check** – Husband of one wife, must manage his own house well, keeping his children submissive; children are believers and are not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.
- **They have the ability to handle the word of God** – Able to teach, able to give instruction in sound doctrine, able to refute those who contradict sound doctrine, hold to the trustworthy word as taught.

The MEBC Bylaws require the following:

- Must be a male voting member
- Must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and 1 Peter 4:19-5:4
- Must have been a MEBC member in good standing for a least one year
- Shall have received appropriate training under the direction of or with the approval of the Board of Elders
- Shall have served the church in functions requiring responsible leadership
- Been or to be ordained to serve Christ's body upon the authority of a Southern Baptist Church

Special circumstances for 2012 elder nomination and election process

In September 2009, the church elected its initial eldership with eight active members with one membership reserved for the vacant senior pastor office which was required by the MEBC bylaws.

In 2010, as part of the church's transition to an elder body, the elders determined a transitional rotation schedule would commence at the November 21, 2010 annual business meeting and be continued until 2012 at which point the rotation schedule and required three-year-term of office required by the bylaws will be in place.

This resulted in the elders which were elected in 2009 serving either a one, two or three year term respectively.

This rotational schedule is as follows:

- 2010 – Two elders, Steve Buskirk and Russ Yost, Sr., rotated off active service and were replaced by two newly-elected elders, Dale Folsom and Dick Peckham. Both Dale and Dick will serve a full three year term.

A decision was made that Associate Pastors Doug Holt and John Ulrich would not rotate off the elder board in 2010. The elder board determined that it would make the decision in 2011 if associate pastors would remain as elected elders or be part of the elder rotation.

Due to Doug's passing, Russ returned to active service in January 2011; but, with John's move to North Carolina, one elder position was left vacant in 2011.

- 2011 – Elders unanimously decided to maintain the rotational schedule selected in 2010 with two elders elected in 2009 to rotate off active service at the end of 2011. Greg Wickham and Russ Yost rotated off at the end of 2011.

Additionally, the elders agreed that associate pastors would not serve as elected elders at MEBC. This decision was made to ensure associate pastors' focus remains on completing their assigned pastoral duties. The decision also allows the entire pastoral staff to be available to assist the elders and deacons in meeting the spiritual and physical care needs of the entire congregation rather than being limited to one of the proposed care "zones" envisioned by the Shepherding Plan.

In order to fill the nine-member elder board, three new elders were elected at the November 20 meeting. Jeff Claybrooks, Harley Alderson and Jonathan Thorne were elected in 2011 and will serve a three-year term. This filled roles vacated by two elders elected in 2009 and the remaining open position.

- 2012 – The three remaining elders elected in 2009 (Robert Bragg, Warren Hansen and Tom Harwell) will rotate off active service and will be replaced by either previously ordained or newly elected elders.

As a **special circumstance this year**, the closure of Boeing in Wichita will require Jeff Claybrooks to move to Oklahoma early in 2013. The board does not wish to leave his position vacant for a year. As a result, a fourth elder will be selected to fill that position during the normal 2012 selection process.

The four men elected in 2012 will serve a three-year term and the transitional rotation schedule will be completed.

Deacons

Deacon duties as defined by MEBC bylaws and the elders and deacons:

- Show forth the compassion of Christ in a manifold ministry of mercy toward the saints and strangers on behalf of the church by continuing to make hospital, health care facility and home visits to shut-in as time permits.
- Deacons should continue to extend greeting to all who come to worship services – especially to those who are not members.
- Continue ministering to the temporal needs of members and friends by addressing all benevolence requests. This includes receiving such requests and identifying the specific benevolence request and need. The deacons should explain the process to Adult Bible Fellowships and, annually, at a church business meeting.
- Prepare and serve the Lord's Supper at least quarterly or, more often, if directed by the senior pastor or elder board.
- As directed by senior pastor, schedule, coordinate and complete the baptism ordinance.
- Inform the elders of significant issues in the body and consult with them as required to address those needs.

- Select their own officers from their membership annually and the officers include a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.
- As requested by Adult Bible Fellowships and Greg Breazeale, assist classes in the training of class care leaders.

Qualifications:

MEBC has adopted the following Scriptural and Bylaw qualifications for the office of deacon.

The Scriptural qualifications come from 1 Timothy 3 and in many ways resemble those for elder that are listed above. However, the main difference is that elders are required to be able to teach while this requirement is not listed for deacons. Additionally, deacons are not required to have the extended character requirements for elders such as temperate, self-controlled, hospitable, not violent, but gentle and not quarrelsome. This requirement may not have been listed for deacons since the elders are required to have the teaching ability and those qualities are needed to advance the truth of Scripture.

The bylaw requirements for the office of deacon are the same as those for elders and are listed above.

Special circumstances for 2012 deacon nomination and election process

In January 2011, the church restored its nine member deacon body with the election of six new deacons to join serving deacons Pete Morris, Randy Lair and Larry Haynes. Pete, Randy and Larry graciously agreed to serve an additional year in order to mentor the six newly-elected deacons. We thank them for this extended year of service and all three rotated off active service at the end of 2011.

In order to re-establish an annual deacon rotation schedule and as announced last year during the election process, three men elected in 2010 agreed to serve a two-year term with the other three serving a three year term. The deacons determined that those serving a two-year term and rotating off active service at the end of 2012 are: Jim Dubach, Dave McConeghey and Dean Kitzenberger.

Jason McClintock, Scott White and Dan Tucker will serve a full three-year term and will rotate off active service in 2013.

The church will elect three deacons this year for a three-year term.

Frequently Asked Questions – Elder/Deacon Nomination and Election Process

May I nominate more than one person?

Yes, you may nominate as many candidates for each office as you wish; however, the elders request that you confirm that the individual is willing to participate in the selection process, and, if elected, is willing to serve.

May I nominate a currently serving elder or deacon for another term?

Yes, but, please confirm their willingness to serve before making the nomination.

What if I want to nominate someone, but they are unwilling to serve?

We ask that you respect the wish of the individual and not submit his name for consideration.

Why are you conducting the process for elders and deacons at that same time?

The church bylaws require that all church officers, including elders and deacons, be elected at the annual business meeting in November.

Can I nominate someone online?

Yes, you can nominate a candidate by providing the required information via email to elders@metroeastbaptist.com.

May I nominate someone who has been ordained as a deacon to be an elder?
Yes, but, please confirm their willingness to serve before making the nomination.

What if a candidate has been ordained as a deacon or elder by another denomination?
While we respect their service in our sister churches, the bylaws require that an elected candidate not previously ordained by a Southern Baptist Church be ordained by Metro East. Also, it is important to note that an ordination in another denomination does not disqualify a candidate for nomination to serve at our church as long as they meet the qualifications.

What if I want to nominate someone who has not been ordained?
Ordination is not a prerequisite for nomination and election. If presented for nomination and elected by MEBC, the candidate will be ordained by our church.