



REVIEWING THE ROLLS

NURTURING THE COVENANT COMMUNITY

CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING



ANNUAL REVIEW

OF THE ACTIVE MEMBER ROLL

- Why it matters
- How the process works
- Roles of Deacons, Community Life, and Session



WHY THIS MATTERS

- Not just paperwork
- A spiritual responsibility
- Part of nurturing the covenant community
- A matter of truthful care



BOOK OF ORDER RESPONSIBILITY



Session is to:

- review the roll of active members at least annually
- counsel with those who have neglected the responsibilities of membership



MEMBERSHIP IS

MORE THAN A NAME ON A LIST



Membership is:

- relationship to Jesus Christ
- relationship to the body of Christ
- relationship to a particular congregation
- lived out in worship, service, prayer, fellowship, and care



WHAT ARE WE REALLY ASKING?

- Who is connected?
- Who has become disconnected?
- Who needs encouragement?
- Who needs pastoral care?
- Who has joined another church?
- How should we respond faithfully?



THE GOAL OF THE PROCESS

NOT

- cutting people off
- removing names
- a cold administrative review

BUT

- faithful care
- truthful records
- loving accountability
- faithful stewardship of our
shared life together



WHY DEACONS MATTER



Deacons are essential because:

- they already have members assigned to their care
- they are the first line of relational contact
- good communication leads to good care
- good care leads to faithful roll review



THE PROCESS AT A GLANCE



- Deacons contact members in their care
- Deacons categorize and report
- A Session Committee reviews and verifies
- Clerk receives verified recommendations
- Session takes action

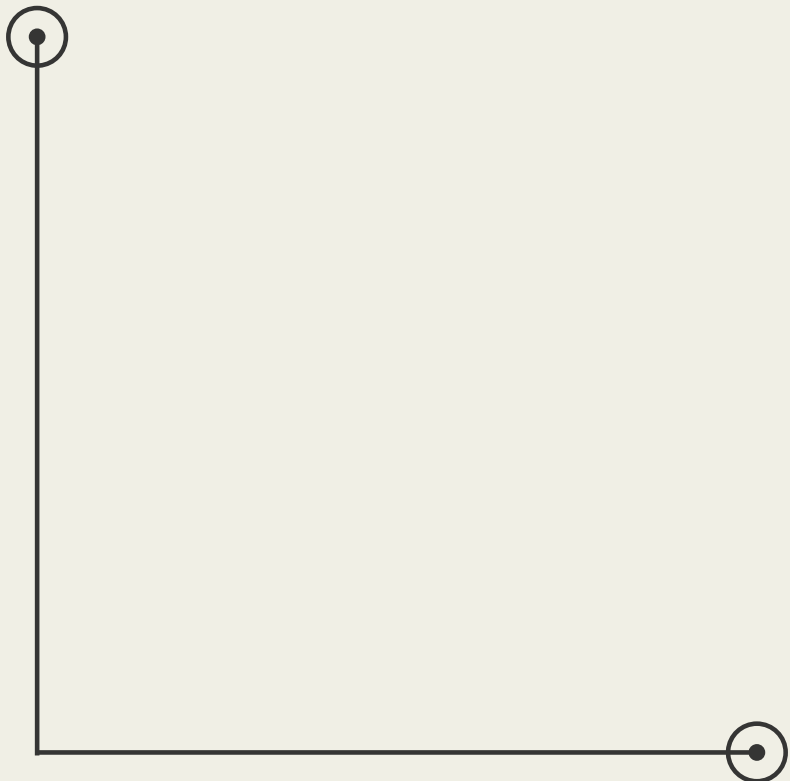


THE ROLE OF THE DEACONS



Deacons are to:

- make contact
- listen
- care
- assess
- report faithfully





MEMBERSHIP

REVIEW CATEGORIES



- **Active** — meaningfully connected
- **Borderline Active** — connected, but diminished or uncertain
- **Stopped Coming** — no meaningful participation for a significant period
- **Joined Elsewhere** — now attached to another congregation



WHAT THE DEACONS ARE TO SUBMIT



Each report should include:

- member name
- category/recommendation
- reason for recommendation
- contact made or attempted
- any needed pastoral concerns



WHAT DEACONS DO NOT DO



Deacons do **NOT**:

- remove people from the roll
- make final decisions on membership status
- conduct discipline
- shame people



THE ROLE OF THE SESSION COMMITTEE



The Committee:

- receives the deacon reports
- reviews the information
- verifies recommendations
- makes sure a reasonable effort has been made
- prepares final recommendations



REASONABLE EFFORT MATTERS



Before recommending removal or inactive status:

- make real contact efforts
- seek to understand the situation
- verify the information
- act fairly and pastorally



ROLE OF THE SESSION



Others assist. Session Acts.

Session:

- receives final recommendations
- asks needed questions
- takes formal action
- oversees the integrity of the roll



WHO DOES WHAT

- **Deacons** — contact and report
- **Session Committee** — review and verify
- **Clerk** — prepare and update records
- **Session** — take formal action

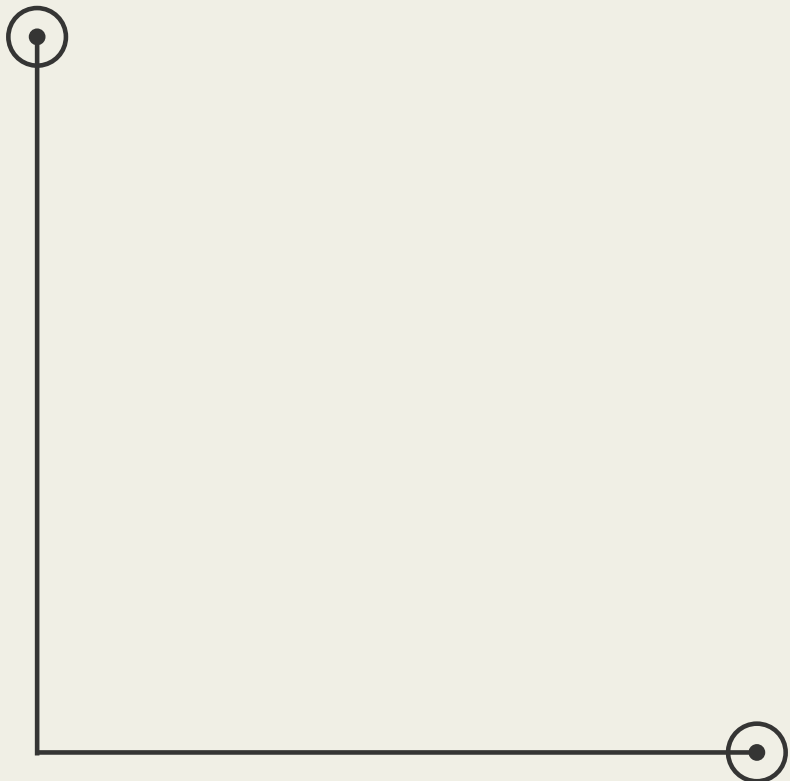


STONE MATTERS



This process should be:

- pastoral
- respectful
- hopeful
- honest
- orderly
- compassionate





WHAT WE ARE ASKING

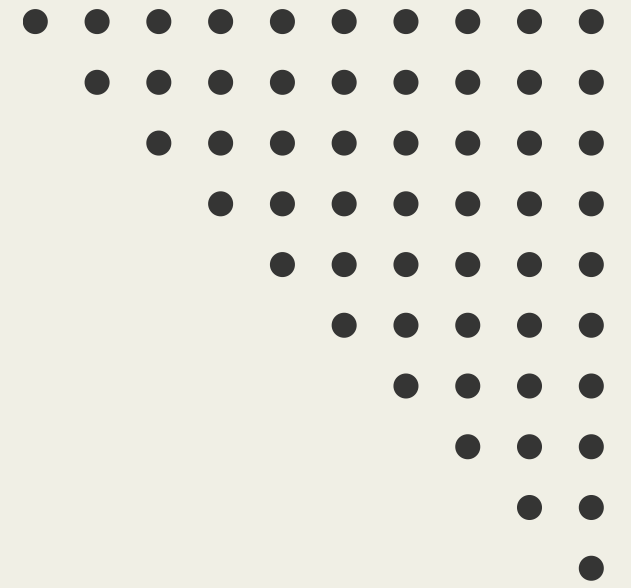
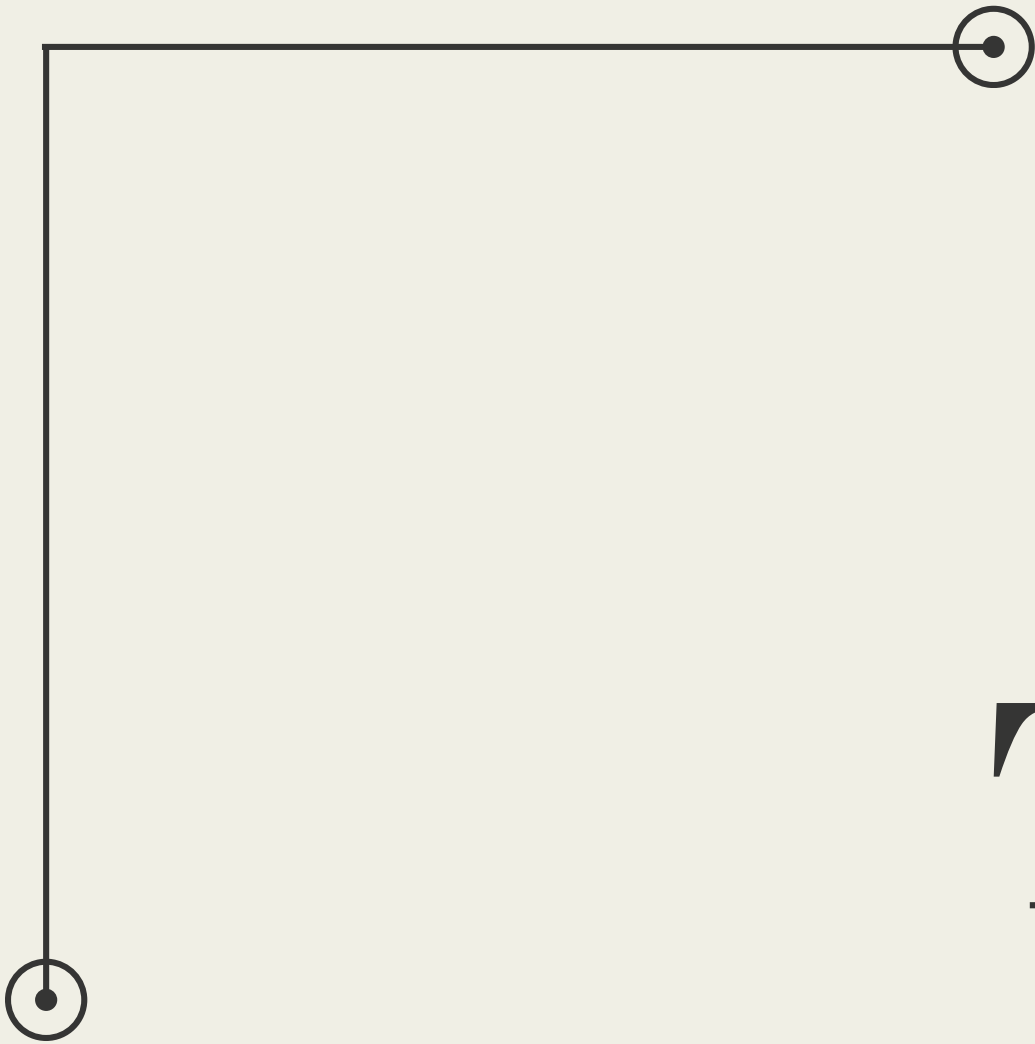
- **Deacons:** be in communication with all assigned members
- **Session Committee:** review and verify carefully
- **Session:** act with integrity and care



OUR HOPE

This process will:

- strengthen our care
- deepen our knowledge of the congregation
- help us notice those who are slipping away
- help us reconnect where possible
- help the roll reflect the living covenant community



THANK YOU

by Reese Miller

