


# Leading by Listening

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How Ruling Elders lead by listening to the Word, the Holy Spirit and their congregation.





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# You are called by God through the voice of the church

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- You had a conversation with someone from your congregation's nominations committee
- You probably had a conversation with your family or friends
- You definitely had a conversation with God in prayer
- You had a conversation with yourself
- You heard your congregation vote to elect you
- You answered the ordination and installation questions

G-2.03 persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people.

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What is discernment? Seeking God's direction by listening to:

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1 what does the Bible say then and now

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2. what does our PCUSA constitution say

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3. what do the other Session members think

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4. Listening in prayer or in silence

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Where is the Spirit leading us

# Governance

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To govern means to:

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To be responsible

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To make decisions

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To be responsible for your collective decisions

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“trying to please everyone all of the time will guarantee frustration”

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How will a decision serve God and equip God’s people to serve the world?

# Three main jobs of a Session

- 1. Make provisions that Word may be truly preached and heard
- 2. Make provisions that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received
- 3. Provide nurture of the covenant community of disciples of Christ

# The Word preached and heard

- This is the most significant communication task you have!
- In worship the distinction is that the minister is largely responsible for what happens in worship and the Session is responsible that worship happens
- The Session is responsible that the Word is nurtured in the congregation
- The Session is responsible to equip the congregation to take the Word out the church doors
- Does your worship serve God and equip the congregation to serve the world?



# The Sacraments a tactile act of communication

- The acts of the Celebration of the Lord's Supper and the administration of Baptism are at the heart of the Gospel message of grace
- What does your Session communicate in the way they celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- What does your Session communicate in the way Baptism is administered?
- Does your observance of these sacraments serve God and equip the congregation to serve the world?

# The Community of Disciples

How and why of living out the faith

- Hymn #300 Glory to God Hymnal “They will know we are Christians by our Love”
- How is this love communicated in all the details of your church’s life?
- Do your programs and committees reflect acts of duty based in love or just acts of duty?
- Does your building serve the Lord and communicate welcome?
- When your congregation gathers what do you hear?
- Does your Session help your community of disciples serve God and equip them to serve the world?





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- How would you describe your role as a Ruling Elder?
  - Which of your five senses do you use the most?
  - How do you hope to help your congregation serve God and become equipped to serve the world?



**The first duty of  
love is to listen**

-Paul Tillich