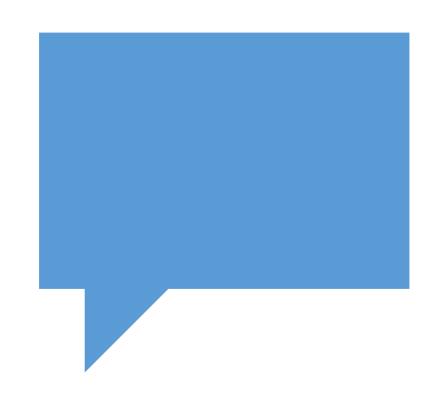
Leading by Listening

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





You are called by God through the voice of the church

- 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.

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

1 what does the Bible say then and now

2. what does our PCUSA constitution say

3. what do the other Session members think

4. Listening in prayer or in silence

Where is the Spirit leading us

To govern means to:

To be responsible

To make decisions

To be responsible for your collective decisions

"trying to please everyone all of the time will guarantee frustration"

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

Governance

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?



- 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?

