



“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.” John 12:26

As I go through my sixth year of pastoral ministry at Bentwood Trail, I, thankfully, continue to learn additional strategies to enhance our church and its mission. My exposure to other churches, large and small, in Grace Presbytery and beyond, has given me an understanding that many congregations face similar circumstances and challenges that we face. Of these, several have successfully made adjustments in dealing with the governance of their church and have seen positive results that enable them to better fulfill their church’s mission in the world.

After prayerful consideration, the Session recommends to the congregation that we amend the BTPC bylaws from the current 12 elder structure to a new structure of nine elders beginning with the class to be installed in 2016. As a transformation takes place, the session will continue to operate as a guidance and governance board, tasked with identifying and articulating the church’s current vision, plan strategically how to implement the vision, ensure that the plan is being implemented, and evaluate the results. The work of the ministry teams includes the day-to-day running of the church and its programs. Both the Session and the ministry teams are key to the church’s wellbeing and ability to fulfill its ministry. One major reason for this division of labors is to maximize peoples’ time and gifts. Some people prefer not to sit in meetings, but they feel called to do other vital work of the congregation, whether that is preparing monthly financial statements, fixing leaking sinks, training teachers, ushering, or serving at our neighborhood events, such as the annual Dog Festival.

The Nominating Team is currently at work identifying elders, deacons, and trustees for the coming year. Should you have a desire to serve in one of these roles, please inform Steve Jebbia. As always, we want to fulfill our ministry as Christ’s church to the best of our ability, being a good steward of everyone’s gifts and resources.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Elizabeth