



# The Lighthouse

January 2021

## Qualifications and Duties of Church Officers According to the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America

### The Elder

8-1. This office is one of dignity and usefulness. The man who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the oversight of the flock of Christ, he is termed bishop or pastor. As it is his duty to be spiritually fruitful, dignified, and prudent, an example to the flock, and to govern well in the house and Kingdom of Christ, he is termed presbyter or elder. As he expounds the Word, and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayer, he is termed teacher. These titles do not indicate different grades of office, but all describe one and the same office.

8-2. He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.

8-3. It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted, make disciples, and demonstrate hospitality. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock.

## The Deacon

9-1. The office of deacon is set forth in the Scriptures as ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need.

9-2. It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation. In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible for any reason to secure deacons, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the ruling elders.

9-3. To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.

## December 2020

### 2020 CHRISTMAS MISSIONARY LETTER FROM WOODY and CARMEN LAJARA (SERVING THE LORD with PRESBYTERIAN EVANGELISTIC FELLOWSHIP).

It is with great joy and expressions of gratitude to the Lord that Carmen and I write this letter to you all. We do express our gratitude to Him for your continue prayer support for our ministry. Many of you also have helped us financially during this past year, thank you so much for your interest in the expansion of God's kingdom on in our beloved Latin America and in the Iberian Peninsula.

About 8 months ago we have to stop most of our activities do to the COVI-19. So it look like that we have been at home, on "QUARANTINE" for a while. But since we have been involved in teaching "virtual" seminary courses at our Seminary, we have been very active teaching several courses of the curriculum. Last year I met with the leaders at the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and worked with them a special "VIRTUAL" program to continue training their pastors at an advanced level of education. They are registered at a "Masters", "Doctoral" and "Licenciatura" practical levels and are doing very well, PRAISE the LORD. We have started with

one group of students in Villamermos, Tabasco, Mexico with a group of 18 students. They just finished the first year of classes and they have another year and a half in order for them to received their degrees. They are doing very well, even though some of them are facing some challenges.

The executive committee of the NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of MEXICO requested to us to meet with all the Directors of all of their seminaries to discuss a possible join work to help them to equip their students. We praise the Lord because there are interest all over, and probably we will end up with several groups involved in the program. They will receive a Practical Degrees in Reformed Theology. Our new Coordinator for our work in the country of Mexico, Rev. Guillermo Salinas and myself will be conducting these meetings and make plans to continue working with the Mexican Leaders. If it is the will of the Lord it is our expectations to conduct special training with every Presbyterian seminary in Mexico. We have already scheduled several "Presential courses" to be taken place in the country. PRAISE the LORD! Unfortunately the Pandemic of the Corona Virus have prevent us from advancing more, but I am sure that God will continue helping us on this project.



On the other hand, the study group in Bogota, Colombia is very busy in their involvement in the study program of our seminary. We had our time to study in October, but it looks like that we will need to post-pone do to the Pandemic. If it is the will of the Lord some of them will be graduating some time next year, others will continue to complete their training later on.


## STUDENTS in the LAST MEETING (OCTOBER 2019) in BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Our family is doing well. Iris and Eric continue guiding Victoria in her experience at the "University of Kentucky". She just finished her first semester. Mariselle and Eddie Salter are continue receiving the blessings from the Lord as they became "grand-parents". Their new grandson name is ISAIAH, and is growing very healthy, PRAISE the LORD! Juan Ceclio is very busy with his job. He is making proper adjustments in his new position. Carmen and I, we are facing proper adjustments in our "growing old together". Last year I had several surgeries and medical intervention, but THANKS to the LORD, NOW I AM DOING WELL. Just few days ago I needed to have another "Catheterization"; an everything was OK.

It is our desire to express our gratitude to the Lord for your prayers and your special contribution to our support. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

**MAY the MANY BLESSING of CHRISTMAS be of YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE and the PRESENCE of the LORD be with ALL of YOU.**

SINCERELY in JESUS,  
WOODY & CARMEN LAJARA

 <p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY</b></p> <p>MIKE CLARK 4TH KIM CLARK 10TH BEN BOWDEN 19TH VICTOR ALLEN 20TH JOY GLIDEWELL 21ST NICHOLAS CLARK 23RD</p>	<h3>Dates to Remember for January</h3> <table><tr><td>January 1</td><td>New Year's Day - Office closed</td></tr><tr><td>January 2</td><td>Men's Breakfast, 8:00am in the fellowship Hall</td></tr><tr><td>January 3</td><td>Communion</td></tr><tr><td>January 3</td><td>Young Adult Sunday School Class starts, 9:45am</td></tr><tr><td>January 6</td><td>Ladies Circle, 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall</td></tr><tr><td>January 6</td><td>Wednesday evening activities resume at 6:30pm</td></tr><tr><td>January 17</td><td>Sanctity of Human Life Sunday</td></tr><tr><td>January 18</td><td>Church Office closed for the Holiday</td></tr></table>	January 1	New Year's Day - Office closed	January 2	Men's Breakfast, 8:00am in the fellowship Hall	January 3	Communion	January 3	Young Adult Sunday School Class starts, 9:45am	January 6	Ladies Circle, 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall	January 6	Wednesday evening activities resume at 6:30pm	January 17	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday	January 18	Church Office closed for the Holiday
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