

# FIRST AFRIKAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Elders and Deacons Application for 2018-2019

### Leadership



*Nea ope se obedi hene daakye no, firi ase sue som ansa  
He who wants to be King in the future, must first learn to serve  
Wisdom, Knowledge and Prudence  
Mate Masie "What I hear I keep"*

### **Must be a member of First Afrikan Church**

### **A Brief Definition of Leaders & Goals of Leaders**

A leader is someone who has the ability to garner respect and support of other people for the purpose of accomplishing particular goals and objectives.

#### **The goals of ordained leaders at First Afrikan Church are**

**LOVE** First Afrikan members to God through Christ, themselves, Afrikan people, and others.

**LEAD** in spiritual, social, economic, and political needs of Afrikan descendants, the poor, and marginalized.

**PROVIDE** First Afrikan members and visitors with regularly scheduled opportunities for sacred worship, bible study, prayer, celebration of the sacraments, and communalship.

**PRAY** with and for First Afrikan members, visitors and friends and to conscientiously strive to meet their spiritual and emotional needs, especially during times of grief and tribulation

**EQUIP** the people to understand the relationship between the Christ faith and Afrikan culture, and to assure that members, frequent visitors and friends are empowered to live out their beliefs wherever they are

**COUNSEL** the people of God in the giving of time, talent and money to support the ministries of the church

### **The Role and Responsibility of Elders & Deacons at First Afrikan Church**

*First Afrikan Church is an Afrikan centered ministry that embraces and filters our interpretation of Christian faith through an Afrikan worldview. To this end, our context for theology is liberation and restoration and our view of our spirituality includes practical application and ideal attainment.*

*In accordance with the "Book of Order" for the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Afrikan Church nominates and elects its Elders & Deacons to perform as an active and committed officer of the Church Session and as an active and committed member of the Church's Deacon Board.*

**The Role & Responsibility of ELDERS:** *Book of Order (2007-09) G-6.0300 G-6.0301*  
Spiritual Practice

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry.

G-6.0302 Governmental Responsibilities

Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. *They shall serve faithfully as members of the GCE*

G-6.0303 Gifts and Requirements Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.

## G-6.0304 Specific Responsibilities

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are oppressed. They should inform the pastor and session of those persons and structures which may need special attention. They should assist in worship. They should cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and may be authorized to supply places which are without the regular ministry of the Word and Sacrament. In specific circumstances and with proper instruction, specific elders may be authorized by the presbytery to administer the Lord's Supper in accord with G-11.0103z. Those duties which all Christians are bound to perform by the law of love are especially incumbent upon elders because of their calling to office and are to be fulfilled by them as official responsibilities.

### **Duty to Report**

An elder shall report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge, gained in the course of service to the church, of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of privileged communication; or (2) she/he reasonably believes that there is a risk of future physical harm or abuse.

### **The Role and Responsibility of DEACONS:** *Book of Order (2007-09)* G-6.0400 G-6.0401 The Ministry and Gifts of Deacons

The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office.

## G-6.0402 Responsibilities

It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.

## **Duty to Report**

Like the elders, the deacons also have a "duty to report". (See Duty to Report above)

## **ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER OR DEACON**

To be eligible for service as an Elder or Deacon the candidate must be: A member in "**good standing**" at First Afrikan Church willing to serve in the office for THREE (3) years... Practice and promote a "**committed level of membership**"

What is "**Good Standing**"? Good standing is a dynamic set of standards that were developed at the inception of First Afrikan Church: A member in **Good Standing**

A. Has been received by the congregation as a member and has been in regular attendance and participates in activities of the ministry for a minimum of THREE (3) years

B. Practices stewardship through consistent giving of time, talent and the tithe (monetary resources)

C. Has not demonstrated behaviors or morals that are destructive to the well being of the community or individuals in the community within First Afrikan Church or the larger community

What is a "**Committed Level of Membership**"? (leaders, ministerial staff, members of session and the deacon board) Committed means:

A. Is a member in "good standing"

B. Engages in regular study inclusive of scheduled Bible Studies and ministry and leadership education

C. Practices personal daily prayer and communal prayer

D. Accepts the responsibility to nurture each other and the collective as evidenced by maintaining regular contact; balance opportunities for leadership within the ministry and communication with ministries of First Afrikan in celebration of the membership

E. Is honest in carrying out responsibilities

F. Is able to accurately assess personal limitations to carry out the work and services of

the church (strategic goals and action plans, initiatives)

G. Participates in a communal process within each ministry for constructive criticism, self-criticism, and feedback

H. Assists in the development, evaluation, and advancement of the FAC strategic goals and objectives that empower the church and community spiritually, culturally and intellectually

**F.A.C. Governing Council of Elders 2018-2019 Nominating Committee Co-Chairs:**  
Elders LaRita Cormier and Sarita Davis.

**Nominating Committee Members:**

Muhammed Cannon, Claude Clopton, Travis Edwards, Tawanna Morgan, Laurel Mustafa, Jennifer French Parker, and Dele Smith.

**August 5, 2018:** Announcement in Bulletin: Elder/Deacon Applications will be in the Narthex from August 5 to September 16, 2018.

**Application deadline 9/16/2018**

**Sept 23 & Sept 30** Panel Interviews (Sunday 1pm – 2pm); **Oct 2, 2018**, Officers selected by Committee; **Oct 7, 2018** Slate Presented to Congregation in Bulletin and Announcements; **Oct. 14, 2018:** Official Election Congregational meeting after 10:00 service

***2018-2019 NEW LEADER AFRIENTATION***

**Sat. Oct 20, Oct 27, Nov 3, Nov 10, Dec 1.**

Installation of Officers (Shadow current officers for one month)

Leadership Training is for newly elected Elders, Deacons, & Ministry Leaders.

## 2018-2019 Application for Elder/Deacon First Afrikan Church

Position sought: Elder: \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions. Responses should be typed on a separate sheet.**

1. Do you tithe regularly? If not, please explain.
2. Please describe your level of involvement in any FAC ministries, programs or initiatives. If you are not active in a ministry or initiative, please explain why.
3. Do you regularly attend Wednesday Afternoon/Night Bible Study? If not, please explain. If there are any other non-Sunday services/activities that you attend regularly, please indicate.
4. What constraints (children, school, civic duties, etc.) do you have that may affect your level of service?
5. In about 600 words, please articulate what your calling and capabilities are, and explain (1) how you would utilize these to enhance FAC mission/vision and (2) using your understanding of the role of Elder/Deacon or Ministry Leader, how would you utilize your calling/capability in the position.

### ***Statement of Declaration***

*I \_\_\_\_\_ having reviewed the description of roles and responsibilities of a First Afrikan Elder/Deacon and the requirements of eligibility for such candidates, submit that if selected, I will be committed to said roles and responsibilities. Thus I agree to participate in the process of review and selection of*

*candidates by the Nominating Committee, as provided for by the rules and regulations governing such a process.*

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

You can also email electronic copy to [ljcormier0418@gmail.com](mailto:ljcormier0418@gmail.com) or [fapc@firstafrikanchurch.org](mailto:fapc@firstafrikanchurch.org)

**(((IF YOU DO NOT GET EMAIL CONFIRMATION THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR APPLICATION WITHIN 24 HOURS Call or text LaRita Cormier @ 713- 305-8973...**

**Please review the Timeline section of this application to ensure ALL materials are submitted with this application and within the timeframe allowed. Also, make copies for your personal records before submitting this application.**