**OFFICER TRAINING DEACONS & ELDERS SESSION 1**

Friends,

Welcome to this ministry! We are so glad that you have listened to the voice of God calling you into this ordered ministry as a Ruling Elder or Deacon. It is a magnificent calling, and we are all pleased to join you in this ministry.

Seven weeks of Officer Training are before us as we come together to prepare you for these roles. We will meet on Wednesday mornings beginning this Wednesday, December 13 and continue until January 24, 2018 November 5th.

It’s critically important that you participate in the Officer Training Sessions on Wednesdays as well as the Ordination & Installation service on January 14. Each week covers an important topic and also provides time for you to get to know one another. Please know that much of the work comes to you each week online and in electronic form. And it is possible to keep up with the readings and watch the video sessions if you must miss a class. We will use a number of units from Theoacademy: click link below.

<http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>

Check out your Homework below!

**OFFICER TRAINING | Session 1**

December 13, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3. Call to Ministry, Basis for Ordination and Leadership & My Gifts for Ministry Leader—Rev Mark A. Medina & Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd.

**Homework**:

1. Watch: Theoacademy: Elders & Deacons Theocademy presents quality video series and study guides for Presbyterians. We will use this video series to expand our learning process for Ruling Elders and Deacons.

a. Lesson One: What Is Ordered Ministry?

Elder: <http://pres-outlook.org/2015/08/10-things-ruling-elders-should-know/>

Deacon: <http://www.wpcofla.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Deacons-Are-Doing-Presbyterians-Today-2016.pdf>

b. Lesson Two: Being a Leader

<http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>

c. Read “Servant Leadership in the Church” is a sermon preached by Marie Valade on Ruling Elder Sunday.

<http://www.valleypresbyterian.net/uploads/2/2/1/5/22155374/servant_leadership_in_the_church.pdf>

3. We Need a Savior! Read Romans 10:5-17, Jesus Christ Is Lord

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10%3A5-17&version=NIV>

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: The person who does these things will live by them. 6 But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: Don’t say in your heart, “Who will go up into heaven?” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 or “Who will go down into the region below?” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your hear (that is, the message of faith that we preach). 9 Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. 11 The scripture says, All who have faith in him won’t be put to shame. 12 There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. 13 All who call on the Lord’s name will be saved.

14 So how can they call on someone they don’t have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven’t heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.

16 But everyone hasn’t obeyed the good news. As Isaiah says, Lord, who has had faith in our message? 17 So, faith comes from listening, but it’s listening by means of Christ’s message.

Questions to answer: What’s a savior? What does it mean to say that Jesus is Lord? Why do we speak aloud about our faith in Jesus? 3. For Ruling Elders, read: “10 Things Ruling Elders Should Know” 4. For Deacons, read: “Deacons Are Doing”

**News for New Officers** ---You will need a copy of two documents, the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each of you will receive a hard copy of the Book of Order.

Electronic form of Book of Order:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/book-of-order2017-electronic.pdf>

Electronic form of the Book of Confessions:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boc2016.pdf>