

*Our aim is for people to come to Jesus, grow in Him and go out to serve Him*

Dear prospective PCC member,

It is great that you are thinking about whether to serve the church family through being on PCC. I would like to lay out for you what we need from those who come on to PCC to help you as you weigh up whether to stand or not.

**Devote yourself to the Lord**

The most important thing we need from PCC members is that you devote yourself to the Lord. Being in any kind of leadership in a church requires us first and foremost to be those who are focused on Jesus and on His glory. This means being active in your own walk with the Lord: looking to read the Bible and pray daily. As far as possible we need to make sure we are those who keep their ‘spiritual fervour’ (Rom 12:11).

We are facing and will face many challenges as a PCC and we need to be people of faith who will bring those issues to the Lord and who will encourage one another above all to look to the Lord and trust Him.

Please can I ask that, where possible, we make every effort to get along to church prayer meetings so as to grow in our own personal devotion to the Lord but also as a way of growing in our fellowship and corporate devotion to the Lord. These prayer meetings are on the first Wednesdays of the month and the termly prayer breakfasts. I appreciate that it is not always possible to get to every one of these meetings, but I hope that PCC members will nevertheless try to get to them as a high priority. By getting along to these meetings we are throwing ourselves on the Lord and are leading others to do the same.

We ask those standing for PCC to be in agreement with the attached statement of faith that was approved by the PCC.

**Devote yourself to the church family**

We need to love one another. It is therefore very important to make a priority of meeting with the church family so as to grow in our faith and in our love for one another. In practice this means, where possible, getting to Sunday services and, if you can, getting to one of our Home Groups. We need to be active in loving, serving and encouraging one another. We also need this attitude in our PCC meetings. As the Pastor Jack Miller wrote ‘many times the big issue is not the issues being discussed but the way we handle the issues and show concern for one another.’ While the issues we discuss are important, our relationships with one another are even more important. So we need to approach PCC meetings ready to listen humbly as well as being ready to state our convictions and ideas.

**Devote yourself to the Mission**

We have a great gospel and a great need to get the gospel out to those who don’t know Jesus. One of the main tasks of the PCC is to keep working on our Vision and our Strategy. There are, of course, other things we need to talk about which are a bit more ‘nuts and bolts’ (sometimes literally!) but we want the PCC to be focused primarily on the bigger picture issues. Our mission statement is to see people ‘Come to Jesus, Grow in Him and Go out to serve him’ and I hope this is your desire too. With this mission statement in mind we need to work on how we go about achieving this, which necessarily needs to develop as the church family and the surrounding community change. It will be important therefore to be committed to being at PCC meetings, which are roughly monthly and last for 2 hours (8-10pm). We sometimes have an away day for the PCC to spend time working on our vision and strategy; please also make it a priority to be there. We also have some Standing Groups for the PCC, which are currently Prayer, Finance, Fabric and Mission (i.e. supporting our mission links). It would be good if every member of PCC were on one of these groups. The groups vary in how frequently they meet; it's roughly 4 times a year, though this can increase if there is a particular need.

Thank you again for considering standing for PCC. Please can I urge you to pray about this decision. Do also ask others if they think you are someone who should stand for PCC.

Please do ask me if you have any questions about what I have put in this letter or about anything else to do with standing for PCC.

Yours,

Bart Erlebach