Voice 1: So Lord, here we are on Candidates Sunday. What do you need to say to us?

Voice 2: I need to say I love you. You are precious to me. You are my children. Unique and treasured.

Voice 1: Thank you for reminding us of who we are in you. You are an awesome God. But what about Candidates Sunday? Aren’t we supposed to respond to a call to full-time ministry?

Voice 2: Actually, today is not all about the call to officership.

Voice 1: Really?

Voice 2: It’s more about the call to receive my love and to know I love you unconditionally.

Voice 1: Yes… OK… But…

Voice 2: It’s like this. I want you to accept my love for you without question or argument…

Voice 1: And?

Voice 2: And respond to my love. Simple, really.

Voice 1: Yes – but Candidates Sunday is about us responding to your call.

Voice 2: When you respond to my love that’s enough.

Voice 1: But most of us here have responded to your love – that’s why we are here. I think you’re mistaken. Today is definitely about officership.

Voice 2: I know that’s what you believe, and yes, some people will answer my call to love others and share my love in the world. But most people will remain here.

Voice 1: Exactly. So why do we need Candidates Sunday?

Voice 2: So you can think about what it means to be called and ask yourselves what is God calling me to? It may be full-time service, or it may be local leadership where you are, or it may be praying for your officer… the response will be different for everyone.

Voice 1: I am starting to see – first we experience your love, and then we listen to what you are saying to us as individuals, and then we can respond in our own way.

Voice 2: You are getting the idea. But don’t forget to pray for the people around you because someone might be struggling with what I am saying to them.

Voice 1: I think I may have approached today with the wrong attitude. Forgive me.
Voice 2: That is one thing I love to do, because forgiveness means freedom and peace.

All: Loving Lord, thank you for accepting me as I am and loving me. Thank you for taking my wrong attitudes and turning them into understanding and action. Thank you that you do call people to full-time service and for their obedience. Thank you for our officers (leaders); help me to pray for them as they live their lives in answer to your call. Thank you for reminding me that I have a responsibility today to be aware of what you are saying to me and to be sensitive to the fact that others may need me to pray with them and for them.

Voice 2: I am listening and answering. I am calling you to love me with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind, and to love others as you love yourself. Receive my blessing on your life today, be at peace, know my forgiveness and share my love.

All: Thank you, Lord. We hear your call to be a people motivated by our love for you. Amen.