

The Criteria for Appointing Elders

People appointed to the role of Elder should be

- **A** male church member (1 Timothy chapter 2 verse 12 & chapter 3 verses 1 -7, Acts chapter 20 verses 17 - 38)
- **Meet** the biblical qualifications of eldership (1 Timothy chapter 3 verses 1 - 7, Titus chapter 1 verses 7 - 9)
- **Be** functioning in the church in a shepherding role (1 Peter chapter 5 verses 1 -4)
- **Have** a life that demonstrates spiritual vitality (Psalm 1 verses 1 -3)
 - A man of faith and vision
 - A man who is in touch with God

Selection of Elders

- **When** new elders are appointed, the key passages on eldership will be brought before the church members.
- **As** the appointments are something that the Holy Spirit does (Acts chapter 20 verse 28) the church will be called to pray so that God's wisdom will be known in the selection process.
- The prospective new elders will be determined by the existing elders after prayer and considering the above terms of membership.
- **Any** wives of prospective elders need to be in harmony with the appointment of their husbands to this role (1 Peter 3 verse 7)
- The names of prospective elders will be brought before the members of the church who will be given a period of time to show cause why any elder is not qualified to serve or to add the names of others they wish to be considered either now or in the future.
- If anybody is considered not qualified, they will be told the reason with a view to this being part of their future personal development.
- **After** the period of review, the elders will be commissioned in front of the whole church.

Composition

- **Any** Senior Pastor appointed will be considered a member of the elder board. They will be considered as full time elders, who help the church to function on a day to day basis (Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 -12)
- In the position of not having a Senior Pastor, the elder board will recognise one person as having primary leadership responsibility for helping the church to function on a day to day basis.
- If the church has staff, the number of non staff elders will exceed the number of any staff elders on the Elder Board at any given time.

Term

- **Each** elder will be asked for a three year commitment to this role,
- **Annually**, the eldership will be subject to review and re-affirmation
- The review will be conducted by the other elders with feedback from the church.
- The eldership will be re-affirmed in front of the congregation annually.

Meeting and Officers

- The Elder Board will meet formally at least once a month, and at other times as required.
- **A** quorum shall be considered as the majority of the eldership
- The chairman of the Elder Board will be appointed by the members of the Board
- The Pastoral staff will plan and co-ordinate the agenda for Board meetings in conjunction with the chair. The chairman will meet with the Senior Pastor or the elder with leadership responsibility to prepare and review the agenda
- The elder board will appoint a Secretary who will keep minutes of the meeting of the Elders and these will be available to elders only.

Functions of Elders

- The eldership is to own and protect the vision, mission and values of the church
- The elders will shepherd the flock in humility, guiding, directing and guarding the members of the body (Acts chapter 20 verse 28, 1 Peter chapter 5 verses 1 - 3)
- To lead by example, the lives of the elders must reflect the missions statement of the church
- Teach and pray (Acts chapter 6 verses 2 & 4, Titus Chapter 1 verse 9, 1 Timothy Chapter 3 verse 2, James chapter 5 verse 14) making sure that the church body is fed through accurate teaching and protected by the prayers of its leaders. In addition to teaching the truth, the eldership must refute false teaching (Titus chapter 1 verse 9)
- **Manage the church.** All elders are to be managers of the church (1 Timothy chapter 3 verse 2) but the Pastoral Staff will seek to manage the church on a day to day basis (1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 17)
- **Be committed to continuing development of character and doctrine** (1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10)