

Typical Elder Activities and Duties

- Connect and engage with congregation, staff and pastors
- Connect with board members regularly via email, phone, meals, etc.
- Pray with individuals and in prayer teams in various settings
- Make visitations and pray for those in need
- Attend twice-monthly board meetings
- Attend special board meetings, as required
- Deal with church issues that need attention, as they come up
- Lead or participate in various committees to study or accomplish a task
- Participate in Elder retreat (typically once per year)
- Meet with Resource And Finance Team as required (usually a single, designated Elder)
- Review and update bylaws and position papers, as required
- Identify and prepare new church policies, as required
- Interview new member candidates
- Attend congregation family meetings
- Attend Elder/leader conferences, as available
- Review and interview candidate pastors, as necessary
- Review Elder Minutes (twice per month)
- Review Management Team Minutes (once per week)
- Review Pastor Monthly Ministry Reports (once per month)
- Form and work with Elder Nominating Committee
- Select new Elder candidates for election by congregation
- Read assigned/suggested reading

Biblical Roles of Elders

- A. Shepherd the Flock: Serving in all humility, Elders are to guide, direct, guard and protect the members of the body, seeking to meet their needs and assist in any way possible, warning against harmful influences and guarding against false teachers. (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- B. Lead Through Example: Elders are to provide a scriptural role model and are to set a pattern before the flock of a rightly ordered life -- with a single purpose, to glorify God. (1 Peter 5:3)
- C. Teach and Exhort: Elders are to lead through insightful and accurate biblical instruction and admonition. (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- D. Refute Those Who Contradict Truth: Elders are to confront those who are teaching what they should not teach or who are continuing in a pattern of behavior contradictory to biblical truth. Thus, Elders are to keep closing potential entrances for Satan so that the truth of Christ will remain credible to both the congregation and the community. (Acts 20:29-31; Titus 1:9)
- E. Manage the Church of God: Elders are to oversee the life of the church with the assistance of other godly leaders. They must be people who can "rule well." (1 Timothy 3:5; 5:17)
- F. Pray for the Sick: Elders are to pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of members of the congregation. (James 5:14)

Biblical Qualifications of Elders

"Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome,

not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect...He must not be a recent convert...He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap."

1 Timothy 3:2-7

"An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

Titus 1:6-9

1. *Above Reproach*: Elders must be blameless, presenting no patterns of scriptural disobedience or grounds for accusation. Can any charge brought against him be fully refuted (a lack of facts and witnesses)?
2. *Husband of One Wife*: Elders, if married, must be devoted husbands. Is his marriage relationship stable and growing? Is he free of any casual relationships with other women that could be misinterpreted by others?
3. *Temperate*: Is he free from areas of excess? Is he free from habits that would control him?
4. *Prudent*: Is he free from having to show his superiority? Does he have a humble attitude toward his talents? Does he remain objective and calm in heated or difficult situations? Is it his general conscious commitment to allow the Holy Spirit to control his life?
5. *Respectable*: Does he have a well-ordered life, free

from behaviors or habits that would discredit Christ's reputation?

6. *Hospitable*: Does he enjoy opening his home and possessions for use by friends and strangers? Do people feel at ease in his home?
7. *Able to Teach*: Can he share the gospel with unbelievers? Can he disciple a new believer? Can he study, correctly interpret and teach Scripture? Does he have a grip on scriptural principles and a demonstrated ability to pass that on to others?
8. *Not Addicted to Wine*: Is he free from habitual and/or excessive use of alcohol or other drugs?
9. *Not Pugnacious*: Is he free from the tendency to lash out toward others, either verbally or physically?
10. *Uncontentious*: Does he breed peace and tranquility? Does he speak truth in a loving manner?
11. *Free from the Love of Money*: Does he exhibit a spirit of contentment with what he owns/possesses?
12. *Manage Own Household*: Is his own family an example to emulate? Does his family reflect loving leadership? Does he successfully order the affairs in his own home (bills paid, debt, upkeep)? In business, does he manage well and have a positive relationship with those under his leadership? Are the children under his control believers? Do his children respond positively to parental authority? Do his children respond positively to authority of others? Does his children's behavior honor the Lord?
13. *Not a New Convert*: Does he evidence Christian maturity and not need to be fed like a babe in Christ?
14. *A Good Reputation with Outsiders*: Does he have a good reputation with those who know him in the community?

