



2013
Elder Recommendation

Introduction

In 2007, Summit Woods Baptist Church adopted a new Constitution and By-Laws which implemented an elder-led form of church polity. In 2009, the first elders were chosen by the congregation and began serving. Building on this necessary and biblical approach to church polity is a constant prayerful mindset and quest for the existing elders. One of the most important priorities of virtually every elders' meeting for well over a year has been our seeking God's direction in recommending men who would serve as new elders.

After much time in prayer and conversation, the elders of Summit Woods joyfully recommend Brandon Ferguson to be affirmed by the congregation as a new elder.



Brandon and his family have been attending Summit Woods for almost two and a half years. While a relatively new family, they are not new to church leadership, and have quickly immersed themselves into the life and ministry of our congregation. As a family, the Ferguson's have served together on many occasions at Forrest Avenue's women's shelter. Brandon has been a regular teacher in our Equipping Class ministry (Fundamentals of the Faith, Theology-Knowing God, and Knowing God's Will). He has also preached to our congregation during a recent Sunday evening service and has been in regular participation with the elders in the development of those who have expressed a desire to pursue pastoral ministry. Brandon has also been giving primary leadership to a large and growing Growth Group in our church over the past year. He has demonstrated a solid character that exemplifies the qualities called for of an elder in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. His commitment to the local church is evident. He has also served, for a number of years, as an elder in another congregation in the Kansas City area. He continues to pursue formal training for pastoral ministry at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

We have spent an extensive amount of time with Brandon and his family in both formal settings for discussion of his potentially serving as an elder and informal times that have allowed us the opportunity to get to know them more personally. We are confident in this recommendation. Brandon exemplifies the qualities of a solid shepherd and will serve our congregation with both Christ-like humility and biblical strength.

The material you hold in your hands includes his testimony, answers to a host of questions, as well as a timeline of events that will afford our congregation ample opportunity to connect with Brandon and hear from him publicly.

We thank God for the privilege of serving as elders at Summit Woods and are excited with the potential of Brandon joining the shepherding team. We are available to you to answer your questions and personally talk with you further about Brandon and why we believe he is uniquely qualified and ready to serve Summit Woods as a new elder.

Yours for Christ's Church,

Bret Capranica, Sam Karl, Mark Krystyniak and Rob Stouffer

Brandon Ferguson

The following questions are some of those asked by the Elders of SWBC during the process of evaluating him for being recommended to the body. His answers serve to demonstrate how his life and views display the qualities called for in Scripture of those who would serve a church as an elder.



Brandon & Chantele
Bryce, Brielle, Brennan, Breilly, & Brevin

1 Timothy 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Personal Life

How did you become a Christian? Please also describe when, where, and why you were baptized.

I grew up in a non-Christian home. We did attend church regularly and I was baptized at about the age of 7. So, I had an awareness of God but never recall hearing the gospel until I was 17-years-old. At my job the summer before heading off to college I had a supervisor who was a strong believer. She witnessed to me on several occasions. One day it was as if God shined a light directly on my personal sin and need for a savior. That evening I went home and called out to God for salvation. I was baptized again two years later as a believer at

Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, MO. I pursued baptism again out of obedience since I was not a believer at the time of the first baptism.

What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia and am pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Describe your current walk with the Lord and how He is sanctifying you and conforming you to the image of Christ. How have you grown in Christian maturity in the past year?

My walk with the Lord is currently highlighted by a growing dependence. The Lord is showing me my need for deeper levels of trust in Him. He is growing my prayer life as I see Him respond to my expressed needs and concerns. He's also moving me beyond praying for personal needs and the needs of others to praying for doors of opportunity for the Gospel to go forth. I desire to be more sensitive each day to His kingdom work and I believe this desire is Him at work in me. He's also reminding me that He is in control of all things. I am learning that when I attempt to control situations I miss the blessing of seeing Him at work.

In what ways are you actively sharing the gospel (seeking to share the gospel) and disciple others?

I most actively seek to share the gospel with co-workers at work. There is one member of my team whom I currently share with when given the opportunity. I also have had the opportunity to share Christ with and disciple another co-worker who has since left the company.

Chantele and I also have the ongoing opportunity to disciple a couple we know from a previous church.

Describe how you are actively seeking to grow and mature in your walk with Christ (e.g., your approach to the spiritual disciplines of Bible intake, prayer, fellowship, etc.).

I know that the Word of God is essential and central to my spiritual growth. So I seek to have a daily intake of the Scriptures apart from preparation to teach. Although I pray daily, one of the most difficult disciplines for me is setting aside a devoted time of prayer each day. This is an area I am seeking to grow more disciplined in, along with Scripture memory. I have enjoyed the fellowship opportunities of our Growth Group as well as weekly meetings with Pastor Bret and Cameron Lindsey. The latter, in particular has been very helpful in my walk with Christ.

What is your personal belief and practice regarding giving and financial stewardship?

I believe that God owns everything and has given us what we have to be faithful stewards. We have always sought to make giving to God's church a priority. I don't believe the tithe is a New Testament principle. But I do believe sacrificial giving is, particularly to the church -- as we see in 2 Corinthians 8-9.

Who are the spiritual leaders in your life (past or present) who have or do shape you?

I have a former pastor, Ray Mckelvy who was instrumental in shaping me, particularly for ministry. He pastored New Hope Bible Church, which we were members of when we first moved here. He now pastors in Nashville, Tenn.

Currently, God is using Pastor Bret's teaching, leadership and discipling to shape me for this season of life and ministry.

Have you ever discipled anyone? If so, who, how long and describe what that discipling relationship looked like.

I discipled a co-worker at Garmin, Shane Lindley, a few years ago. We met weekly for a time to read through and discuss the Gospel of John. He was very immature in his faith but had a hunger to grow. He has since moved away but we remain in touch.

Chantele and I also meet regularly with a couple to disciple them in their marriage.

What are your long-term plans as far as living in this area?

We plan to live in the area long-term.

Family Life

How did your wife become a Christian and when, where, and why was she baptized?

Chantele became a Christian during her first year of graduate school at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where we met. She had been Catholic her whole life. The witness of a Christian roommate led her to Christ. She and I were baptized on the same day when we joined the Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, MO.

How did you meet your wife and how long have you been married?

My sister-in-law introduced me to Chantele on campus at Mizzou. We have been married 15 years.

How has she expressed her support of your desire to serve as an elder?

Chantele has been very encouraging, even as we had to weigh the costs and time demands. She has been a cheerleader, reminding of our kingdom priority and of the need to depend upon the Lord.

Who are your children and how old are each of them?

Bryce - 11
 Brennen - 9
 Brielle - 7
 Breilly - 5
 Brevin - 3

List some specific ways you lead your family.

First of all, I attempt to convey often to our children that Christianity is “relating to Christ.” It’s not primarily about what we profess to believe or to know, but it’s how we take the truth and allow it to shape us as we trust God to live according to what we know from the Word. It’s hearing from Jesus, speaking with Him, recalling what He’s shown us and depending upon Him and following.

I also seek to regularly lead Chantele and the kids in a time in the Word and worship. This is particularly helpful in giving us the right perspective at the end of a busy day.

How would you describe the overall spiritual condition of each of your children? Have any of your children professed faith in Christ and been baptized? If so, when, where and how did this happen?

I would say our older four each have been receptive of the Gospel. They welcome reading the Word and memorizing scripture. Brevin, our youngest, is as receptive as he can be at 3-years-old. Bryce and Brennan have made clear professions of faith. None have been baptized.

How would you describe your overall approach to parenting? What is the biggest challenge you have faced as a parent?

I try to summarize my overall approach to parenting as: “Being present with the Gospel”. Our kids will have ups and downs in life. But I seek to be present during those times to remind them of Christ and the need to depend upon Him in everything.

One of the biggest challenges I face is making sure I am giving them what they need from me as a father. With five children, we often have to give attention where it is most needed at the time. But the danger is overlooking the subtle, quiet needs of other children. And frankly another danger is overlooking my wife’s needs because of the demand of children.

The even bigger challenge with parenting is discerning true repentance and conversion. We are still seeking to do this in our older boys while not discouraging them in the faith they’ve professed.

From your present perspective, how would serving as an elder impact your family?

I think it would first of all help us count the costs of giving of ourselves for the Church. I would hope we could see the spiritual benefit of this as a family. I hope our children come to love the body of believers we would serve.

I truly would want this to be a family ministry that Chantele and the kids embrace and not resent. I will make that a matter of prayer.

Serving will make things busier for us, but I hope it will also help us see the necessity of structuring life more and planning better.

Doctrinal Life

Please explain what you believe the Bible teaches about the following:

The Bible (inerrancy, inspiration, sufficiency, authority, what is the canon)

I believe all scripture is God breathed and because it is impossible for God to lie, we can trust in the inerrancy of His truth. I believe the Word will stand forever. In regard to inspiration, I trust that men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit and spoke from God, as 2 Peter 1:21 teaches. Though many question the authority of scripture, we know it is sufficient and authoritative since God has spoken to us in Christ, who has all authority. I believe that the canon is the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament.

God the Father

I believe God the Father is the eternal, sovereign creator who works all things after the counsel of His will. This includes His plan for redemption in and through Jesus Christ, His Son, whom He offered up as a sacrifice for sin. Through this, God is seen to be just and the justifier of those who have faith in Jesus. God is a spirit who is infinite and independent yet knowable in and through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ

I believe Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, the Word made flesh who dwelt among men. He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Jesus came in the Father's name to reveal God to man. He lived a sinless life and therefore was the acceptable sacrifice for our sins. He is the only way of salvation as the mediator between God and man. Jesus gives eternal life to those who trust in Him for the forgiveness of sin. I believe He will return from Heaven, and will gather believers, judging everyone, exposing motives and men's hearts and convicting the ungodly. He will destroy all authority, rule over all His enemies and hand over the kingdom to the Father.

The Holy Spirit

I believe the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and was present and active among the godhead at creation, according to Genesis 1:26 and Psalm 104:30. In Acts 5:3-4, we see a reference to His deity as well as His eternal nature in Hebrews 9:14. He was sent by God the Father to indwell believers as a pledge of our inheritance in Christ and a seal of God's ownership of us. I believe He has a present ministry among us, guiding us into all truth, testifying of Christ and convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.

The Trinity

Though the Bible does not mention the word Trinity, the doctrine is seen in Scripture. I believe our one God exists in three persons that are co-equal, co-eternal and of the same essence though they function distinctly. We see the distinct functions of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Christ. Peter later affirms the individual work of each in 1 Peter 1:2, writing that believers were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. In Scripture we see God the Father as the initiator of salvation, God the Son as the mediator of our redemption and God the Holy Spirit as the indweller and helper in our sanctification. And

Scripture affirms the oneness of Jesus and the Father in passages like John 10:30. Additionally, the Father, Son and Spirit are called upon equally in Jesus command about baptism Matthew 28:19. And Paul mentions them in parallel regarding the blessing of God in 2 Corinthians 13:14, again suggesting their equality.

Mankind and his sinful nature

I believe the Bible teaches that the duty of every man is to fear God and keep His commandments, Ecclesiastes 12:13. Yet, by nature, no one is righteous, no one understands God, no one seeks for Him and all have turned aside and are useless to Him as we see in Romans 3. Not only does anyone do good, but any attempts at good works are tainted by sin and seen as filthy by a holy God. We are in a desperate condition, darkened in our understanding (Ephesians 4:18) and dead in our trespasses and sin (Ephesians 2:1). We are born into this sinful condition, which we inherited from Adam's disobedience, and are excluded from the life of God.

The Gospel

I believe the Gospel is the good news of salvation that provides hope for sinful man's desperate state. Jesus, the Son of God, came in human flesh, fully God, yet fully man (Romans 1:3-4). He lived a perfect life and died on the cross paying the penalty for sin. As a result, we benefit, receiving the righteousness of God, granted through faith (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Salvation (how is a person saved)

I believe a person is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. As Paul declares in Ephesians 2, it is a gift from God, that no man shall boast. Salvation is not by any attempt, power or will of man, but one is born again by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit convicts the sinner (John 16:8-9), and also regenerates the individual (John 3:5-6), and unites him or her to Christ in his body (1 Corinthians 12:13). The person who was dead in trespasses and sin is made alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5). In Christ this person becomes a new creature as he or she becomes the righteousness of God in Christ.

Justification

I believe the Bible teaches that God is just. All have sinned and violated his righteous standards (Romans 3:23) and as a result will reap death (Romans 6:23). Yet, God is not only just, but is also the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:26). He justifies the ungodly, who by faith, are found in Christ. We stress that this justification is not by a righteousness of our own. We who believe have Christ's righteousness imputed to us (Philippians 3:9). Therefore, we have right standing with God.

The Atonement

I believe Jesus' death on the cross atones for the sins of believers. Ephesians 5:25 indicates that Jesus gave Himself for the church. God the Father put forth Jesus as a propitiation in His blood through faith (Romans 3:25-26). This indicates that His death appeases the wrath of God for those who believe in Christ. In addition to turning away God's wrath, the death of Christ perfects for all time those who believe in Him (Hebrews 10:14).

Sanctification

I believe that because of the work of Christ, believers have been sanctified or set apart with a positional holiness (Romans 6:3-7). Yet, when it comes to living out our righteousness, we are progressively being conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) as we seek to no longer walk as slaves to sin. He conforms us to the image of Christ through His power at work in us (Philippians 1:6) and through the transforming power of His Word (2 Timothy 3:16).

Perseverance (eternal security)

I believe we can be confident that God will, as He's promised, complete the work He has begun in believers (Philippians 1:6). He has sealed us with the Holy Spirit as a pledge of our future inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14). I see this inheritance in Scripture as our future glorification or the redemption of our body (Romans 8:23). This seal by the Holy Spirit indicates God's ownership of us and the security of this inheritance. We are encouraged by Peter's reminder in 1 Peter 1:3-5, that this inheritance is imperishable and undefiled, will not fade away and is reserved in heaven for us. We are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. We can trust that those who belong to Christ will be kept by the power of God until our final redemption.

Glorification

Romans 8:30 states clearly that those whom God predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. Thus, I believe Paul is saying that believers have already been glorified in Christ. Yet, this glory is not fully revealed yet. Romans 8:18-25 is a description of the glorification that we await from the Lord. When Christ returns we can anticipate complete glorification as Jesus returns from heaven and transforms our earthly bodies into imperishable, glorified body like Jesus. This is the redemption of our bodies that Paul is referring to in Romans 8:23.

God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility in Salvation

I believe the Bible clearly teaches the doctrine of election in passages like 1 Peter 1:1 and Titus 1. In Ephesians 1, Paul explains that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. The most compelling part of the passage to me is that God predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus to Himself. This is where I most clearly see God's sovereignty in election. One who is outside the family of God can do absolutely nothing to get into God's family. God, out of the good pleasure of His will adopts us as sons through Christ. Yet, people do have a responsibility to repent and believe. That was a core part of Jesus' message as well as that of the apostles. I believe John 6:37-40 is one place in Scripture where we see these two truths coming together. God is seen as the initiator of salvation while man has the responsibility to believe.

Last Things

I believe Scripture teaches that we are living in the last days, for Jesus promises in Revelation 22:20 that He is coming soon. James also indicates that the coming of the Lord is near. Matthew seems to indicate that signs and the period of tribulation will precede Jesus' return. Yet, Jesus will come back to earth at a time known only by the Father. He will gather believers

who will be caught up and meet Christ in the air. At this time, the bodies of believers will be glorified. When He comes, the nations will gather before Him for judgment, where Christ will separate the sheep from the goats.

According to 1 Corinthians 15, after His coming, Jesus must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. I believe this is a reference to a millennial rule. After 1,000 years, according to Revelation 20, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and the resurrection of unbelievers will occur. They will be judged according to their deeds. Death, Hades and those whose name was not found in the book of life will also be thrown into the lake of fire.

The Scriptures

I believe that the Old Testament and New Testament have one message, and that is to speak of Christ and God's plan of salvation through Him. In Luke 24:27, Jesus references the Old Testament Scriptures as concerning Himself. As mentioned earlier in the section on the Bible, the testimony of all Scripture is inspired by God and authoritative. I affirm that all of Scripture is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16.

The Church

I believe that the church is not an organization but a spiritual entity. The Greek term for church used in the New Testament is ekklesia, or "called out ones." The church is believers, called out by God for faith and obedience to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:2). Scripture describes the church as a body, with Christ as the head (Ephesians 5:23) Jesus redeemed the church with His blood (Acts 20:28) and calls believers into the universal body. The Holy Spirit baptizes believers into the body, uniting them with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). The universal church is the body of all believers. Smaller groups of believers come together in local bodies for teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer, as we see in Acts 2.

Baptism

Our Lord commanded the apostles as part of his last instruction to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Because of this command, baptism is an ordinance in the church. Contrary to what some believe to be an act that brings about salvation, I believe Scripture teaches baptism is symbolic, representing our death, burial and resurrection in Christ, as Romans 6:3-4 describe.

The Lord's Supper

I believe the Lord's Supper is another ordinance of the church, which we see ordained by Jesus the night He was betrayed, Matthew 26, Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11. In eating the bread, which represents Jesus' body and drinking the cup, which represents His blood, we remember His sacrifice on the cross. In it, we not only proclaim His death for our sin, but I believe we look forward to His return and the future celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb, which we see in Revelation 19:9.

Gender Roles (within the family and within the church)

I believe the Bible teaches that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church in Ephesians 5. These roles necessitate that a husband fulfill his responsibility to love His wife sacrificially as Christ loved the church. It also commits a wife to respecting the role her husband has as head. In 1 Timothy 2, Paul describes the role of men and women within the church, indicating that he did not permit a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man. Though men and women were created equal by God, I believe both these passages teach the genders have different roles in functioning within the family and church.

The Lordship Salvation Issue

As I heard one person say, I believe we are saved by grace through faith alone, but saving faith does not remain alone. It results in obedience. Jesus said in John 3:36, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him." I believe Jesus draws a parallel between saving faith and resulting obedience. Yet, I do believe that God is at work, sanctifying believers and it is a process, Philippians 2:13. This means that we should extend grace to others as we trust God to work.

Divorce and Remarriage

I believe that in Matthew 19 Jesus teaches that divorce has never been in line with God's will. Marriage is intended by God to be permanent. Yet, Jesus seems to allow the exception of immorality as a reason for divorce both in Matthew 19 and Matthew 5. But a divorce and remarriage apart from the occurrence of immorality is declared by Christ to be adultery.

Sanctity of Life

David declares in Psalm 139 that the Lord wove him in his mother's womb. We know that God is the creator of life. And Scripture indicates that God's wonderful works include the making of our human bodies in the womb, Psalm 139:14. From the beginning of formation in womb throughout the rest of our days, which God has ordained for us (Psalm 139:16), each human life is to be regarded as set apart by and for God alone.

Church Discipline

I believe Scripture lays out a process for church discipline in Matthew 18. If a brother sins we are to go to him in private in an effort to gain his ear and win him. If he does not listen, we see the process moving to one or two others as witnesses to confirm his sin. If still he does not listen, we are to tell it to the church. Finally, if he fails to listen we are to discontinue fellowship, yet with the continuing goal of the eventual restoration for the sinning brother, as we see Paul make reference to in 1 Corinthians 5:5.

Cultural Life

Where do you work and for how long have you worked there?

I work for Garmin International. I have been there 7 years.

Describe your relationships with your immediate neighbors?

I have a friendly relationship with most of my neighbors. I have talked to at least two of them about Christianity.

Ministry Life

Why do you want to be an elder?

I believe God has called me to help shepherd his church and equip the saints for the work of ministry, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11-12.

What is your understanding of the primary roles and responsibilities of an Elder as defined by Scripture?

I believe elders are called to shepherd and guard the flock – Acts 20:28

I believe elders are to preach and teach – 1 Timothy 5:17

I believe elders are to be hospitable – 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1

I believe elders are to exhort in sound doctrine and refute error – Titus 1:9

How are you currently fulfilling these responsibilities in the different contexts in which God has sovereignly placed you?

I am currently teaching. We seek to be hospitable. I seek to study not only to teach but to be able to stand on sound doctrine in the face of error.

I have some opportunities to shepherd through leading a Growth Group.

Have you read the SWBC Church Covenant, and do you fully affirm all that it contains?

Yes

Have you read the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), and do you fully affirm all that it contains?

Yes.

Have you read the by-laws of SWBC, and do you fully support all that they contain?

Yes.

Describe how you would handle a situation in which you were on the minority side of an issue being decided by the Elders and you had strong convictions about your position.

I would express my convictions and trust and pray that the Lord was guiding the majority of the elders in their conclusion. If I felt that was the case I would follow suit.

When you have been met with opposition, has it been mostly related to your style of leadership, your personality, your beliefs, or something else? Please explain.

I can think of times when it's been for my beliefs. I have expressed convictions in the past when I've seen leaders not following Scripture or I've voiced concern when I've seen some leaders going beyond what scripture teaches.

What ministries at SWBC have you been involved in?

Equipping Classes
Growth Group
Forest Avenue Women's Shelter

Describe your involvement in the previous two churches you have been a part of (name the churches, how did you serve, and why did you leave)?

We were members of Christ Fellowship of Kansas City, prior to coming to Summit Woods. I taught regularly at the church. However, we determined that the house church model was not for our family.

For about eight years we were part of New Hope Bible Church in Kansas City. I taught occasionally there and served as an elder.

Describe any previous teaching experiences you have had at other churches?

I've had opportunities to teach in group settings in church as well as preach in a congregational setting.

How would you describe the difference between biblical convictions and personal preferences? How should elders resolve difference they have on issues of ministry application?

I believe biblical convictions are those you can clearly define by Scripture. Personal preferences may not be clearly defined in the Word, but I might apply Scripture as a basis for my preference.

Differences between elders on ministry application should be addressed with prayer and further discussion. If no agreement can be made there might need to be a dedicated time of study on the issue along with prayer.

Affirmation Timeline

Sunday, July 14	Announcement to the Church; Brandon and his family will be available after the main worship gathering in the front of the Worship Center
Sunday, July 21, 28, August 4	<p>Brandon is teaching the <i>Knowing God</i> Equipping Class through the month of August.</p> <p>Brandon will be available in the Fellowship Hall after Equipping Classes from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for dialogue.</p> <p>Brandon will deliver the mid-service prayer and read Scripture during our main worship gathering.</p> <p>Brandon will be available for dialogue at the Welcome Table after the main worship gathering.</p>
Sunday, August 25	Brandon will give his testimony, preach, and conduct a Q&A session beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 8	Congregational vote to affirm Brandon (at the conclusion of our main worship gathering)

From Our By-Laws

III. Members of the Board of Elders

While no specific number is mentioned, the Biblical mandate is for a plurality of Elders to Elder/lead the local church. An Elder candidate must be a church member for at least one year with the exception of the Pastor-Teacher and Associate Pastor(s).

The Elder Board shall consist of the Pastor-Teacher, the Associate Pastor(s), and other qualified men as affirmed by the church body. At least one member of the Elder Board must be a lay elder.

IV. Length of Service

Each Elder, with the exception of the Pastor-Teacher and the Associate Pastor(s), is appointed for a 3-year term. At the end of the 3-year term, the Elder can be re-appointed to another 3-year term.

After two consecutive 3-year terms, the Elder must take a year off from serving on the Elder Board before he can be considered for another 3-year term.

VII. Nomination and Appointment of Elders

This process should follow three steps:

The candidate should express his desire and willingness to serve to the Elders. A church member may also recommend a candidate to the Elders.

The candidate is examined and trained by the Elder Examination Board and recommended to the church by the Elders.

The candidate is affirmed and ordained by the congregation, thereby becoming a member of the Elder Board.