

1. In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice of the New Testament, elders are to be the servants of the church. The task of the elders is to work with the pastors in performing their responsibilities; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for the church members and other persons in the community; lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application; and support the programs of the church.

2. Qualifications: The qualifications for elders shall be the New Testament standards outlined in Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:1-7, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. They shall be at least 25 years of age and have been resident members of the church for the twelve months prior to the time they would begin their term of office, and they shall affirm the standing theology of the church.

3. Number: While the number of elders is ultimately based upon God's calling, a ratio of one elder for every fifty active members & attenders shall serve as a helpful benchmark.

4. Term of Service: The term of an elder shall be within the range of four to seven years. After completion of their term, or in the event of an early termination of a term, no elder shall be eligible to serve another term until the lapse of at least one year. Elders must be elected for subsequent terms.

5. Approval Process: Elders shall be elected in the following manner:

(a) Identify a candidate: A candidate for eldership can be identified in any or all of the following ways:

- (1) An active elder may identify a candidate.
- (2) A member of the church may identify himself to the elders of the church.
- (3) Members of the church may identify another member to the elders as a candidate.

The serving elders will seek God's will in considering those identified to them, and will nominate to the church, at a members meeting, those candidates they believe should be considered.

(b) After being nominated, a candidate for eldership will enter into a season of consideration. This provides:

- (1) time for the church to comment on the candidate to the elders in a thoughtful way.
- (2) time for the candidate to fully examine himself and his calling.
- (3) time for the elders to consider and arrive at consensus regarding a candidate. Though the elders should strive for unanimity in their recommendation, at least two-thirds of eldership will be required to affirm a candidate for nomination to the church for ordination.

(c) The period for consideration and comment will not be less than three month (or the time between quarter members meetings, whichever is shorter) and not more than one year.

(d) When a nominated candidate is approved and recommended to the church by the elders, the church will be notified for two consecutive Sundays of the upcoming vote. The vote shall take place on a Sunday by secret ballot, and the deacons will count the votes of the church. An election of an elder shall be by a three-fourths majority of the voting members. The deacons are responsible to determine whether absentee ballots will be accepted and the manner in which absentee voting will be made.

(e) Following election by the church, elders will assume their duties and responsibilities. If this is the first term for an elder, they will be ordained as soon as practical.

6. The pastors will be ex-officio members of the elders.

7. Meetings: The elders shall meet regularly at a time and place designated by themselves. A majority of the elders shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and for the passage of any motion, the assent of the majority of those present shall be required.