



Role Profile - Elder

PURPOSE

The usage of the Greek word *episkopos* is associated in the Bible with “elder”, “overseer”, “guardian” and “shepherd” and corresponds closely to the term “pastor”. The word conveys the idea of someone in authority who is watching, directing, and protecting their master’s interests, such as overseeing the flock or running a business. Within the context of the church, the Elders work on behalf of Christ their Master to look after the souls of those entrusted to them by the Lord, caring for, guiding and protecting them.

PROFILE

Titus 1:6-9; Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3:1-16.

ROLE

To oversee the spiritual health, growth and integrity of the members of the church, the teaching or preaching of the Word and the pastoral care of all; and to be devoted to prayer and encourage others to pray.

CHARACTERISTICS

Ideally an elder should:

- Love the Lord with all their heart and mind.
- Be an exemplary Christian, admired for their love and care of people.
- Be an expression of the Servant-Leader modeled so powerfully by Jesus Christ who gave Himself up for the Church and sought to exalt others above Himself.
- Acknowledge God’s control of their lives and be willing to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Be accepting of and hospitable to all.
- Have a consistent prayer life and personal Bible study routine.
- Be humble and respectful.
- Live a disciplined life, self-controlled, gentle and peace loving.
- Live wisely, by sound financial principles and not be greedy for money.
- Be committed to established Christian beliefs.
- If married, be faithful and loving to their married partner.
- Manage their family well.
- Not get drunk.
- Have a good reputation.

NOTE

Up to four Elders will serve on the Leadership Council.



Selection Process

Selection of Elders:

When new Elder/s are required, the following process will be followed:

- The Leadership Council will invite all church members to put forward nominations
- The Leadership Council will review the suitability of the nominees in collaboration with the existing Elders
- An existing Elder will meet with the nominee/s and discuss the roles and responsibilities associated with the position. If necessary a second meeting may be arranged with the nominee and all the existing Elders to ensure both parties agree to the appointment.
- Church members will be provided with a list of nominees.
- Feedback, queries and concerns regarding nominees may be expressed by church members to the chair of the Leadership Council up until the time of acceptance
- A secret ballot will be taken, where all members present will vote "yes" or "no" for each nominee. A 75% affirmative will be required from church members for the nominee to be appointed.

Tenure:

Where possible, Elders will serve up to two three-year terms with a sabbatical on the seventh year, unless they are required to continue on the leadership council up until the next term break.

Leadership Council:

The existing Elders will select up to four Elders to serve on the Leadership Council. Each of the selected Elders will need to go through the prescribed process for appointment to the Leadership Council.