

Eldership

Purposes of this position:

- 1) Biblically, the role of elders is to:
 - Serve God's people by exercising oversight and care for the church
 - Be examples of Christian living
 - Ensure that sound doctrine and practice are maintained in the congregation
- 2) These biblical principles are applied by Alliance churches as follows: "They shall serve with the senior pastor in the oversight of the spiritual and administrative functions of the church through internal organization and/or by appointing such officers or committees as are necessary to properly fulfill the ministry of the church. They shall have authority to fill vacancies between annual meetings. They shall hold regular meetings for prayer and business and report as the church membership may decide."
- 3) A very simply but accurate summary of the role of elders is to Direct & Protect the church.

Qualifications:

- 1) The biblical qualifications for eldership are outlined in I Timothy 3.1-13, Titus 1.5-9, I Peter 5.1-4.
- 2) Those who serve as elders in an Alliance church must be members of that congregation.
- 3) A potential elder should be involved in the local church for at least one year before serving as elder. This gives an opportunity to get to know the church and vice versa.
- 4) A potential elder should be someone who has already shown a willingness to serve in the church in some way. Eldership should not be a means of "getting them involved."

Some Specific Responsibilities and Expectations (these vary based on the local church's governance model and the lead pastor's understanding and plans for "shepherding"):

- 1) Attend the regular meetings of the Elders' Board and prepare for those meetings by reading the agenda and related handouts ahead of time and praying over the agenda.
- 2) Carry out other duties as defined by and assigned through the Leadership Team.
- 3) Anointing and praying for the sick; reviewing baptismal and membership candidates.
- 4) Involvement in gift based ministry beyond Sunday morning attendance.
- 5) Be an example of servanthood and the giving of time and money for Kingdom work.
- 6) Maintain board solidarity and confidentiality.
- 7) Pray for, encourage and otherwise support the pastoral staff.
- 8) Help keep fellow elders accountable for their Christian walk and ministry.
- 9) Following any best practices or other guidelines developed by the board.