

Becoming an Elder

What you Need to Know

" Loving God, Loving our Neighbours' "

What would have to happen for me to become an elder?

First, it is important to remember that in this process we are trying to listen for the will of God. There are usually two elements in one's "call" to eldership: an internal prompting and the confirmation of the Church. When those two things are present, chances are you are being called to eldership. So here is what would have to happen:

1. Be a professing member
2. Two professing members would have to nominate you.
3. You would need to be in agreement with the responsibilities of an elder described below.
4. Session would need to meet and discuss your candidacy, ensuring you are available for regular meetings and able to fulfill the responsibilities of eldership.
5. You would have to give permission to the Nominating Committee for your name to be on the ballot for the June 9th election.
6. You would need to receive enough votes during the election. (the top 4 being selected)

What are the 'Character Traits and Responsibilities of a Church Elder'?

Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable men and women should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character, and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church.

What does an Elder do?

We have just announced a new governance structure. It is both more traditional and more modern at the same time. It is more traditional because it truly leverages

- (a) the historic role of the 'ruling elder' to rule and run the work of the church
- (b) the historic role of the 'teaching elder' to be devoted to biblical teaching.

At the same time, it is more modern because it defines the elder areas of responsibilities based upon current needs. This new governance structure is faithful to where God is leading us in 2019 and beyond.

Every elder now has responsibility for the management of funds in their oversight areas. In addition, they jointly review and approve any new initiative for the Church, change in policies, and recommend to the congregation major changes such as staffing and capital purchases. Practically this has enabled us to focus our 4 new Elders on assuming oversight responsibility for one of the following areas:

FINANCE – OVERSIGHT ELDER

Structure:

An oversight elder, a treasurer and additional support personal as required.

Notes:

- Oversee the finances of the Congregation
- Oversee preparation of the budget in consultation with each elder for their oversight areas

- Responsibility for oversight of budget lines to be realigned for the revised Oversight Areas
- Oversee preparation of National Church reports
- Treasurer – Mary Colvin – manage the day to day finances of the church and provide an up to date monthly report at each regular Session meeting & provide an annual Financial Report to the congregation

ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES - OVERSIGHT ELDER

Structure:

Administration – Leader Kim Sanderson - staff

Notes:

- Oversee church office volunteers (Mary Colvin & Susie Sellers - volunteers) and carry out the responsibilities of the Roll Clerk working through the Coordinator of Congregational Life. Work closely with elder(s) and staff to maintain accurate rolls
- Review current office processes and capabilities. Determine if there are gaps and develop plans where required (example – streamline the annual report process)
- Establish regular updates with office volunteers to ensure information is available and the church is effectively represented. Introduce and develop knowledge around new internal structure to allow for distribution of inquiries to correct resource

Human Resources – Leader Steve Salisbury- volunteer

- Oversee Human Resources Team. Recommend contract changes including compensation and presents to Session for approval
- Oversee the Leading with Care Training Program - Leading with Care Coordinator (Darlene Munro – volunteer)

GROWING OUR FAITH - YOUTH ACTIVITIES –OVERSIGHT ELDER

Structure:

Youth Programs – Leader Julie Cuhna - staff

- Oversee all Youth activities as currently organized
- HIGHQ will be combined with the Senior Youth Vine group on an ongoing basis
- March Break Camp & VBS – Operations Leader – (Laurie Henry – volunteer)

Sunday School - Leader Laura Ruttan - volunteer

- Operate as currently organized

Nursery – Leader Elizabeth Sutton – volunteer

- Operate as currently organized

Parent & Tots Playgroup – Leader TBD – volunteer

- Operate as currently organized

Notes:

- Ensure adequate support is available for all areas
- Intergenerational Events are jointly overseen by the Oversight Elders for Adult & Youth Activities

GROWING OUR FAITH - ADULT ACTIVITIES - OVERSIGHT ELDER

Structure:

Oversee all Adult Activities

- Bible Study (Claude Cox- volunteer)
- Special learning activities
- Adult Social Club (Gayle Atkinson/Tom Morley/Linda & David Holloway- volunteer)
- Stitch & Chatter (Wanda Anderson/Sherryn Drury- volunteer)
- Thursday Morning Social (Susie Sellers & Wanda Anderson- volunteer)
- Vine Programs (Kim Sanderson- staff)
- Fellowship focused dinners & teas

Notes:

- Implement activities that develop new connections and deeper relationships throughout the congregation
- Intergenerational Events are jointly overseen by the Oversight Elders for Adult & Youth Activities

Who do I speak to if I have questions?

Any questions regarding the election process or what an elders' responsibilities will be should be directed to a member of the Nominating Committee listed below:

Wayne Hope
Bethany Touchette
Cathy Clark