

Appendix A

Character Traits & Responsibilities of Elders at Westminster

Our elders will be strong Christian leaders who:

1. Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour that includes daily prayer and Bible reading
2. Be able to articulate their faith
3. Are baptised and are a member of the congregation (Book of Forms, section 106.1)
4. Are “an example to [other] believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12)
5. Have sound judgment and are of upright character (Book of Forms, 132)
6. Are knowledgeable (or are prepared to learn) about the government of the church (Book of Forms, 132)
7. Have gifts for spiritual leadership (see 1 Corinthians 12)
8. Are in regular attendance in worship (Book of Forms, section 132)
9. Are prepared to be an active participant in the ministry of the church
10. Are prepared to attend the regular and emergent elders meeting
11. Assume a key leadership role in at least one other ministry of the church
12. Pass a Volunteer Sector Records Check screening
13. Agree to and sign the Covenant of Care as per the denomination’s *Leading with Care* policy
14. Are able to adhere to these ordination vows:
 - a) Do you believe in God the Father, made known in His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?
 - b) Do you accept the subordinate standards of this Church, and do you promise to be guided thereby in fostering Christian belief, worship and service among the people?
 - c) Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods and general assemblies, and do you promise to share in and submit yourself to all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church?
 - d) In accepting the office of Elder, do you promise to perform your duties in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, striving to build up His Church and to strengthen her mission in the world?

Subordinate Standards

- NOTE 1: The Subordinate Standards” of the denomination are available for download on the church’s website under the beliefs section. They are also in the church library in the binder titled “Subordinate Standards.” They are the Westminster Confession of Faith, Living Faith, and The Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation. These lay out the Reformed/Presbyterian understanding of the faith and include items such as the authority of Scripture, the Trinity, sin, Christ as the only mediator between God and humanity, salvation, worship, sacraments, the return of Christ and final judgment, the Lordship of Jesus, the nature of the Church, the Christian family, and mission.