**Elder Selection and Qualifications**

**Fowlerville UB Church**

**Section 1 – Definition and Process**

**What’s an elder and what do they do?**

We use the term “elder” in this document to designate the church lay leaders who sit on the Elder Board of Fowlerville United Brethren in Christ Church. The primary responsibility of our elders is to monitor and oversee the function of the Lead Team/Senior Pastor ensuring the spiritual health and ministry direction of Fowlerville UB as described in the guiding principles. This responsibility may cause the elders to consider issues such as finances, policies and church discipline. A key aspect of the elders’ duties is to evaluate the guiding principles, which include the mission, boundary, and accountability principles. The elders meet regularly to be sure that the guiding principles stay current and that the Lead Team/Senior Pastor is functioning within them.

**Expectations of Elders**

An elder must be a model in sharing his/her faith. A concern for the lost will result in a prayerful sense of responsibility. Scripture repeatedly mentions the need to bear fruit, not be ashamed of the Gospel, that after we receive the Holy Spirit we will be witnesses; that we are Christ’s ambassadors. Our spiritual leaders need to lead in matters of faith.

An elder must be a model and example through his/her giving and serving. An elder is responsible for oversight to these areas of the church leadership and must be able to demonstrate the same within his/her tithing and serving in an area of ministry.

The normal meeting schedule for elders is to meet the 1st Monday night per month. However, additional training may occasionally be required.

Elders are servant leaders. Nothing is to come from a desire to dominate, but rather to gently care for and manage the direction of the flock placed under their care.

**Term of Office/Service**

Fowlerville UB elders serve for a period of 3 years, with the term beginning in January. After at least 2 years break, elders may be appointed for another term if they are once again nominated and qualified. The board shall consist of no more than 7 lay-elders.

During an absence of a Lead Team/Senior Pastor, additional elders may be appointed to help through the transition. If an elder resigns, a replacement will be selected during the next selection process. The current elders will elect a chairman and secretary on an annual basis in the first meeting in January.

**Selection Process**

1. Names of those within our church exhibiting elder traits will be nominated by current Elders, whenever there is a vacancy.
2. A candidate must be nominated by at least three current Elders to be considered.
3. A candidate must be a current active member of Fowlerville UB.
4. An evaluation process will be conducted for each candidate by our current Elder Board and pastors based on the scriptural qualifications of elders (as described in Section B).
5. Nominees may need a time of dialog with the current elders so they can get a complete picture of the roles, expectations, and responsibilities of the office.
6. All nominees will be given the option of removing their name at any point in the process.
7. Final Nominees, voted on by the current Elder Board, will be listed in the bulletin for at least two weeks during which people may present to any Lead Team/Senior Pastor members or current elders any concerns of character. Due diligence will be used to investigate any concerns presented.
8. Once the examination period has concluded, qualified candidates will join the elders at the next scheduled meeting. This process is covered in prayer from beginning to end, believing that God will provide and raise up Godly new elders.

**Modifications**

This document will be reviewed every 2 years, in conjunction with review of the Bylaws. Any changes must be approved by a majority of the Elder Board.

**Section B – Scriptural Basis**

**Biblical Qualifications**

**1 Timothy 3:2-7** says, “The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to control his family, how can he take care of God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.”

**Titus 1:6-9** says, “An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless, not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

We view these passages in light of the totality of Scripture, especially in regards to Jesus’ words and actions. We also affirm the standards of family conduct as described in Chapter 5 of the UB Discipline.