

Elder Application Instructions

Overview of the Office of Elder

The leadership of Strasburg Community Church is comprised by a group of spiritually gifted and mature Christian men who have been called by God to serve together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These men, called "elders," are responsible for leading our church by carrying out its vision and pursuing effective ministry by shepherding, modeling, teaching, and discipling others in their relationship with Christ.

While any man meeting the Biblical requirements, as well as our churches constitutional requirements, is welcome to apply to become an elder, all applicants must follow the full process prior to becoming an elder at Strasburg Community Church.

Elder Questionnaire Overview

The application for eldership consists of three parts: a questionnaire to ascertain the applicants spiritual, philosophical, and personal identity; character references from two current members of the church; and, if applicable, a brief questionnaire for the applicants spouse to ensure that they are in support of their husband desire to serve as an elder.

Our Process

Step One: Read, or listen to, the book, "Church Elders," by Jeramie Rinne and "Deacons" by Matthew Smethurst. These books provide a wonderful overview of what the role and responsibility of elders and deacons are and provide insight to what will be expected of you as an elder of Strasburg Community Church

Step Two: Fill out the "Elder Candidate Questionnaire" and then submit it, via email, to the senior pastor. The questionnaire consists of three parts: the applicants questionnaire, two character references, and, if applicable, a spousal questionnaire. Your questionnaire will be confidential and only be read by the elders. Steps one and two may be completed simultaneously, but the elder applicant may not proceed until both steps have been completed.

Step Three: Once you have completed the first two steps, the elders will reach out to you to schedule a time to meet with you about your interest in becoming an elder. If they believe you would be a good fit and are Biblically qualified to become an elder, you will be invited to continue on in the process. If not, then they will clearly communicate the reasons why not.

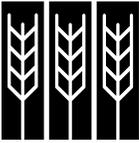
Step Four: Once an applicant has been deemed a good fit for the elder board and is found to be Biblically qualified, they will be invited to sit in on the "devotional and discussion" portion of elder meetings. Inviting applicants into this portion of elder meetings helps both sides better understand the "heartbeat" of both the applicant as well as the elder board. This step will last between 3-6 months.

Step Five: After the previous step has been completed, and assuming both the applicant and elder board continue to believe the applicant to be a good fit for the elder board, they will invited to participate in full elder meetings. This step will require the applicant's full confidentiality as private and personal matters of the church and/or its people may be discussed. This step will last between 3-6 months.

Step Six: Once the previous step has been completed and both the applicant and elder board continue to believe the applicant to be a good fit for the elder board, the congregation will be notified of the applicants desire to become an elder. As per the churches constitution, the applicant will be nominated by the elders, and then voted upon by the church members and installed as an elder, if approved by the church.

At any time in this process either the applicant or the elder board may stop the process and withdraw their application.

If you have any questions regarding the process or the questionnaire, please feel free to contact one of the elders.



ELDER CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please type your responses in the boxes provided
Once completed, email the questionnaire to the senior pastor

NAME

DATE

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER

ARE YOU CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH?

HAVE YOU COMPLETED READING OR LISTENING TO THE BOOKS "CHURCH ELDERS" BY JERAMIE

RINNE AND "DEACONS" BY MATT SMETHURST?

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOU CAME TO KNOW THE LORD

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CURRENTLY?

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOW AND WHEN DID YOU IDENTIFY THEM? HOW ARE YOU ACTIVELY USING THEM NOW?

WHO ARE YOU ACTIVELY DISCIPLING NOW AND WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY RELATIONAL ISSUES WITHIN THE CHURCH THAT WOULD HINDER YOUR ABILITY TO SERVE AS AN ELDER?

PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR FREE TIME. HOBBIES, INTERESTS, ETC.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OVERALL ATTITUDE TOWARD AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SENIOR PASTOR OF STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR OVERALL ATTITUDE TOWARD AND RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OF THE ELDERS OF STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH?

PLEASE TELL US THE AREAS OF MINISTRY YOU ARE CURRENTLY SERVING IN?

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO CRITICISM? WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THINGS DO NOT GO YOUR WAY? PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE.

HOW DO YOU TEND TO RESPOND WHEN DISAGREEMENTS OR CONFLICTS ARISE? PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE.

HOW DO YOU HANDLE STRESS OR PRESSURE? PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE.

FAMILY QUESTIONS

IF YOU ARE SINGLE OR CURRENTLY IN A DATING RELATIONSHIP , PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOU PURSUE AND MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP PURITY WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX. SKIP THIS QUESTION IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN DIVORCED PLEASE DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND REASONS FOR THAT DIVORCE. SKIP THIS QUESTION IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY MARRIED, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THE CONDITION AND QUALITY OF YOUR MARRIAGE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

IS YOUR WIFE SUPPORTIVE OF YOUR DESIRE TO BECOME AN ELDER?

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT EACH OF THEM.

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU ARE ACTIVELY HELPING THEM TO CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE STATE OF YOUR PERSONAL/FAMILY FINANCES?

HOW ARE YOU STEWARDING YOUR FINANCES TO SUPPORT THE FURTHERING OF THE GOSPEL?

DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT WOULD DISQUALIFY A PERSON FROM BEING AN ELDER.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE PRIMARY ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER?

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM "ABOVE REPROACH."

HAVE YOU READ THROUGH THE CHURCH'S BYLAWS, CONSTITUTION, AND DOCTRINAL POSITIONS?

DO YOU HAVE ANY HESITANCIES ABOUT THE DOCTRINAL POSITIONS OF STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH? IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

WHAT AREAS OF SCRIPTURE/THEOLOGY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT?

WHAT AREAS OF SCRIPTURE/THEOLOGY DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE LESS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT?

PLEASE DESCRIBE HOW YOU STAY CURRENT ON THEOLOGICAL ISSUES/TOPICS FACING THE CHURCH.

PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE THE PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ROLES OF PASTOR AND ELDER?

HOW DO YOU VIEW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH MEMBERS AND ELDERS?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE AS AN ELDER? WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU SEE IN YOUR LIFE THAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO BECOME AN ELDER?

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE GREATEST NEED IN OUR CHURCH TODAY? HOW DO YOU SEE YOURSELF ADDRESSING THIS NEED?

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF "SHEPHERD" WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF BEING AN ELDER.

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHRASE, "PLURALITY OF LEADERSHIP."

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHRASE, "CONSENSUS IN DECISION MAKING."

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORD, "CONFIDENTIALITY."

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM, "CHURCH DISCIPLINE."

DESCRIBE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM, "ACCOUNTABILITY," SPECIFICALLY AS IT PERTAINS TO THOSE WHO ARE ELDERS.

AS PART OF THE PROCESS FOR ELDERSHIP WE WILL ASK FOR AT LEAST TWO CHARACTER REFERENCES FROM CHURCH MEMBERS (NOT CURRENT ELDERS OR DEACONS). PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAMES AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO SEND THE REFERENCE TO. THEY WILL BE ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: DO YOU SUPPORT THIS PERSONS DESIRE TO BECOME AN ELDER AT STRASBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH? WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU SEE IN HIS LIFE THAT GOD HAS CALLED HIM TO BECOME AN ELDER?

NAME

EMAIL

NAME

EMAIL