

CONGREGATIONAL ELDERS

*Minister spiritual help to the flock,
bearing the people's burden's with the pastor.*

1. DEFINITION

The Bible teaches us of three kinds of elders:

- A. Matured fivefold ministry gifts. (1 PETER 5:1-5)
- B. Older, elderly, mature Christians. (TITUS 2:2)
- C. Congregational elders (EXOD 18:25-26, ACTS 11:30) – Elders are considered officers of the local church, supreme examples to the flock in faithfulness, and chosen from the flock to minister care and spiritual things to the flock. This is a very high calling.

2. YOUR MINISTRY

- A. Example to the flock (1 PETER 5:3)
 - Personal life and ministry (prayer times, worship, serving, attendance).
- B. Pray for the sick (JAMES 5:14)
 - Prayer of faith.
 - Anoint with oil.
 - Jesus' name.
- C. Bear the burden with Pastor (NUM 11:16-17)
 - Burden = care for people's spiritual welfare.
 - Be a peacemaker.
- D. Pastor's representative
 - Stand with Pastor
 - a) Agreement with the ministry vision.
 - b) Pastor's eyes and ears among the flock (EXOD 18:21)
 - c) Gossip is horizontal; help and proper communication are vertical. You are supposed to be part of the solution and never part of the problem.
 - Speak well of the ministry to the world, the church, co-workers, etc.

- Carry out delegated responsibilities with the anointing apportioned.
- E. Personal ministry in small numbers (EXOD 18:22)
- Check with pastorate before ministry appointments.
 - Report all ministry to pastorate.
 - One-application rule—anointing, scripture, prayer.
 - If more than one application is needed, always consult pastorate.
- F. Leaders of small numbers (EXOD 18:21)
- Make disciples.
 - Lead by example—do not dictate.
 - Leaders lead even when nobody follows. What do followers do if nobody leads?
- G. Benevolence (ACTS 11:27-30)
- Help distribute collections for the poor, missions, etc.

3. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1 TIM 4:12, 1 PETER 5:3

By accepting the position of the office of elder, you are agreeing to live up to the following responsibilities.

- A. Be a Christian at all times. Be a good husband. Be a good father.
- B. Attend all services (be willing to plan your work schedule around special meetings, etc.)
- C. Dress and groom appropriately.
- D. Be ready and willing to instantly respond to the call.
- E. Be prayed up and prepared mentally and physically, you could be called on at any time.
- F. Maintain a proper attitude, be submitted and sweet toward authority.
- G. Attend and participate in all church-related functions (discipleship meetings, prayer services, fasts, special meetings, etc.)
- H. Be kind and hospitable to church members by attending weddings, showers, fellowships, etc., as much as possible.
- I. Make your support evident by your giving, confession, countenance, posture, participation, and performance.
- J. Be more than punctual, be early/stay late, the entire church family depends on you.
- K. Maintain a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You must be able to draw from the anointing in order to minister in the office of elder. No relationship, no anointing. You're an up-front ministry, everyone is noticing you.

- L. Be an excellent example and witness in every area of your life (ministry, family, financial, community).
- M. Maintain a “can do” attitude: “Pastor, share God’s vision with us, and we’ll make it happen!”

4. QUALIFICATIONS

ACTS 2:38-39

- Born again
- Spirit-filled
- Water-baptized
- Tithing

ACTS 6:3

- Of honest report
- Full of the Holy Ghost

JAMES 1:5

- Full of wisdom

1 TIM 3:1-7

- Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Temperate (not violent)
- Sober-minded
- Of good behavior
- Hospitable
- Able to teach
- Gentle
- Not quarrelsome
- House in order—spiritually
- Not a novice
- A good citizen

TITUS 1:7-9

- Lover of what is good
- Just
- Holy
- Self-controlled
- Holding fast the faithful Word (walking out what scripture teaches)
- Wives must be sober
- Faithful in all things (wives also)

5. ELDERS' ROLE IN CHURCH SERVICES

- A. Keep track of the flock.
- B. Assure that visitors get to meet Pastor.
- C. Stand with ministers at the altar (post service).
- D. Help with altar call responses.

6. ELDERS' ROLE IN NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES

- A. Funeral home coverage.
- B. Wedding coverage.
- C. Report sheep conditions and any church family news to pastor.
- D. Report any family emergencies if the information comes to you.

7. DO NOT ...

- Do not counsel or use the word “counseling.”
- Do not minister or meet with anyone without your Bible open, giving scriptural proofs.
- Do not tell people what to do. (Show what Jesus, Paul, Moses, etc., taught.)
- Do not deal with personal, intimate matters.
- Do not be the “God police.” (You’re the encourager and servant of the brothers.)
- Do not play pastor.
- Do not meet with opposite sex without your spouse.
- Do not set policy in the church. If you have suggestions about change in policy bring that to Pastor for consideration.

8. ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- Be an extension of Pastor’s hands to the flock. Care for them and encourage them.
- Honor the “gift” God placed upon you Pastor to be the shepherd of the flock.
- Recognize and honor Kathy as one who has the right to make decisions and changes in the church, including during services (prayer, preaching, ministry, etc.).
- Follow up with all new salvations.
 - A. Call and confirm their salvation.
 - B. Make sure they have a Bible if not let the office know so we can get one.
 - C. Be sure to tell them to read primarily in the New Testament and explain why.
 - D. Encourage them to get signed up for the next water baptism.
 - E. Answer any questions they may have.