

Elder Position Description

Qualifications:

The New Testament uses two terms interchangeably that speak to those who lead the local church: Elder and Overseer. The word used most often in the New Testament is Elder.

Elders will be chosen from among the male active members of the Church who meet the qualifications prescribed for their office in Acts 20:28-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Hebrews 13: 17, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Once set apart for this office, these men should give evidence of this calling by God upon their lives by striving by God's grace to live and serve in keeping with the requirements set forth in the above-cited biblical passages.

Responsibilities and Authority:

Elders are responsible to seek the mind of Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the Word of God as they carry out the work of overseeing the ministry of the Church.

The Biblical responsibilities outlined for the Elders are:

- To shepherd the flock of God (*Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:5; 1 Peter 5:2*)
- To be an example to the flock, not lording it over those allotted to their charge (*1 Peter 5:3*)
- To teach and exhort, thereby equipping the flock for ministry (*Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9*)
- To refute those who contradict truth (*Titus 1:9, 11*)
- To manage the Church in their role as overseers (*1 Timothy 3:5; 5:17*)
- To pray for the sick (*James 5:14-15*)

The Elders have the responsibility and authority to give oversight and direction to the affairs of the Church. As shepherds of God's flock, they care for God's people, watch over them, and lead them by example (*1 Peter 5:2-3*).