

The Office of Elder

at King's Way Christian Fellowship

Procedure for the Selection of Elders at King's Way Christian Fellowship

1. The Elders solicit nominations from the congregation to recommend men to be considered as Elder nominees.
2. The Elders review the nominations and challenge those they consider appropriate and potentially qualified to consider becoming an Elder.
3. If the individual accepts the challenge, the nominee and his wife are interviewed privately by the Pastor and Elders as to testimony, vision of ministry, personal integrity and theological beliefs.
4. The Board then schedules a public interview for the candidates to allow members of the Congregation to raise questions regarding doctrine, vision, etc.
5. A two week period is provided for private follow-up questioning by the Congregation.
6. The Elders ask for a vote of affirmation by the Congregation.
7. The affirmed Elder candidate joins the Board.
8. The candidate serves a one year testing period:
 - a) to determine the candidate's compatibility and suitability with the Elder Board.
 - b) to allow the candidate to determine if they have the time and ability to commit to serving.
9. As soon as is appropriate after the year of testing, the serving Elder candidates are presented to the Congregation as ready for ordination in a special service.

If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. --1 Timothy 3:1

Qualities of an Elder

Things an elder is to do:

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine.	Titus 1:9a-b
Refute those who oppose sound doctrine.	Titus 1:9c
Guard against false teachers	Acts 20:28-31a
Able to teach	1 Timothy 3:2 & 5:17
Some are preachers	1 Timothy 5:17
Direct the affairs of the church (rule)	1 Tim 5:17-18 & Heb 13:17
Determine church polity	Acts 15:2b, 4, 6; 16:4
Be shepherds / caretakers of God's flock	Acts 20:28 & 1 Peter 5:2
Leaders in prayer	James 5:14
He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.	1 Timothy 3:4-5

Things an elder is to be:

Willing & eager to serve	1 Peter 5:2
Above reproach / blameless	1 Tim 3:2 & Titus 1:6 & 7
Respectable	1 Timothy 3:2
Example to the flock / Have a life worthy of imitation	1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7
He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.	1 Timothy 3:7
Temperate	1 Timothy 3:2
Self-controlled	1 Timothy 3:2 & Titus 1:8
Disciplined	Titus 1:8
One who loves what is good	Titus 1:8
Upright	Titus 1:8
Holy	Titus 1:8
Hospitable	1 Timothy 3:2 & Titus 1:8
The husband of but one wife	1 Tim 3:2 & Titus 1:6
A man whose children believe and are not wild and disobedient.	Titus 1:6

Things an elder is not to be:

Not lording it over those entrusted to him	1 Peter 5:3
Not given to drunkenness	1 Tim 3:3 & Titus 1:7
Not violent but gentle	1 Tim 3:3 & Titus 1:7
Not quick-tempered	Titus 1:7
Not quarrelsome	1 Timothy 3:3
Not overbearing	Titus 1:7
Not a lover of money.	1 Timothy 3:3 & 1 Peter 5:2
Not pursuing dishonest gain	Titus 1:7
Not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.	1 Timothy 3:6

The Role of Elders at King's Way Christian Fellowship

A) Oversee the spiritual life of the church.

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers— Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.

1 Peter 5:2;

They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.

Hebrews 13:17

B) Direct the affairs of the church; to rule.

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

1 Timothy 5:17 (also 3:4-5)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.

They keep watch over you as men who must give an account.

Hebrews 13:17

C) Lead in prayer and teaching the Word.

“(We) will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

Acts 6:6

Now the overseer must be...able to teach...

1 Timothy 3:2

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

James 5:14

D) Guard sound doctrine.

(An elder) 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.

Titus 1:9

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Titus 2:1

E) When necessary, exercise discipline.

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault...and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:15-17

F) Address shepherding issues in the body.

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—

1 Peter 5:2

G) Practice the congregational form of government by keeping the church body informed of significant issues, and bringing before the congregation for their consideration and affirmation significant matters related to the overall interests of the church.

This proposal pleased the whole group.

Acts 6:5a

Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

Acts 16:22a

H) Set an example of Christ-likeness in life and speech for the Body and the watching world.

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.

Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Hebrews 13:7

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—

not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:2a, 3

I) Lead in specific matters as directed by the church constitution and by-laws

and by church policies as found in the church's "Policies and Procedures Manual".

How Elders Operate:

- 1) Elders possess authority only within the context of the group; only as a group do the Elders speak with authority and prepare proposals for the Congregation's consideration.
- 2) Elders are led by a Chairman elected by the Elders from among the Elders.
He serves for a period of not greater than one year.
The Chairman cannot be a staff member.
- 3) The Chairman acts as the moderator at the monthly meetings,
works with the Elders and staff to develop that month's agenda,
and directs discussions and decisions regarding that agenda in the meeting.
- 4) Each Elder meeting should be summarized with Minutes taken by someone present
who is neither the Chairman nor a member of the pastoral staff.
- 5) The Council of Elders will consist of three to seven active Elders,
not including any at a given time who may be on sabbatical.
- 6) An Elder's term of active service is normally to be three years.
After taking a one year sabbatical from the Elder Council, an Elder may serve another term,
if and when they are requested to by the active Council members.
If at any time the Council of Elders believe that a lack of qualified men in the congregation
makes it desirable for an Elder at the end of his term to continue service,
they may ask that Elder to serve another three year term. In no case may an Elder
serve more than two consecutive terms without a one year sabbatical leave.
- 7) The Council of Elders should meet in a minimum of nine months during a calendar year.
However, they may meet as often as needed as dictated by church affairs and the shepherding
needs of the congregation.

Elder Time Commitments:

- 1) Meetings:
 - a) Monthly Council meetings.
 - b) Called meetings as necessary.
 - c) Staff/Elder retreats.
 - d) For training as agreed upon.
- 2) Normal church functions: worship, Sunday School, congregational activities, etc.
- 3) On-going training.
- 4) Personal Bible study and prayer (Elders hold each other accountable)
- 5) Shepherding the flock (counseling, discipline, etc.)
- 6) Fellowship opportunities

Ten Questions to Ask Yourself Before Agreeing to Serve as an Elder

- 1) Am I biblically qualified to serve as an Elder? Are there any hidden things in my life that would disqualify me from serving if they were known?
- 2) What would I bring to the Council in terms of my experience, abilities, interests, talents, resources, and relationships?
- 3) What will be expected of me as a responsible Council member?
- 4) Can I make the time available to effectively serve on the Council...
to do the necessary homework, to attend meetings and retreats,
to tend to the shepherding needs of the flock, etc.
- 5) How long of a commitment am I willing to make to this Council?
- 6) Do I really believe in this Council?
- 7) Do I feel truly supportive of the Pastor and staff?
- 8) Is my spouse supportive of my serving as an Elder?
- 9) Why should I not serve?
- 10) Do I sense God's leading in this decision?

Leadership Commitment

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Ephesians 4:1

- 1) I will seek to maintain a close, intimate walk with the Lord by regularly spending time alone with Him in His Word and in prayer.
- 2) I will be a diligent student of God's Word.
- 3) I will endeavor to walk continually in the Spirit.
- 4) I will pray regularly for those who serve with me as Council members, for the pastor of the church we serve and for the church's staff.
- 5) I will pray regularly for the ministry of my church.
- 6) I will set an example for the church Body by giving of my income to the work of the Lord through this church, with the tithing of ten percent being a standard to follow.
- 7) I will seek to be a positive role model to the members of the church by my attitude, speech, actions, attendance, participation, and in all I do.
- 8) I will faithfully attend all meetings of the Council, unless I am hindered from doing so by a compelling reason such as illness, work or necessary travel. When unable to attend, I will notify the Council Chairman in advance, if possible, of the reason for my absence.
- 9) I will prepare for each Council meeting by doing my homework and by submitting myself anew and afresh to the Holy Spirit.
- 10) By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will refrain from expressing negative attitudes through criticism and complaint. Instead, I will be positive and encouraging, endeavoring to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 11) I will maintain an open and teachable attitude.

I have studied these statements of commitment,
I have prayed over them,
and I believe God would have me serve the Council of Elders
as a member according to these standards.

Signature_____

Date_____