

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Greeley, CO

Elder
Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Organization

Title: Elder

Reports to: The Congregation through the Session

Purpose: To govern the life and ministry of the local church according to the EPC Constitution (G16-8,9 & 10).

Qualifications to Serve as an Elder (in addition to EPC Book of Order G10-4,5 &6):

A person of mature Christian faith who strives toward the ideals of Christian leadership as reflected in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1.

1. A pledging member of First Presbyterian Church with regular worship attendance.
2. A vision and desire to nurture and shepherd the flock of Jesus Christ.
3. An individual called by God and elected by the congregation.
4. A student and growing teacher of God's Word.

Responsibilities of an Elder:

1. Disciple – The Elder should invest his/her life in discipling others to grow more into the likeness of Christ.
2. Shepherd – provide pastoral care and oversight for members of the congregation.
3. Representative – represent the congregation and its interest to the Session; represent the will of Christ to the Congregation.
4. Decision-maker – work with other Elders in the process of determining the Lord's will as it relates to the work and ministry of the local church.
5. Serve as a liaison to one of the Session teams. The Elder should model out to other team members how to function most effectively in a committee. He/she should share with the committee Session's point of view as it bears on particular matters coming before the committee.
6. Assist in worship leadership, the Lord's Supper, Baptisms, and Healing Prayer.
7. Teacher – cultivate one's ability to share with others the teaching of God's word in formal and informal settings.
8. Maintenance of congregational membership - receives members, keeps rolls, dismisses, restores, grants affiliation, or removes members.

Organization of the Session:

The Session consists of the Elders along with the Pastor(s). There are up to 14 Elders each elected for three-year terms. They are charged with governing the life and ministry of the local church.

The Session regularly meets on the 2d Monday of each month for fellowship, teaching, and regular business (5:45 p.m – 8:30 p.m.) and on the 4th Saturday of every month for intercessory prayer (7:30 a.m – 8:30 a.m.). Annually, a retreat is held over one weekend in the spring. Faithful and prayerful preparation, attendance and participation by every Elder is essential for the Session to fulfill its responsibilities.

Currently the Session works through the following structures & teams:

We Share (Finance, Personnel, Nominating Committee)

We Teach (Adult, Youth, Children)

We Reach (Local, International Missions)

We Worship

We Pray

We Care (Deacons, Parish Nurse, Membership)

Each Elder is expected to serve on a ministry team according to the individual interest and abilities. Some Elders volunteer to assist in serving the Lord's Supper at nursing homes and to homebound members.

Time Commitment:

On the average Elders will give from 8-10 hours per month in serving. In some cases the time commitment may involve more time, depending upon God's call. In addition an Elder should have a regular prayer and Bible study time. It is a commitment of each person to serve the Lord, to serve the church, and to support the other Elders with whom he/she serves. To do this one must be available for the responsibilities as outlined above, one must commit to regular prayer and be willing to serve where and how the Lord leads.

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