

**Small Group Discussion**  
**Shepherd the Flock**  
- the biblical basis of leadership -

1. PTC's Constitution and Bylaws have different requirements for approving pastors and elders.

**Elders**

• A **two-third majority vote** at a church business meeting shall be necessary for the election of an Elder. AND A **quorum** for a legally constituted congregational business meeting shall be **40% of the active members.**

**= 27% of the total membership**

**Pastors**

• A **three fourths majority vote** of the membership present with a quorum of **60% of the Active Members** shall be required to extend a call to a pastoral candidate.

**= 45% of the total membership**

Discuss whether you think this is good practice and why.

2. The one distinctive qualification for elders versus deacons is **the ability to teach**. It is the only qualification that involves a specific gifting or ability (competency) as opposed to a character trait. Teaching involves much more than just preaching on a Sunday morning, and not everyone has the gift of preaching.

In our present Covid world, what are ways that leaders can be meaningfully involved in teaching others?

3. 1 Tim. 3:6 says that an elder should not be a recent convert.
- i) Make a list of the marks of an established believer? How would you determine if "so-and-so" qualifies as an elder in today's world?
  - ii) Share the process or steps you went through to grow spiritually and how others helped you in that process.
  - iii) How important do you think mentoring is in this process?
4. Take time to pray together for God to raise up more leaders who can help shepherd PTC.

**For personal reflection**

1. In light of Sunday's message and 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, consider two people who are not presently elders that you think meet the qualifications for the role of elder.
2. Take a moment to pray for those people to respond to God's prompting if they are asked to consider standing as an elder.
3. Consider committing to pray regularly for PTC's present and future elders.

**1 Tim. 3:1-7**

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup> (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

**Titus 1:6-9**

An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless — not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>8</sup> Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> He 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.