

## **Elder Nominations**

All members are invited to recommend names to be considered for the role of Elder at Faith Baptist Church. Attached you will find Appendix III of our Policy Statement which shows the requirements for this position within the church. If you are interested in making a suggestion, please prayerfully read the Appendix and fill in the form below. When complete give this form to one of our present Elders or drop off at the church office inbox.

**Your Name:**

**Are you a member?**

**Name of person recommended:**

**Based on the attached and your personal experience, please share why you think this individual should serve as an Elder at Faith Baptist Church?**

### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR AND ROLE OF AN ELDER**

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” 1 Peter 5:2-3

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of an elder is serving, together with the other elders, in humbly shepherding and caring for the souls of God’s people under his care, as an overseer, servant leader, teacher and equipper.

#### **Qualifications – General:**

In order to serve as an elder at Faith Baptist Church, a man must be born again, biblically qualified, baptized by immersion, a member in good standing and at least 21 years of age. He must be in agreement with the Church statement of faith, philosophy of ministry, and statement of purpose and vision. He must be happily married and faithful to his wife (if married), manage his own household well, and be well thought of by people outside the church. Since the Bible’s requirements concerning character traits and heart attitudes cannot be fulfilled in a short time, only becoming evident over a period of several years of faithful Christian living, he must not be a recent convert. To avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest, he will recuse himself of any topic related to family members who are employed at the church. Called by God, in addition to the qualifications already mentioned, elders must meet the following qualification criteria, and together with the other elders, serve in the roles outlined below:

**Qualifications - Specific** (taken from 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1)

1. Above reproach – though not perfect he is godly, free from blemishes of character or conduct.
  2. Sober-minded—a mind that can think clearly and spiritually about important matters
  3. Self-controlled – exercises good judgement, is prudent, sound-minded, and discreet. Disciplined in every aspect of one's life, he avoids following sinful ways and practices of the world in which we live and abstain from or use in moderation all things which in excess may be harmful to body, soul and spirit (Romans 12:2; Titus 2:12; 1 John 2:15-17).
  4. Respectable – character that is respectable, if others are to follow him and emulate him, he must prove that his life is worth following.
  5. Hospitable – making time for others by getting to know people and investing in their lives, he must take the time to build relationships.
  6. Gentle – he is kind, gracious, not overbearing or arrogant, but patient with others. 14 7.
- A Lover of Good – willing to help others and seek their good.
8. Upright – one who fears God, turns away from evil, lives according to God's Word, he will make fair, just and upright decisions for the church.
  9. Holy – wholly devoted to God and His Word, set apart to God in order to obey His will.
  10. Honest and free from the love and controlling influence of money – content with what he has.
  11. Committed to the scriptures – a proven ability to teach the Word and defend the truth.

## **Role**

1. Leader – he is called under the authority of God to lead the church, humbly and by example. He does not demand respect, realizing his position is a gift from God (1 Peter 5:2-3). He is teachable, admitting he does not have all the answers and is willing to listen and learn from others. He is willing to work with others as he realizes the importance of teamwork and accountability and he does all to the glory of God. He must be, in the true sense of the phrase, a servant leader (2 Timothy 2:24-25).
2. Shepherd – he is called as a caring shepherd who leads and protects all those under his care (1 Peter 5:2). The primary role is to care for people's souls by feeding them, strengthening them, binding their wounds, praying with them for healing, and bringing back those who are straying (James 5:14 & 2 Timothy 4:2).

3. Teacher – one of the unique qualifications for an elder is that he must be “able to teach” (1Timothy 3:2) the Word of God. Elders may lead and teach at weekly prayer meetings and be available to provide pulpit supply on Sunday mornings as requested and able. An elder “must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to rebuke those who contradict it.” (Titus 1:9)
4. Equipper – he is called, with the other elders, to purposefully equip and disciple the next generation of leaders (including elders) to minister alongside them and further the gospel in our community (Ephesians 4:11-12). He is purposeful to train others to do the task of preaching and teaching. “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2Timothy 2:2)
5. Overseer – he is called, with the other elders, to provide oversight to areas of ministry that are led by various people and teams within the church (see Acts 20:28).
6. Along with the deacons, the elders provide joint oversight of Church Staff, spiritual input to the Finances, Worship, Missions, Nominating, the Letters Patent and the Building. This includes ensuring processes are in place for hiring staff, providing ongoing feedback, reviewing and approving staff compensation.