



Elder Application Instructions

Overview of the Office of Elder

Elders function primarily as discerners and shepherds, and as such serve as the conscience and guardians of the church. Acts 20:28 states, “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.”

The elders evaluate everything that takes place according to three criteria:

- The mission of the organization
- The resources of the organization
- The organization’s doctrinal statement

There will be a minimum of three active Elders plus the Teaching Elder, who is the Senior Pastor.

Application Process

There are two parts to the application process:

1. Elder Recommendation

This recommendation is to be completed by a church member nominating another church member for the position of elder. The recommendation is to be completed without consultation with the man being nominated. The recommendation is to be completed and submitted to the church office.

2. Elder Application

After the elder recommendation has been completed, the church member who has made the nomination should notify the elder candidate. The elder candidate will also be notified by the church office. The candidate will then complete the elder application and submit it to the church office.

Scriptural Basis of Elder Qualifications

The passages in 1 Timothy 3:1-11, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-7 form the basis for elder qualifications.

1 Timothy 3:1-11

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

Titus 1:5-9

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. 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. 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. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 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. (NIV)

1 Peter 5:1-7

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Elder Recommendation

Name of Elder Nominee _____

Your Name _____

Are you a member of Mt Vernon Church? yes no

Thank you for taking time to complete an elder recommendation. This is an important position for our church, one that is not to be taken lightly. As such, we ask that you prayerfully complete this recommendation and evaluate each question honestly based on your knowledge of the nominee's qualifications for the office of elder for Mt Vernon.

Please take time to read Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-7, which describe the qualifications for elders.

Please answer all questions. If you do not know if the nominee is qualified in an area, mark the "Don't Know" box. This is an acceptable answer and will not be held against the nominee.

All recommendations are to be completed and submitted on this application form.

Qualifications

Is the nominee saved and not a recent convert? yes no don't know

Do you believe he would uphold the Mt Vernon constitution and bylaws in their entirety? yes no don't know

Do you consider him to be spiritually mature, able to make wise, biblically sound decisions? yes no don't know

Is he above reproach, affording nothing in his moral conduct that can be attacked? yes no don't know

Because the elder and his family are to be models for the congregation and have greater expectations than other families in the church, we feel it is wise to choose elders who have continued in their first marriages. The only exceptions to this would be in the case of a deceased spouse or a man who has never been married. Does the nominee meet this requirement? yes no don't know n/a

Does he manage his family well, assuming his responsibility as spiritual leader? yes no don't know n/a

Do his children respect and obey him, not being open to the charge of being wild and disobedient? yes no don't know n/a

Are his children believers? yes no don't know n/a

Is his wife worthy of respect, not a malicious talker, reasonable and trustworthy?
yes no don't know

Do you know him to be sincere, reasonable, self-controlled, and disciplined?
yes no don't know

In dealing with others, is he respectful, not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not quarrelsome, not violent, maintaining a good reputation inside and outside the church? yes no don't know

Is he hospitable and a lover of what is good according to Scripture?
yes no don't know

Is he generous with his money, not focused on the acquisition of wealth, and does he obtain all of his money in an honest and straightforward manner?
yes no don't know

Is he a man known for sound scriptural doctrine, able to encourage those who don't understand, and to refute those who oppose it? yes no don't know

Do you believe he is a man who holds firmly to biblical truth with a clear conscience, no matter the cost to him personally? yes no don't know

Is he able to teach? yes no don't know

Can you recommend that he be considered for elder without any reservations?
yes no

Do you believe he has been sufficiently tested in his Christian walk and has demonstrated that he is fully qualified to serve as an elder according to Scripture? yes no

Signature _____ *Date* _____