

The Biblical qualifications for ELDER are:

(Based on 1 Tim. 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5)

Above Reproach: Is the candidate living in such a way that no one can accuse him of ungodly habits, beliefs or actions?

The Husband of One Wife: Is the candidate above reproach in his relationships with women? If he is married, is he a loving and faithful husband? This qualification does not forbid a *Biblically* divorced man from holding office. The focus is on his purity toward women in thought, word and deed, and his faithfulness to his wife.

Sober-minded: Is he self-controlled in all areas of his life? Does he over-indulge himself in any areas?

Self-Controlled: Is he in good control of his emotions and wise in his decisions?

Respectable: Is he dependable, honorable, and living a life that is in order?

Hospitable: Is he generous and kind to both insiders and outsiders, with an open life and home?

Able to Teach: Does he have a proven ability to communicate Biblical truth in a practical and winsome way (such as teaching, preaching, counseling, exhortation, or small group leadership)?

Not a Drunkard: Does he have any habits that he cannot or does not control, particularly in the area of food and alcohol? This includes overuse, abuse, and addiction.

Gentle, Peaceable; Not Quarrelsome, Violent or Quick-tempered: Does he settle disputes in a timely and Biblical way? Does he avoid fighting, arguing, bullying, and quarreling? Is he a humble man?

Not Self-Willed: Is he one who does not insist upon his own way?

Free from the Love of Money: Is the accumulation of material wealth a primary motivation and object of concern for him, or is he generous and free from the love of money, position, and worldly glory? Is he free being a “respector of persons,” especially of those who are wealthy or prominent in society?

Manages His Household Well with Children Under Control: Does he lead his wife and children well? Does he have the respect of his wife and children? Is his home a lovingly-disciplined and Christ-centered home?

Not a Recent Convert: Does he have a track record that testifies to Christian maturity and growth in grace?

Well Thought Of by Those Outside the Church: Even among non-Christians, is he above reproach regarding his personal life in material and financial matters, as well as in his reputation?

Able to Exhort Others by Sound Doctrine and Refute those who Oppose: Does he know and faithfully study God’s word? Does he have a heart for Biblical truth and is he diligent to seek to preserve the truth? Is he able to discern false doctrine and refute it Biblically?

Does he have a shepherd’s heart? Is his desire to nurture and nourish the members of the church, exercising oversight willingly, not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those under his charge, but being an example to the flock? Or rather does he view the eldership and service on the session like service on a board of trustees?

Every member should be aware of their responsibility to prayerfully nominate those men for office who already demonstrate the biblical qualifications for office.

Elder Nomination Form

(Deadline: February 11, 2018)

I have prayerfully considered the qualifications for the office of elder in Christ's church and would like to offer the name of:

In light of the biblical qualifications in 1 Tim 3 and 5, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5, I have observed his consistency in the following areas

- His personal and family life
- His heart for evangelism and the lost
- His aptitude for teaching in public or private in the following context: _____
- His love for others
- His love for the Word of God
- His faithfulness and heart in serving others
- His faithfulness in worship
- His generosity
- His shepherd's heart

I am confident of his qualifications for office, and I offer his name in nomination and will regularly pray for him and his family should he be elected to serve at Arden Presbyterian Church.

I have spoken with the nominee and he is willing to be nominated for the office.

(please sign your name)

Church Officers: Nomination and Election Procedures Arden Presbyterian Church

The Apostle Paul teaches us that the desire to serve as an officer in the church is a worthy ambition. However he also explains in 1 Timothy 3 the demanding requirements of both offices (elder and deacon). Thus the desire to be a spiritual leader in the church is a good thing, but not everyone is qualified or called to serve as an officer. Those who aspire to office in the church must meet the Biblical standards, and must be examined and tested.

Paul describes the church as the "*household of God...the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth*" (1 Tim. 3:15). Because of the Scripture's high view of the church we must seek only the most qualified men to lead her. Officer nominations and elections have little to do with popularity and much to do with a person's consistent and deepening love for God above all things. This love for the Lord manifests itself in a growing love and servant attitude toward one's neighbor.

The Two Biblical Offices: Elder and Deacon

Elder: The office of elder is one of spiritual oversight and government of the church. In the NT, elders are sometimes referred as shepherds (Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 5:1-4) because they are charged with the care and nurture of the church just as a shepherd cares for his flock. Elders are also responsible for the teaching ministry of the church (1 Tim. 5:17-18). Thus, elders must both understand the truths of God's work, and be able to effectively minister in the body as one who encourages, edifies and when needed, confronts and rebukes.

Deacon: The office of deacon is one of service, extending mercy and sympathy to those in need, especially to those within the church. Deacons are first described in Acts 6:1-6, as those chosen to minister to the physical needs within the church. The spiritual nature of the deacon's service of mercy is no less vital than the elder's shepherding and ruling; the health of the church is inseparably tied to both offices. The duty of the office is threefold: 1) to minister to those in need and distress, 2) to administrate financial issues within the church (receiving and distribution of gifts), and 3) to care for the church's property.

At Arden, men in both offices serve 4-year terms. Elders are elected in even-numbered years and deacons are elected in odd-numbered years.