

Requirements for the lead pastor/teacher at Grace Bible Fellowship Church – Melissa, TX

The Lead Pastor/Teacher at GBFC will serve with an emphasis on expositional preaching of the Word, overseeing the church's primary mission of worship, discipleship, evangelism and missions, and shepherding the spiritual condition of the membership through discipleship, biblical counseling, equipping saints for ministry and leadership development.

We expect, first and foremost, that an elder should love Christ and His church. We expect that he desires to serve his Lord in pastoral ministry and loves the body of Christ to which he is called. We expect that he loves God's Word and is committed to the sufficiency of God's Word for all of life and godliness. We expect that he aims to serve for God's glory alone.

We believe that all elders should be characterized—not to a measure of perfection, but evidentially and increasingly— by the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and other descriptions in the New Testament, such as 1 Peter 5.

1 Timothy 3:2–7 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:6–9 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1 Peter 5:1–3 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Further, we desire that a candidate for the office of Lead Pastor/Teacher at GBFC:

Evidence his qualification to minister God's Word—'able to teach' — by specific expositional, exegetical, and homiletical training (seminary degree, equivalent training, or other affirmations of this qualification).

Evidence his qualification to minister God's Word individually in counseling scenarios by biblical counseling training and qualification (ACBC Certification or equivalent training).

Affirm the GBFC Statement of Faith, Distinctives and By-Laws.

Affirm the sufficiency and authority of Scripture, specifically to speak to counsel given for all/any life issues.

Specific Responsibilities

We believe that all Pastors/Elders bear these responsibilities in the church:

That he will shepherd the flock at GBFC in accordance with all Scriptural requirements.

That he will minister God's Word to the sheep through preaching, teaching, and counseling.

That he will know the sheep, by being involved in personal relationships with each member and family.

That he will care for the sheep by visiting those suffering illness, loss, etc. and by admonishing the idle, encouraging the fainthearted, helping the weak, being patient with them all.

That he will protect the sheep from wolves, both within and without the Church.

That he will be elder qualified and uphold that qualification.

That he will set an example of a godly life, a godly marriage, and a godly family.

That he will fulfill his ministry in a transparent and accountable manner.

That he will raise up the next generation of godly leaders.

That he will oversee the church as a loving shepherd and in accordance with all Scriptural mandates and principles.

That he will lead the church in its commission of making disciples, faithfully holding fast to what must not change, and wisely leading in what can and will change in this commission in short- and long-term ministry planning.

That he will exercise wisdom and discernment in leadership and decision-making.

That he will lead the church through healthy, biblical communication.

We desire that a candidate for the office of Lead Pastor/Teacher at GBFC will fulfill these responsibilities in these specific ways:

As a shepherd, we expect that he will be the primary minister of God's Word to the sheep by filling the pulpit on a regular and on-going basis in our Sunday morning worship services. We also expect that he will teach in discipleship ministries and be available for counseling/one-on-one discipleship ministries.

As a shepherd, we expect that he will regularly participate in the ministry of visiting those suffering illness, loss, etc. alongside our other pastor/elders and deacons.

As an overseer, we expect that he will, along with other elders, oversee regular worship services, including the observation of the ordinances, funerals, and weddings.

As an overseer, we expect that he will equip and lead, encourage, and exhort the deacons and other ministry leaders in the exercise of their responsibilities.

As an overseer, we expect that he will maintain general oversight of ministries focused on the primary mission of the church.

As an overseer, we expect that he will oversee communication to and within the church, including Membership Meetings.

As the lead pastor/elder, that he will be elder qualified and will begin the GBFC elder process immediately upon employment at GBFC.

Salary range \$55K - \$75K

Applicants should send resumes to admin@gbfc.org.
