

ELDERS

Their Role

- Protection
- Correction
- Direction

Protection: Protecting our Biblical Mandates

The Elder's primary role is not limited to that of a governing body alone. Rather, they will serve alongside the Pastors as the spiritual shepherds of Trinity Baptist Church. Additionally, they will seek to mutually sharpen one another as they seek to see the Church strengthened. They maintain church policy and church government while encouraging Purpose Teams and Ministries to pursue their individual goals in a way consistent with the "big picture". All of this is done with a balanced perspective on who God is, how He has revealed Himself in scripture, and what He is calling Trinity to join Him in doing in the world today.

Correction: Guiding Spiritually

As spiritual overseers of the local church, Elders pursue a model of servant leadership as they work in partnership with the staff to develop, carry and communicate the vision of Trinity Baptist Church. In practice, the Elders maintain the spiritual guidelines and "big picture" policies of the church while the Ministry Staff oversee opportunities related to services, programs and the general conduct of church activity. The Elders shall serve as the final appeal in matters of carrying out the intent of the Constitution and By-Laws, and in consultation with the Pastoral Team are empowered to make revisions to the by-laws. They should lead by example, realizing they are accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ for their efforts (Heb. 13:17, Acts 20:24, 28).

Direction: Keeping the Vision

The Elders will meet together at least monthly in order to play a proactive role in the church. Each Elder will be asked to provide intentional spiritual influence for a Purpose Team or Ministry in the church in order to maintain close connections within the church body and facilitate the development and promotion of Trinity's Mission and Values.

The Elders are responsible for evaluating the Pastoral Staff and ensuring that all Ministry Staff are evaluated at least once per year.

The chairman of the Elders is responsible for moderating all church business meetings unless the Board of Elders chooses to appoint a suitable replacement from among the active membership of the church. The secretary of the Elder Board shall serve as the Church Clerk for all church business meetings and will also work with the church office to ensure that an accurate record of church membership is maintained. In the event that the clerk is not available for a meeting the Elder Board shall appoint a suitable replacement from among the active membership of the church.

Their Qualifications

This group is comprised of men upon whom rests a strong desire to serve God and who have demonstrated the gift of leadership and other such qualities as defined in scripture and set forth below. The qualifications for an elder are set forth in the scriptures: 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:1-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. He is to be self-controlled, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, not a recent convert. He has a good

reputation with outsiders, is not overbearing or quick-tempered, loves what is good, is upright, holy, disciplined, above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, respectable, not given to drunkenness, manages his own family well, sees that his children obey him, does not pursue dishonest gain, and keeps hold of deep truths. They shall be chosen from among the active membership and must have been a member of Trinity for at least one year.

How They Are Chosen

Prospective Elders and the filling of vacancies on this board will be chosen by the current Board of Elders after prayerful discussion and a unanimous decision affirming their giftedness and calling. He shall be presented at a duly called church meeting for a majority vote of affirmation by a quorum of the active membership of the church.

Number and Term of Service

There will be a minimum of three Elders at any time (not including the Senior Pastor who will also serve as an Elder). An Elder is called and committed to a lifestyle of service. Each Elder is asked to serve a term of three years. After two consecutive terms, Elders are asked to take one year off from formal service. Each Elder's term of service is renewable after prayerful consideration from the Elder Board. At the beginning of each new term of service, Elders shall be presented at a duly called church meeting for a majority vote of affirmation by the active members of the church.

Life changes, retirement, or an ongoing personal situation may keep an Elder from performing the functions required of this call. In this event the Elders may designate him as an Elder Emeritus. Although an Elder Emeritus will not serve as a voting member of the Elder Board he will be available as a resource of prayer, wisdom and input and is welcomed as a contributing member to this leadership body.

Accountability and Dismissal

Elders are accountable to God first and foremost. They are mutually accountable to each other and should always seek to utilize God's Holy Spirit speaking into their lives through one another. Elders and Pastors are mutually accountable to one another for the purpose of holding true to the vision cast for Trinity Baptist Church. Elders are also responsible to the congregation as they seek to lead through example and godly servanthood.

The dismissal of an Elder because he is not fulfilling the responsibilities and/or qualifications of an Elder is the responsibility of the Board of Elders and Senior Pastor and will be modeled after scripture's guidance (Matt. 18:15-20, 2 Cor. 13:1, 1 Tim. 5:19) and accomplished by a majority decision of these persons.