

Elder FAQ

We have begun the process of selecting elders. Given the fact that there are many new members who may not have been a part of a process like this, we thought it would be wise to include a series of responses to frequently asked questions. If you have a specific question or comment, there's a link to submit it to the current elders below.

Why are we selecting new elders?

Given the example of establishing an eldership in the New Testament ([Acts 14:23](#); [1 Timothy 5:17](#); [Titus 1:5](#)), we think it's healthy to regularly have a process to identify, evaluate, and install servant leaders in our congregation. Our goal is to complete this process about every two years.

Are the current elders resigning?

No, while an elder can resign at any time, our current group of elders have elected to remain serving. Any potential elders will be in addition to the group already serving.

Are there term limits for elders?

There is no example of term limits in the New Testament. However, from time to time, an elder will, for various reasons, decide to step down.

How does an elder actually get selected?

The goal is to find men from within the congregation who fit the Scriptural qualities for elders *and* have broad congregational support. The "broad congregational support" is a two-part process.

First is congregational nominations. Specific people tend to surface among the nominations. When the same name appears repeatedly, it indicates that many in our congregation consider these men a potential fit. Two, once nominees and their wives have been interviewed and approved by the current elders, their names are announced to the congregation, and everyone is given an opportunity to voice any concerns. Barring any concerns and upon agreement of their Scriptural fitness and confirmation of their willingness to serve, they will be asked to serve as elders and installed on December 3rd.

What if there was a serious problem with an elder?

Our prayer and goal is that those who serve in this capacity have the character to humbly serve and use their influence in a gracious manner. That is one of the reasons the process for

nominating anyone involves Scriptural qualities and congregational support. However, if there were an instance where an elder was not living up to this calling, it's crucial that members of our congregation bring that to our attention. There is even a Scriptural process and precedent for this. Paul wrote in [1 Timothy 5:19, 20](#) "**19** Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning."

What about some questions related to specific qualifications listed in those passages? For example, the New Testament references qualities involving marriage status, parenting, and gender.

These are important and often delicate questions. There is no requirement that everyone agree on specific definitions and expectations. For example, when Paul writes that an elder must have children who believe (**Titus 1:6**), he leaves the definition vague, which raises several questions. *Does this mean that all his children must be believers? What if they're so young that we don't yet know what they believe? What if a child believed but, as an adult, walked away from their faith?*

Sincere followers of Jesus have arrived at various conclusions about nearly all of the elder qualities listed in the New Testament. We encourage people to consider, pray, and make their own determinations about who they believe would exemplify the qualities in the New Testament. If you have questions about specific qualifications and how the current elders determine some of these matters, please don't hesitate to submit a question below.

Submit a Question - You can contact the elders at the addresses below. [Or you can submit a question here](#). An elder will reach out as soon as possible.

Current Elders - elders@woodburychurch.org (will send an email to all the current elders)

Bruce Goodwin - vettomin@gmail.com

Dale Hawley - hawley@uwstout.edu

Paul Maynard - pmaynard@deloitte.com

Leon Ross - leonross1941@gmail.com

Steve Countryman - steve@woodburychurch.org

Travis Edwards - travisanna96@gmail.com