

# Biblical Basis for Elder Selection

The elder selection process is governed by scripture and based on the [MFBC Constitution & Statement of Faith](#) Article V, Section A, Parts 1 and 2.

Elders are charged with teaching, shepherding and leading the church; it is the elders who are accountable to God on behalf of the Church (1 Peter 5:1-4) Each elder must be an active male member of this church. He shall be in accord with and submit to this constitution.

## Elder Qualifications

- a. Aspires to the office of overseer; exercising oversight voluntarily and eagerly, according to the will of God (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2)
- b. Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- c. Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- d. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- e. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- f. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- g. Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- h. Able to teach; he can exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- i. Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- j. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- k. Not a brawler; not contentious; not soon angry, quick-tempered or violent. (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- l. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for dishonest profit (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:6)
- m. Rules well his own house; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- n. Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- o. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- p. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- q. Loves what is good (Titus 1:8)
- r. Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- s. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- t. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

## Elder Selection and Authority

Elders are called by God, appointed by the elders, and affirmed by the membership for the work of oversight in the local church.

The elders shall identify men with a desire to serve as elders and will examine their qualifications. If the elders determine it necessary to identify a man from outside the church membership to fill a specific ministry need in the church, an appropriate examination by the elders must be done to select the right man. Potential elders shall subject themselves to examination by the elders, abide

by any recommendations, and upon affirmation faithfully execute their responsibility before God. The period of the examination shall be determined by the elders and shall include input from the congregation and intentional discipleship in different areas of Christian life and ministry.(1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2, Acts 20:28, Acts 14:23)

If the candidate demonstrates biblical qualifications, he will be appointed by the elders to the task of eldership. The man will then be affirmed publicly by the membership and the laying on of hands. (1 Timothy 5:22, 1 Timothy 4:14)

The number of elders will be the number of male members who meet all of the qualifications. In the event that fewer than three men are qualified and willing to serve as an elder, a primary goal of this church shall be to secure a second and third elder.

Elders may serve as long as they desire to serve as an elder, continue to meet the qualifications of an elder, and continue to function as an elder according to the Word of God. Each year, the elders will evaluate their life and ministry and be given the opportunity to remove themselves from serving as elders.