

Role of an Elder

THE ROLE OF AN ELDER AT NAPC

ELDERS HELP FULFILL THE MISSION OF NAPC BY:

Leading its members towards faithfulness to the Word of God [1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2];

Protecting NAPC from false teachers and false doctrine [Acts 20:17, 28-3; Acts 15:6]

Encouraging and **disciplining** its members in sound doctrine [1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13-17; Titus 1:9; 1 Peter 5:1-2]

Praying for the church and its members [James 5:14; Acts 6:4]

Teaching and **preaching** the Word in both word and deed [1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9]

Elders accomplish this by fulfilling the following responsibilities and requirements:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER:

Personal Spiritual growth-Sanctification

- Regular, ongoing personal and family prayer and Bible study
- Regular worship attendance
- Regular prayer service attendance
- Generously give to NAPC
- Small group participation during church-wide small group studies in the Spring and Fall
- Grow into a "missionary lifestyle." Increasingly live out your faith and share your faith where you live and work

Leadership

- Support, encourage and hold the pastor accountable to leading the congregation in the mission and vision established by the Session
- Actively participate in or lead at least one NAPC program
- Learn and practice the EOS way of leading meetings, setting goals, raising issues, etc.
- Assist in new officer examinations
- Assist in leading worship
- Serve communion every other month

REQUIREMENTS OF AN ELDER:

- Attend and contribute to each Session meeting, typically on the first Wednesday of the month
**Note: if you are unable to attend at least 9 out of 11 meetings during the year, you should not agree to serve as an elder*
- Participate in a minimum of 1 New Member Class and subsequent 1:1 interviews with potential new members annually.
- Attend the annual leader's retreat
- Lead an area/committee of ministry, develop a team to help you, and meet monthly to complete the work of the committee
- Affirm and serve as a resource on the NAPC Belief Statement
- By God's grace, conform to the character description listed below in the Scriptures.

If you have concerns about these descriptions, **please** be candid about this during the nomination process.

THE CHARACTER AND CALLING OF AN ELDER:

Titus 1:7-9

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, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 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 Timothy 3:4-5

He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?

FROM THE PC(USA) BOOK OF ORDER: G-2.0301 RULING ELDER DEFINED

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders . . . are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with teaching elders, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships . . .

APPROXIMATE TIME COMMITMENT: 15-20 HOURS PER MONTH