

## **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 20:17-32; Acts 15:1-11]

**ENCOURAGING** and **DISCIPLINING** its members in sound doctrine [1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:10-17; 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 various settings [1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9]

*Elders accomplish this by fulfilling the following spiritual commitments and requirements:*

## **SPIRITUAL COMMITMENTS OF AN ELDER:**

### **PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION**

- Regular, ongoing personal and family prayer and Bible study
- Regular worship attendance
- Generously give to NAPC as part of an overall commitment to tithing towards the Kingdom of God
- 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**

- A commitment to “Shepherding the Flock” at NAPC and maintaining unity in the body
- Care for the most vulnerable of the flock and pursuing those sheep that are straying
- Accountability to each other and to the Scriptures
- Wisdom to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet needs in specific situations
- Discernment to distinguish between truth and error, good and evil, right and wrong
- Teaching to clearly explain, and apply the Word of God
- Understand and be able to communicate Reformed doctrine as expressed by the Westminster Confession of Faith
- Active, consistent participation in the life of our church
- Envision the future of the church along with a humble heart to serve

## **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 1:1 interviews with potential new members annually
- Attend the annual leader's retreat
- Participate on a committee of ministry and meet monthly to complete the work of the committee
- Support, encourage and hold the pastor accountable to leading the congregation in the mission and vision established by the Session
- Assist in leading worship
- Serve communion
- 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.*

***Time commitment: an average of 25-30 hours per month is anticipated.***

## **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, <sup>8</sup> but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup> 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 3:1-7**

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup> Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup> He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, <sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? <sup>6</sup> He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

### **1 PETER 5:1-5**

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: <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."