

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 **MINISTERING** the Word - as a must, in the home, in corporate worship, and as opportunities allow, within the ministries (internal or external) of NAPC. [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
- Tithing - under normal circumstances, anyone who serves as a ruling elder must commit to giving at least 10% of his/her gross income back to God, through NAPC primarily, as well as other ministries that advance His kingdom if desired. There may be an exceptional situation that may prevent giving the full tithe in a given year.
- 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 two committees of ministry and meet monthly to complete the work of the committee
- Support, encourage and hold the pastors 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, 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 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ 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? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ 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: ² 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; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ 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."