



ELDER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Elders are elected by the congregation for three-year terms and are traditionally elected in groups representing one-third of the number of Elders on Session. Elders are elected at the Annual Meeting (typically in March of each year), and ordained (typically in April); training begins in March or April, and active service begins in May of each year.

Elders serve as spiritual overseers of the church, determining church policy, exercising leadership, governance, and discipline while acting as shepherds to the congregation, setting an example for all. Along with the other service that they offer, Elders are expected to uphold, affirm and explain as required the church and its mission and vision. Serving as an Elder is a rewarding and demanding calling that requires Christ-centered commitment, ongoing prayer, humility, and discernment.

Elder Orientation and Monthly Commitments

- Initial training/orientation meetings (typically in the March/April timeframe) & an annual retreat
- A monthly Session meeting usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm with dinner together and lasting 2-3 hours total, not including pre-reading the department minutes and upcoming meeting's discussion materials
- Praying regularly for the church

Elder Department & Committee Leadership

- Acting as a chairperson and liaison to a church department or ministry through meetings and timely communication between the department and Session
- Department, committee, and ministry meetings and follow-up can take 1-5 hours per week depending on the season and the ministry needs.

General Elder Commitments

- Serving communion on the first Sunday of the month and on other special occasions
- Periodically interviewing new candidates for membership
- Supporting the governance and programs of the church – attending all congregational meetings, participating in all-church programs and initiatives, and supporting special meetings

Qualifications to serve as an Elder: As an Elder candidate we would ask that one:

1. be able to affirm trust in Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One should also be able to affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to His Church,
2. be able to affirm the tenets of the Reformed Faith,
3. be above reproach and meet Scriptural standards (e.g., 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)
4. be a member of First Pres,
5. be involved in the life of the church and support First Pres financially,
6. complete a Leadership Application which includes a Statement of Faith.