

Elder Board Member Qualifications and Responsibilities

(As found in the MapleRidge Church By-Laws)

Composition and Calling:

The congregation governs the church through the Elder Board. The Elder Board shall be composed of both Lay Elders and Vocational Elders. The Elder Board shall be composed of the number of Elders determined by the needs of the ministry and by call and qualification of those who have been prepared to become elders in the church. There shall be at least three times as many Lay Elders as Vocational Elders. Candidates for Eldership may present themselves to the Elder Board through any elder or may be approached by the Elder Board. The Elder Board shall meet with each candidate to discuss their preparedness, qualifications, and the duties of elders. If the candidate and Elder Board agree that they should be considered for this office, their name shall be submitted to the congregation for its approval.

Qualifications:

Elders and candidates for the Elder Board shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. Relevant texts include I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.

Responsibilities:

The fundamental responsibility of the elders is to devote themselves to prayer and the Word. The Elder Board is responsible for governing the Church, overseeing the teaching of the Word, and tending the flock of God in this Church. Other responsibilities of the Elder Board shall include: examining prospective members, overseeing the process of Church discipline, examining potential candidates for office, scheduling and providing a moderator for business meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official Church business, overseeing the work of the Deacon Board by empowering and appointing church agents and committees, overseeing the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership for the work of the ministry, casting vision and teaching the whole counsel of God.

Organization:

The Elder Board shall organize itself however it determines to be best to achieve the mission of the Church. The elders shall be equal in authority but may specialize in function. The elders must meet at least once per month. Meetings of the Elder Board may be held at any location and may be conducted by means of electronic communication in which the elders may simultaneously hear each other. Other meetings of the Elder Board may be held immediately upon notice. A quorum for meetings of the Elder Board is defined as at least one-half of the Lay Elders plus one-half of the Vocational Elders. The Elder Board shall annually select its Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from among its Lay Elders.