



WHAT IS AN ELDER?

Elders of Summersville Christian Church are men who protect the Gospel as shepherds and provide an oversight for His church through prayer & teaching.

Elder Qualifications

Teach & Lead (1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9; Heb. 13:17).

An Elder is to minister the Word to other Christians. Examples of this service within the church could be through the Welcome (Call to Worship), Bible Studies, small groups, Sunday School teaching and the pulpit. An elder must be able to explain the Bible and provide instruction and counsel to those who need direction. He is to train younger men on Biblical doctrines and encourage the alignment of their beliefs to Restoration principles. An Elder needs to know the beliefs of Summersville Christian Church, and articulate their derivation from Scripture.

Protect-Shepherding-Administer (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5,7, 1 Peter 5:2).

An Elder is to guard the integrity of the church's doctrine, teaching, and witness. His ability to do this is dependent on his relationship not just with God, but also with church members, and even guests. Intentional contact outside the church walls impact these human relationships significantly. The more an Elder is transparent and engaged, the more the church will trust the Elder.

Model (1 Pet 5:2; 1 Tim 3:2-7; Tit 1:6-9; 1 Tim 4:16).

An Elder must be morally above reproach and personally disciplined in word and deed. His daily speech and life decisions should reflect spiritual maturity, illustrating the Christian attitudes and behaviors demanded by Scripture. His working relationship with the pastor and other elders should be characterized by a modest and cooperative spirit.

Pray (Acts 6:4).

God makes Elders; The church affirms the Elder. An elder must be a man of prayer - a prayer warrior who regularly advocates for the Church. Fearing God rather than men, he must be courageous, boldly speaking the truth with a spirit of love. He must be willing to discuss the struggles and sins that plague men specifically and could cripple their leadership.

How a prospective Elder would be expected to serve in God's church

Focus & Understanding

- ★ Serve with gospel-driven humility & servant leadership
- ★ Create unity within the church leadership & the congregation
- ★ Oversee the flock & provide accountability to each other.
- ★ Be transparent, willing to discuss personal and family matters, pray for one another, confess sin and discouragement, and rejoice in each other's blessings.
- ★ Be discreet, keeping matters discussed in elder or leadership meetings confidential.

Expected Areas of Service

- Teach from pulpit, classroom, small group
- Train up men
- Prayer Meetings - twice weekly on Sundays & Wednesdays
- 1-2 Meetings a month - board meetings once a month, elder meetings as deemed necessary
- Elders Dinner with wives - opportunities to acknowledge essential role of elders' wives, team-building, prayer for families
- Elders Retreat - scheduled as deemed necessary
- Commission Sunday - held during financial report first Sunday in February

Relationship between elder and deacon functions *(Acts 6:1-6)*

1. Elders should be careful to keep administrative matters from dominating their agenda. The work of the elders can easily be overwhelmed by a church's unending stream of seemingly urgent physical matters, yet this is not the elders' main task. Elders should delegate responsibilities to faithful servants (including deacons) and trust them to capably handle such matters.
2. Elders should model good communication. Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." Elders should seek counsel from the deacons and others before making most, but not all, decisions. Lines of communication should be open between the elders and the deacons, even on those decisions which are the sole purview of the elders.
3. Elders should be diligent in their efforts to build trust with the deacons. As the deacons' trust and confidence in their elders grows, the church will enjoy the unity that defeats the evil one's divisive ways.

The main difference between an elder and a deacon is a difference of gifts and calling, not character. (1 Cor. 12:7) Each person is to use his gift to discourage division and edify Christ's body.