

ELDER NOMINATION

So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Acts 14:23

Name of Elder Nominee _____

Your Name: _____ Your Phone # or email _____

**Before you complete this page, please review pages 2-4:
The "Installation of Elders" and "The Qualifications of an Elder"**

Once you have completed page 1, please bring it to the church office, or give it to one of the current elders, or drop it in one of the "Connection Card" receptacles in the worship Center.

Please provide your reasoning and observations for your nomination.

1. What evidence has he given of his ability to lead the church under the authority of Christ?

2. What evidence has he given of his ability to care for the body of Christ?

3. What evidence has he given of his ability to teach the Word?

4. What evidence has he displayed of his modeling the character of Christ?

Can you recommend that he be considered for Elder at FBC without any reservations? __ Y __ N

Do you believe that he will uphold the Vision and the Mission of FBC in their entirety? __ Y __ N

Do you believe that this is a man that the people of FBC will respect and follow? __ Y __ N

Signature

Date

THE INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

The organization of a local church consists of bishops (elders), deacons, and members (saints).

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Philippians 1:1

THE WORK OF ELDERS

Elders are to be examples to the flock:

...nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock... 1 Peter 5:3

Elders are to take oversight of the church:

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly... 1 Peter 5:2

Elders are to take heed (care for) the flock:

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28

Elders are to protect the flock:

For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Acts 20:29-30

Elders are to exhort the unruly, and stop the insubordinate in the church:

...holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped... Titus 1:9-11

Elders are responsible for order in the church:

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you... Titus 1:5

THE SELECTION OF ELDERS

All procedures concerning the identification, examination, and installation of elders must be bathed in patient prayer. The church and its leaders must pray for spiritual insight, wisdom, guidance, and unbiased judgement.

Since the qualifications for an elder are to be taken seriously by the local congregation, it follows that a formal, public examination of a prospective elder's qualifications is necessary.

But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as [elders] (see v 8, likewise). 1 Timothy 3:10

The current elders, along with a representative group of deacons, acting as the chief representatives and stewards of God's household, will formally interview and examine any candidate for elder. That group will determine whether to present the candidate to the church for a time of further examination. Finally, the approved candidate will be presented to the church for appointment as an elder.

Once a man is appointed as an elder he serves as long as he desires, functions in the work, and remains scripturally qualified.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

There are two key passages that deal with the qualifications of elders:

1 Timothy 3:1-6

¹This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop [ELDER], he desires a good work. ²A bishop [ELDER] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Titus 1:5-10

⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷For a bishop [ELDER] must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. ¹⁰For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision...

A CLOSER LOOK: *The elder must...*

...**be blameless**. He is to have a life that is “above reproach;” to be free from any offensive or disgraceful blight of character or conduct; to have a clean moral and spiritual reputation.

...**be temperate**. He exercises self-control. He is clear-headed, and not prone to rash behavior.

...**be sober-minded**. He is a person of mental and emotional stability. He exercises common sense; and has a mind that can think clearly and spiritually about important matters; he is able to display a balanced judgement.

...**be of good behavior**. He is respectable and dignified, displaying orderly conduct. He has a well-behaved life. It is a life of integrity in every aspect.

...**be hospitable**. He has a “love of strangers.” He is willing to assist others and come to their aid, even those whom he does not personally know, and makes time for others.

...**be able to teach / hold fast the faithful Word**. This entails three key elements: a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a readiness to teach, and an ability to communicate clearly. An elder is able to discern and confront false doctrine. He has the ability to exhort and encourage others based upon Scripture.

...**not given to wine**. He is not a drunkard. He does not abuse any substance that would bring shame upon himself or reproach upon the church.

...not violent. He is not prone to highly emotional interpersonal conflicts. He is not easily irritated or ill-tempered. He is able to calmly and rationally deal with heated arguments and tense situations.

...not be greedy for money. He does not have a divided passion, but displays a preeminent desire for the things of God. He is not distracted by a pursuit of material things. He is content with the provisions of God. Money is not his motivation for service.

...be gentle. He is “fitting, suitable, fair, reasonable, kind, mild, and equitable.” He does not retaliate when wronged, but returns love for evil.

...not be quarrelsome. He is not contentious nor quick-tempered, but slow to anger. He does not lash out at others, but is peaceable and gentle. He is a peacemaker, able to bring about reconciliation. He does not have a divisive nor a critical spirit.

...rule the house well / have faithful children. He has an observed ability to keep things under control in his home and with his family, especially with any children at home. (This does not mean that the elder *must* have children; just as “the husband of one wife” does not mean the elder *must* be married.)

...not be a novice. He is not a new convert to the faith, but is one who has demonstrated, over time, great spiritual maturity.

...have a good testimony among those outside (unbelievers). He has a good reputation within the community outside the church, and an exemplary and unhypocritical lifestyle when measured by unbelievers.

...not be self-willed. He is not arrogant. He doesn't constantly insist on having his own way. He is not inconsiderate of other's opinions and feelings. He is able to get along with others.

...be a lover of what is good. He has the ability, and desire, to appreciate goodness in others. He encourages others toward good behavior.

...be just. He is upright or righteous—living according to God's Word. He is able to make fair and just decisions for the church.

...be holy. He is devout—wholly devoted to God and His Word. He is dedicated to glorifying the name of God regardless of what others might think.