

Article VI Elders

Spiritual Role

The elders are to covenant together with the congregation and the Lead Pastor for the development of the spiritual life of the church. These men and their spouses are to be the primary protectors and encouragers of a positive spiritual climate within the church body. They serve in neither a governing nor a corporate capacity, but a spiritual capacity to create and maintain stability in potentially negative situations.

Definition

The elders are men/women who function within the local church but are not necessarily members of the pastoral staff of the church. They are men/women who meet the Biblical qualifications for elders and function in that calling, but may derive their income from sources other than the church. The number of elders shall be determined by the Lead Pastor.

Functions

1. The functions of the elders are:
2. Maintain and teach by living a godly, Christian lifestyle.
3. Provide a prayer shield for the pastoral team and the local church.
4. Defend, protect and support the integrity of the pastoral team and the local church.
5. Pray for the sick.
6. Organize, implement and execute licensing and ordination requirements and procedures.
7. Mediate disputes among the brethren.
8. Counsel.

Biblical Qualifications for Elders

“An Elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an elder is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:6-9 NIV)

Article VI Deacons

Spiritual Role

The Bible teaches that Deacons lead by serving (Acts 6). The qualifications for Elders and Deacons are the same regarding an individual's character, but they differ in aptitude. The Elders are to be able to teach while the Deacons are to be able and proved as servants. Deacons function to serve the Lead Pastor, Elders, and Congregation in whatever capacity deemed necessary by the Lead Pastor.

Definition

Deacons are men who function within the local church but are not necessarily members of the Pastoral staff. The Lead Pastor and Elders shall determine the number of Deacons who will serve based on the current or future needs of the ministry.

Biblical Qualifications

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:8-13 NKJV)