

Overview of Eldership at Emmanuel Church

Elders are Biblically described as those “watching over,” “protecting,” and “directing” a local body of believers. Therefore, Elders serve as the administrative body of the church and work with the Lead Pastor in setting the direction of the church and protecting the doctrinal integrity of Emmanuel.

The Elder Council shall consist of at least three (3) and no more than seven (7) men in addition to the Lead Pastor. All elders must meet the qualifications described in 1Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. If the number of men found to meet these qualifications is less than three (3), then only those who are qualified will be allowed to serve.

The primary functions of the Elders are:

- (1)** To provide spiritual leadership and accountability for both the staff and the church.
 - (2)** To ensure that the church is fulfilling the Great Commission by monitoring and evaluating the church's progress in its fulfillment.
 - (3)** To guide the church in holding to correct doctrine and protect it from doctrinal error.
 - (4)** To serve as liaison between the Lead Pastor and the church.
 - (5)** Participate in the selection of the Lead Pastor and stand responsible for the rebuke or dismissal of the Lead Pastor in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18 and 1Timothy 5:17-21.
 - (6)** To serve as a facilitating body along with the Lead Pastor in terms of church discipline.
 - (7)** To use the Biblical model of eldership to lead, guide, and direct the church and its resources.
- Each Elder must possess the qualifications described in 1Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Application Process

There are two parts to the application process:

1. Elder Nomination

Notice of the beginning of the nomination process shall be given in writing to the membership of Emmanuel. Nominations shall be received from the membership for one month from the date of notice.

This elder nomination form is to be completed by a church member nominating another church member from the active membership of Emmanuel Church for the position of elder.

Once a member has decided that they want to nominate someone, we ask that they do so privately and prayerfully without consulting anyone other than the man being nominated.

The nomination is to be completed and submitted to the Elder Council within the one month time frame for reception of nominations.

The elder council will send an acknowledgement of receipt of the nomination to both the person nominating and the nominee.

The Nominees will be sent an Elder Application form to fill out and submit by a predetermined deadline.

The Elder Council will review the nominations carefully to ensure the nominees meet the qualifications and ensure that the nominees would agree to serve if selected.

The Elder Council will prepare a list of approved men to be submitted to the active, voting, members for selection at a business meeting. This list shall be sent to every active member at least one month in advance of the business meeting. During this month every member will have the opportunity to contact the Elder Council if they know of a reason that any name on the list should not be considered

Each Elder nominee shall be voted on separately by a secret ballot and must receive at least eighty-five (85%) percent of the votes cast to be elected.

The names of the new elders elected by the members at a business meeting will be published in appropriate church publications as soon as possible after their election

2. Elder Application

After the elder nomination form has been completed, the elder nominee will also be contacted by the Elder Council. The nominee will then complete the elder application and submit it the Elder Council.

Scriptural Basis of Elder Qualifications

The passages in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, (qualifications) and 1 Peter 5:1-7 (general job description) form the basis for eldership.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Titus 1:5-9

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. 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 overseer 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.

1 Peter 5:1-7

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Elder Nomination Form

Please complete this form and email as attachment to info@emmanuelchurch.tv, place it in the mail postmarked no later than October 17, 2019 or drop it off at the church office by October 20th, 2019.

Name of Elder Nominee:

Your Name:

Are you an active member of Emmanuel Church? ___ yes ___no

Thank you for taking time to nominate someone to serve as an elder. This is an important position for our church; one that is not to be taken lightly. As such, we ask that you prayerfully complete this nomination form and evaluate each question honestly based on your knowledge of the nominee's qualifications for the office of elder at Emmanuel

Please take time to read I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-7, which describe the qualifications for elders.

Please answer all questions. If you do not know if the nominee is qualified in an area, mark "Don't Know". This is an acceptable answer and will not be held against the nominee.

All recommendations are to be completed and submitted to the Elder Council.

Qualifications

Is the nominee saved and not a recent convert? ___yes ___no ___don't know

Do you consider him to be spiritually mature, able to make wise, biblically sound decisions? ___yes ___no ___don't know

Is he above reproach, affording nothing in his moral conduct that can be attacked? ___yes ___no ___don't know

Because the elder and his family are to be models for the congregation and have greater expectations than other families in the church, we feel it is wise to choose elders who have continued in their first marriages. The only exceptions to this would be in the case of a deceased spouse or a man who has never been married. Does the nominee meet this requirement? ___yes ___no ___don't know

Do you know if the nominee has served the Emmanuel congregation faithfully?

___ yes ___no ___don't know

Does he manage his family well, assuming his responsibility as spiritual leader? ___yes ___no ___don't know ___n/a

Does he appear to raise his children to respect and obey him, not being open to the charge of being wild and disobedient? ___yes ___no ___don't know ___n/a

Are his children believers? ___yes ___no ___don't know ___n/a

Is his wife worthy of respect, not a malicious talker, reasonable and trustworthy? ___yes ___no ___don't know – n/a

Do you know him to be sincere, reasonable, self-controlled, and disciplined? ___yes ___no ___don't know

In dealing with others, is he respectful, not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not quarrelsome, not violent, maintaining a good reputation inside and outside the church? __yes __no __don't know

Is he hospitable and a lover of what is good according to Scripture? __yes __no __don't know

Is he generous with his money, not focused on the acquisition of wealth, and does he obtain all of his money in an honest and straightforward manner? __yes __no __don't know

Is he a man known for sound scriptural doctrine, able to encourage those who don't understand, and to refute those who oppose it? __yes __no __don't know

Do you believe he is a man who holds firmly to biblical truth with a clear conscience, no matter the cost to him personally? __yes __no __don't know

Is he able to teach? __yes __no __don't know

Can you recommend that he be considered for elder without any reservations? __yes __no

Have you seen him demonstrate humility and a servant's heart in the positions in which he has served at Emmanuel? __yes __no __don't know

Do you believe he would uphold the Emmanuel constitution in its entirety? __yes __no _

Do you believe he has been sufficiently tested in his Christian walk and has demonstrated that he is fully qualified to serve as an elder according to Scripture? __yes __no

Signature

Date

Your Best Phone Number

E-mail