



effectiveelders

Elder Covenant Template

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[Church Name]
Elder Covenant
[Date Effective]

According to 1 Corinthians 4.1-2 and Titus 1.7 an elder sees himself, and is seen by others, as a steward of God. An elder who seeks this “noble task” (1 Tim. 3.1) serves the church body (Acts 20.17-31). The purpose of this covenant is to ensure that the elder team of [Church Name] serve as men of unshakeable Christian character and commitment, advancing the vision and mission of [Church Name] to [congregation’s vision/mission statement].

Statement of Faith and Belief

As elders of [Church Name] we believe in, covenant to, adhere to and teach the statement of faith and beliefs, and the plan of salvation, as described in the church’s governing documents.

As elders of [Church Name], we believe that in differences of opinion there is freedom. Though there is freedom, we believe that a spirit of consensus, unanimity and unity is essential for the health of the church body. We will consistently seek to work in and toward consensus, and when an issue and decision cannot be resolved in consensus, we will continue studying, praying, and discussing until unanimity can be reached.

The Life of an Elder

As an elder at [Church Name], I covenant to be accountable to my fellow elders, open to critique, question, challenge and confrontation when necessary. I will, in all humility, openness and candor, complete a thorough, written self-evaluation on an annual basis and discuss my evaluation with my fellow elders. I understand eldership to be a calling of service, humility, and a role of sacrifice. I commit to leading by example as I give my time, my relational and emotional investment, and to an appropriate extent, my finances. I understand the role of an elder is never for the sake of imposing my will or getting my way in the affairs of the congregation.

Character

As an elder at [Church Name] I commit to...

- Be a Jesus-like example; though frail and flawed, I will depend on the strength of Holy Spirit to set an example that the congregation may, in good conscience, follow (Romans 7.6, 7.21-25, 8.9, 1 Corinthians 11.1, 1 Peter 5.1-5)
- Possess and demonstrate commitment to following Jesus (Mark 12.30)
- Have a spirit of reaching out, freely sharing Jesus and His place in my life (Matthew 28.19-20)
- Lead a life worthy of the calling of Jesus in all I say and do (Ephesians 4.1)
- Give God my best (Colossians 3.23)
- Be a positive influence on others (Proverbs 15.30)
- Practice biblical stewardship (Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 1 Corinthians 16.2)
- Practice appropriate discretion/confidentiality (Proverbs 3.21, 5.2, 8.12)
- Give my personal family proper attention (Deuteronomy 6.4-9, Ephesians 6.1-4)
- Complete a written self-evaluation on an annual basis to be reviewed by my fellow elders.
- Resign at the request of my fellow elders if, at any time, I exhibit conduct or give teaching contrary to biblical qualifications and/or truth. (Should I refuse to resign, I understand that I may be removed from the eldership of [Church Name] by the consensus decision of my peers.)

The Work of an Elder

As an elder at [Church Name], I covenant to pursue these primary responsibilities, trusting that staff and other key volunteers are capable of managing the congregation's interests in other areas:

Prayer

(Acts 6.1-7)

- Elders are intentionally and persistently involved in prayer with and for the congregation.
- Elders make themselves readily and visibly available for intercessory prayer, especially during corporate worship gatherings.
- Elders will, with time and by consistent example, develop a reputation among the believers of the congregation as being devoted to prayer.

Preaching: The Ministry of the Word

(Acts 6.1-7)

- Elders must foster an environment of continual learning, modeling biblical literacy for the congregation.
- Elders must know the Word and live the Word.
- Elders must give close attention to what is preached in the congregation.
- Elders must be involved in some way in teaching (i.e. preaching when the minister is on vacation, leading a small group, etc.).

Policy

(Acts 15.19-22)

- Elders continually review, evaluate and set the direction of the church. It will be the responsibility of the eldership to effectively communicate the vision to the church at large.
- Staff will submit proposed policies to the elders for review and editing when necessary. Elders will approve the final draft of all policies that will then be added to the congregation's Policy and Procedures Manual. The elders will oversee the compiling of a written Policy and Procedures Manual which will provide parameters for the operation of the church and will empower the staff to make decisions consistent within the established policy and procedure guidelines.

Protection

(Acts 20.28-31, Titus 3.10)

- Elders must take the lead in overseeing and administering church discipline.
- Elders are to be aware of people "causing division" in the church and intervene as necessary.
- Elders protect believers spiritually from false beliefs.

Pastoral Care

(Acts 6.1-7, 20.28)

- Elders are involved in providing pastoral care in the area of spiritual matters, which includes, but is not limited to: caring for emotional, spiritual, relational, and even physical needs of people, as well as administering church discipline when deemed necessary.
- Elders minister pastorally to people who are ill, shut-in, spiritually inactive, grieving, etc. To that end, while elders may not be able to directly be involved in all such needs, elders are visibly present in the lives of people, whether that is in the church, in their homes, at hospitals, etc.

This is my commitment as a serving-leader at [Church Name].

Signature

Date