

## Elders Qualification List

### Prerequisites:

1. Must be a member of Seattle New Life Fellowship.
2. Must have been a worshiper at New Life for a minimum of five years.
3. Must have been serving New Life Fellowship consistently for at least two years consecutively.
4. Must actively have served as a Community Group leader or as a Core Team Member in a New Life Fellowship ministry.
5. Faithful worshiper of God and with the New Life family (Worship lifestyle inside and outside of church).
6. Must show that they have a missional lifestyle by either supporting a missionary/missions agency or by going on a mission trip.
7. Must show faithful giving (time, gifts, heart and financial) to expand the kingdom of God (Biblical Generosity).

### Training:

1. Be available for 12 training sessions over the course of several months - 2 hour a piece (Theology, Polity and Leadership)
2. Elder's Retreat Participation
3. Elder's Weekly Monday Gatherings Participation
4. Elder's Monthly Business Meeting Participation
5. Continue serving in Core Ministry as a Deacon
6. Attend ECO National Gathering in January/February

### Time Commitment:

1. Annual Elder's Retreat
2. Annually attend ECO National Gathering
3. Monthly Business Meeting
4. Weekly Gathering
5. Regular Participation in normal church activities, (i.e. Saturday Morning Prayer, Sunday Worship Service, and Community Groups)

### Characteristics and Skills:

1. Spiritual maturity
2. To expound and exhort sound doctrine
3. Robust interpersonal skills
4. Shepherding
5. Humility
6. Confidentiality
7. Ability to work within a team

### Spiritual Gifting

1. Discernment

The gift of discernment is the ability to know between almost right and right. Knowing between good and evil, right and wrong and also the ability to discern the spirits. 1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:1-4, Matthew 16:21-23

- a. Differentiate truth from error, right from wrong
- b. Recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, prophetic message, or interpretation
- c. Spiritual sensitivity to hear from God

## 2. Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the divine empowerment to apply spiritual truth effectively to meet the needs of a specific situations. 1 Corinthians 12:8, James 3:13-18, 1 Corinthians 2:3-14, Jeremiah 9:23-24

- a. Provide divinely guided or given solutions in the midst of conflict
- b. Apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways
- c. Seek understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the body

## 3. Leadership

To lead with servant leadership and most of all with a humble heart. Matthew 7:7, Matthew 20:25-28, Luke 22:27, John 10:3-4, 11, James 1:5

- a. Demonstrate spiritual discernment and anticipate the work of God
- b. Allow Scripture and prayer to inform their decision making process
- c. Impart vision to others using clear communication

## 4. Teaching

To understand, to communicate and to apply the Word of God and to faithfully teach it out. Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Acts 18:24-28, 2 Timothy 2:2

- a. Communicate biblical truths and lead to greater obedience
- b. Committed to spiritual patterns of personal time of bible study and reflection

## 5. Joyful Duties

- a. Shepherd the Flock
- b. Pray for the Sick
- c. Teach and protect the doctrine of the church
- d. Provide spiritual coverage

Refer to Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-32; James 5:14

Character (elder and deacon)

1. "C"—Character (1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9)

- Above reproach—Elders must lead by example and demonstrate a lifestyle free from patterns of sin.
- Spouse of one person —Elders, if married, must be devoted spouses.
- Temperate—Elders must be self-controlled, enslaved to nothing, and free from excesses.
- Prudent—Elders must be sober, sensible, wise, balanced in judgment, not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.
- Respectable—Elders must demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.
- Hospitable—Elders must be unselfish with personal resources, willing to share blessings with others.
- Able to teach—Elders must be able to communicate truth and sound doctrine in a non-argumentative way.
- Not addicted to wine—Elders must be free from addictions and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.
- Not pugnacious or quick-tempered—Elders must be gentle, patient, and able to exercise self-control in difficult situations.
- Uncontentious—Elders must not be given to quarreling or selfish argumentation.
- Free from the love of money—Elders must not be stingy, greedy, or for sordid gain, or preoccupied with amassing material things.
- Manage own household—Elders must have a well-ordered household and a healthy family life.
- Not a new convert/not a new believer—Elders must not be new believers. They must have been a Christian long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and depth of spirituality.
- Good reputation with outsiders—Elders must be well-respected by unbelievers and free from hypocrisy.
- Not self-willed—Elders must not be stubborn, or prone to forcing their opinions on others or abusing authority. They must be servant-minded.
- Loving what is good—Elders must desire the will of God in every decision.
- Just—Elders must desire to be fair and impartial. Their judgments must be based on scriptural principles.
- Devout—Elders must be devoted Christ followers, seeking to be conformed to His image. They must be committed to prayer, worship, the study of Scripture, and the guarding of their spiritual walk.
- Holding fast the faithful Word—Elders must be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, and continually seeking to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

### **Election, Affirmation, and Installation**

The nomination process for elders takes place in December of each year. Once nominated, the candidate completes the eldership process, after which, the EB will vote to approve a candidate as an elder. Approval requires unanimous vote among the EB. Once approved by the EB, the candidate will be presented to the church on a Sunday service at least two weeks prior to the members' meeting where voting will take place. The church (members and non-members) will have at least two weeks to bring concerns about the candidate to the EB. Concerns cannot be anonymous and must be expressed in writing. It will be up to the EB to investigate concerns and determine if there is reason to withhold the candidate from being voted on by the members of the church.

After the minimum two-week period for input from the body, the members will make a vote of affirmation on the candidate at a member meeting. If the elder candidate does not receive a two-thirds majority of member votes, the EB should endeavor to find out the basis for concern about the candidate and revote on the decision to install him as an elder. An elder candidate may still be installed as an elder if unanimously approved by the Elder Board. After he/she is elected, he/she will be installed at the earliest Sunday church service. Elders will be ordained at the time of installation by the laying on of hands by the other elders.

**Term**

Listed in Bylaws (B7.200)