

RIT Elder Responsibilities

Role

- Responsibility extends across the church at RIT to oversee the movements health (*Acts 20:28 - "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."*)
 - Includes all churches relationally connected to Cornerstone (John 17:20)
- Serve the church leaders. Protect the church members. Be an example to all. (1 *Peter 5:2 - "shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;"*)
- Elders maintain autonomous leadership over their own church gatherings (*John 17:9 - I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*)
- Decisions will be made unanimously unless specifically stated in this document. (*Acts 15:25 - "It has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul," & Acts 15-36-39*)
- Elders shall not enforce extra-biblical requirements or teachings on the church or its members. (*Acts 15:28 - "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:"*)
- Elders shall settle debates that cannot be settled in individual churches. (*Acts 15:2 - "And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question."*)
- Elders are the point of contact for the church at RIT and can send disciples to minister in other areas on behalf of the church at RIT. (*Acts 15:22 - "Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas..."*)
- Elders are responsible to ensure every disciple has someone to look after them when their leader graduates or temporarily leaves (i.e. Co-op). (*Proverbs 27:23 - Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds.*)
 - Ensure church leaders have an upstream church.
- Elders are responsible to foster unity across other christian ministries. (*John 17:23 - that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*)
- Plan and execute the events in the [Yearly Rollout Document](#)

Activities

Weekly

- Meet weekly for prayer/discussion for the flock with the deacons for 90 minutes

Monthly

- Review and [update](#) GenMap (1st meeting of the month)
- Church leaders gathering - 3/3rds structure with emphasis on prayer
- Ensure tracking information and website is up to date (Deacon responsibility)

Semesterly

- Prayerfully review the "RIT Elders Responsibilities" and make changes where necessary. Document changes must be unanimous.
- Make a plan to have an elder visit each church in a semester
- Review the GenMap to revise next semester's focus and learn key trends.
- See if new elders/deacons need appointed for next semester and appoint them
- Update the "[History & Future Hopes of the Church at RIT](#)"

Tracking:

- Track gospel shares (ensure people are aware of using Seed Sower)
- Keep a clear [record of baptisms](#)
- Have active contact info for every church leader (Document)

Church Visits

- Encourage and keep church leaders accountable to visit their downstream churches
- Aspects/Responsibilities of elders visiting churches
 - DO rebuke open & plain sin
 - DO NOT give feedback to church leaders on how they can improve their methods during the time of visit. DO encourage them at the end.
 - DO gather information to "Know well the conditions of the flocks and pay attention to the herds" Proverbs 27:23
 - DO bring issues & praises to the elders meeting to talk about corrective actions. DO implement these plans/corrective actions as elders.
- Information to gather when visiting churches
 - Flesh out church circle (including baptism information)
 - Identify all upstream and downstream churches
 - Identify other ministry involvement of members (trad church, clubs,)
 - Ask "What does abiding in Jesus mean to you?"

Suggested Number of Elders:

- < 10 active churches: 2-3 elders
- 10 - 20 active churches: 3-5 elders
- 20+ active churches (Hold a “3-5 churches to 1 elder” ratio)
 - If the number of elders exceeds 10 people, break into regions and identify an elder to represent that region in the newly created multi-regional eldership meeting.

General Order of Weekly Meeting

- Pray (20 min)
- Review document (10 min)
- Make plans (examples:)
 - Churches to visit
 - Giving feedback to the churches visited
 - Ways to help the church at RIT increase & grow in strength
 - Other

Appointing Elders/Deacons (4 steps):

1. Determine if Elders/Deacons are needed (for an example of how to determine if deacons are need, check Acts 6:1-7)
2. Go through the appoint Elders/Deacons tool below:

Compare

1 Timothy 3.1-7 and Titus 1.5-9 (Elders) and fill in the chart below.

What in the list was a character trait?	What in the list were skills or abilities?	What in the list were educational requirements?

Read 1 Timothy 3.8-13 (Deacons) and fill in the chart below.

What in the list was a character trait?	What in the list were Skills or Abilities?	What in the list were educational requirements?

What is the role of the Elders / Overseers / Pastors? (1 Timothy 3.1-7, Titus 1.5-9, Ephesians 4.11-13, 1 Pet 5.1-3)

Lead God's people, Care for God's Church, Equip the saints, Shepherd the flock

What is the role of the Deacons? (1 Timothy 3.8-13, Act 6.1-6) One who serves, recognized servant

What is the role of every believer? (1 Peter 2.9, Revelation 1.6, Ephesians 4.11-13)

Do the work of the ministry, proclaim God's glory, help reconcile people to God

3. Create space for people to voice their thoughts about this decision (so important)
4. Appoint Elders/Deacons through laying on of hands

If an elder is found in persistent sin we will follow what is commanded in 1 Timothy 5 and rebuke them in the presence of all as they step down from their leadership role.

If an elder is not able to properly oversee the flock by their own decision or by the view of the rest of the elders, they will be honorably asked to pass off the burden of caring for the church. This will be informed to the church with great love and gratitude for the time they served.