

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ELDER

As we consider the recognition of elders to lead our church spiritually, we want to do it three ways:

BIBLICALLY

What does the Bible say about shepherds and spiritual leadership?

IN COMMUNITY

Part of this process will be asking you to consult with your brothers and sisters

PRAYERFULLY

We will ask the Spirit to inform our hearts in a 40-day period of prayer and fasting.

As you consider the names to recommend, perhaps the most important thing to remember is that this is not a process to nominate a potential leader. This is a process to recognize men who already lead, whose spiritual maturity and leadership skills have already been demonstrated in lives they currently shepherd.

What are the characteristics of an elder?

SHEPHERD

- He already has a flock that respects and follows him in the Lord
- His leadership style reflects Jesus' model
- He has a positive attitude about Oak Hills Church, our values and our mission
- He builds unity in everything he does

MENTOR

- He demonstrates Christian maturity (is not a new Christian)
- Others look to him for spiritual direction and instruction
- He demonstrates a balanced life (family, church, career)
- His wife is his spiritual partner in ministry

EQUIPPER

- He trains and teaches others how to serve
- He is a man of Bible study and prayer
- He is a builder of people—an encourager

QUALITIES OF AN ELDER

The characteristics and qualities of the type of man God desires to spiritually lead his church are outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. As you prayerfully consider men that fit the previous characteristics listed, reflect also on these qualities and questions:

GOOD REPUTATION • Do others hold them in high regard?

MORALLY PURE • Does their life reflect moral and sexual purity, honoring their wife in everything?

BALANCED LIFE • How anchored/stable are they?

WISE • In uncertain situations, how sound is their judgment?

GOOD ROLE MODEL • Does their life attract others to Christ?

GENEROUS AND CARING • What kind of “hospital” are they?

COMMUNICATE WELL • Are their conversations non-threatening and not defensive?

MODERATION • Do they have any addictive behaviors? Do they overindulge?

HUMBLE • Are they teachable? Do they always have to be in control?

PATIENT AND FORGIVING • Are they vengeful or bitter? Do they release offenses quickly?

NOT ABUSIVE • Are they kind and respectful, even when provoked or angry?

FAIR-MINDED • How considerate are they of others?

PEACE-LOVING • How contentious are they? Do they strive for win/win scenarios?

NON-MATERIALISTIC • Do their spending habits honor God?

GOOD SPOUSE/PARENT • What do you see of God in how they parent their children?

PURSUES GODLY ACTIVITIES • Which do you see as the bigger magnet for them—the Spirit of the flesh?

NON-PREJUDICED & FAIR • Are they equitable and impartial, and refuse to play favorites?

HOLY, DEVOTED TO GOD • Do you see more of Christ in them today than a year ago?

DISCIPLINED • Are their habits holy or human? What’s their “spiritual fitness?”