

Elder Application Instructions

Overview of the Office of Elder for Newsong Fellowship

The board of elders is comprised of seven men, including the senior pastor. Elders function primarily as discerners and shepherds, and as such serve as the conscience and guardians of the church. Acts 20:28 states, “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

The elders evaluate everything taking place in the church according to three criteria:

- The church’s mission
- The church’s resources
- The church’s doctrinal statement

In most matters, the elders have final say concerning the overall direction of the church.

Application Process

The application process consists of two parts:

Elder Recommendation Form

This form is completed by a church member recommending another church member for the position of elder. The form is to be completed without consultation with the man being nominated, and is to be returned to the Pastor’s office

Elder Application

After the Elder Recommendation Form has been completed, the church member who filled out that form will provide the Elder Application form to the Elder nominee. The Elder nominee will complete the application and return it to the Pastor’s office.

Biblical Qualifications for Elder

The passages in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 form the basis for Elder qualifications.

1 Tim 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.” (NIV)

Elder Recommendation Form

Name of Elder Nominee _____

Your Name _____ Are you a member of a Newsong Fellowship? Yes No

Thank you for taking time to complete this Elder Recommendation Form. 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 form, evaluating each question honestly based on your knowledge of the nominee's qualifications for the office of elder for Newsong Fellowship. Please take time to read 1 Timothy 3:1-11 and Titus 1:5-9 which describe the qualifications for elders.

Please answer all questions. If clarifications or comments are needed to help explain your choices, please attach a separate sheet. If you do not know if the nominee is qualified in an area, mark the "Don't Know" column. This is an acceptable answer and will not be held against the nominee. Please place this form in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential – Elder Recommendation Form," and return it to the pastor's office at Newsong Fellowship.

Qualification Area

- Is the nominee saved and not a recent convert? Yes No Don't Know
- Do you believe he would uphold the NF constitution in its entirety? Yes No Don't Know
- Do you consider him 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
- If married, is he faithful, loving, and honoring of his wife? Yes No Don't Know N/A
- Does he manage his family well, assuming his responsibility as spiritual leader? Yes No Don't Know N/A
- Do his children 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
- 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 obtains all 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 Don't Know
- 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 Don't Know

Signature _____ Date _____ Phone Number _____

Elder Application

Your Name _____

Have you been a member of a Newsong Fellowship for at least one year? Yes No

Thank you for taking time to complete this Elder Application. 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 form, answering each question honestly before the Lord. Before completing this form, please take time to read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 which describe the qualifications for elders.

Please answer all questions on the form. If clarifications or comments are needed to help explain your answers, please attach a separate sheet. Please place this form in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential - Elder Application," and return it to the pastor's office at Newsong Fellowship.

Personal Information

Address _____ Home Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ Age at Salvation _____ Age Baptized _____ Place _____

Employer _____ Position _____ Work Phone _____

Are you ordained as a deacon? Yes No Year _____ Where? _____

Are you ordained as an elder? Yes No Year _____ Where? _____

What is (are) your spiritual gift(s)? _____

Family Information

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Date of Marriage _____

Have you or your wife been previously divorced? Yes No

Wife's Name _____ Age at Salvation _____ Age Baptized _____

Children's Names: Age Saved? Age Saved

_____ Yes No Don't Know _____

_____ Yes No Don't Know _____

_____ Yes No Don't Know _____

_____ Yes No Don't Know _____

Church Service Information

Previous church memberships and areas of service:

Church _____ Areas of service _____

Church _____ Areas of service _____

Newsong past and current areas of service:

Past: _____

Current: _____

Doctrinal Questions

What is your understanding of the position and work of the following?

God the Father _____

Jesus Christ _____

The Holy Spirit _____

Satan _____

Explain what you believe the Bible teaches about the following:

Salvation _____

Mankind _____

The Scriptures _____

The Church _____

The Virgin Birth _____

Baptism _____

Your Mission _____

Substitution _____

Justification _____

Sanctification _____

Giving _____

Communion _____

Roles and Responsibilities

How do you see the roles and responsibilities of the following people?

The pastor of Newsong Fellowship? _____

An elder of Newsong Fellowship? _____

Your role in your family _____

Elder Qualifications

Please read 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-7 and answer the following questions regarding your qualifications for elder.

Why do you desire to be an elder? _____

Are there any of the qualifications in these passages that you do not understand? If so, what areas? _____

Are there any of the qualifications that you feel you may not meet? If so, which areas? _____

Is there anything in your life that causes you concern in holding the office of elder? _____

Is there anything about your lifestyle that would potentially bring reproach on yourself, your family, Newsong Fellowship, or the name of Christ? _____

List some specific ways you lead your family _____

How would you describe the condition of your marriage? _____

Describe your current walk with the Lord, what He is teaching you in your life today, and evidences you see of His work in your life. _____
