

# What does it mean to be an Elder at Chapel Hill?

**The definition of an Elder:** Elders share in the governing of the Church. These offices are not indications of special pre-eminence by those who hold them, but rather indicate a call to service, to ministry to special discipleship and the evidencing of the fruit of the Spirit in every part of life. Ruling Elders are to watch over the spiritual welfare of their congregation. According to Scripture, those who bear this office should exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being blameless in life, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office should exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and outside the Church. A Ruling Elder should study and learn the Word and become equipped to teach that Word. The Ruling Elder should become adept at leading worship and at leading in prayer.

## **Facts:**

- There are a total of 12 Elders at Chapel Hill. Every year, 4 Elders retire and 4 new Elders are added.
- Each term is 3 years. Two terms can be served consecutively for not more than 6 years. Term of office begins in March.

## **Role as Elder:**

- Elders are considered the spiritual leaders of the church. As such, Elders should be ready to teach the Word, serve the under-privileged, and otherwise have a pastoral mindset.
- In our Policy Governance form of organization the Elders are responsibility for setting policies which the Senior Pastor puts into action and for monitoring those policies.
- Each Elder will typically be involved in some sort of task force or committee related to the ongoing work of the church.
- Occasionally, Elders will be called upon to make tough decisions for the sake of the whole church. Elders will need to have common sense, the ability to be decisive, and be capable of organizing and leading others.

## **Time Commitment:**

- Elders have a regular meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

- Beyond the monthly meeting, the time commitment will be determined by what responsibilities the elder volunteers for. Typically, each Elder will at some time be involved in a study group, a task force or a planning committee which lasts for one or two months or more. Elders will have an ongoing awareness of needs for prayer and email requests from Pastor Mark for input on any number of subjects.
- As the spiritual leaders of the church, Elders are assigned to various projects that relate to the spiritual growth of the church members. This may involve anything from a shepherding role in the “All In” membership class, listening to the testimonies of children who wish to receive communion, and administering communion to shut-ins.
- Elders each lead devotionals for session meetings, and attend prayer times before meetings when possible.
- Sitting or retired Elders may be asked to attend one or more of the quarterly presbytery meetings.
- All new Elders will be asked to attend a Discovery Workshop in order to gain a solid understanding of the EPC.