

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER TO GOD AND TO THE CHURCH**

GracePoint Fellowship, Camas, Washington

**I Timothy 3:2-6** “So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church? An elder must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil’s trap.”

**Titus 1:6-9** “An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don’t have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. An elder is a manager of God’s household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered, violent, or dishonest with money. Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.” (NLT)

Elders are expected to set an example of spiritual leadership by observing the following summary of guidelines drawn from I Timothy 3:2-6 and Titus 1:6-9:

- To be chosen without controversy
- To set an example of holiness in personal and family life
- To have children who believe and are free from rebellion
- To use their gifting and God-entrusted goods faithfully
- To be gracious and God-honoring in their speech
- To be able to manage anger
- To be a good manager of household finances (not awash in debt)
- To be free of chemical dependency
- To be charitable and without greed
- To be hospitable when sudden needs arise
- To love the good and shun the bad
- To have common sense
- To avoid constant aggressive confrontation
- To know doctrine well enough to recognize heresy and correct it
- To be chosen because of faithful example in prayer, study, and service
- To prepare oneself to be an effective Christian witness
- To use one’s special abilities as needed by the elder board
- To serve by putting the needs of others before the desires of self
- To disciple and guide new Christians and those young in the faith
- To communicate membership reactions and response to the deacon and elder boards
- To attend and participate in each board meeting
- To agree with the GracePoint doctrinal statement
- To endorse GracePoint’s vision and ministry philosophy
- To maintain God-honoring interpersonal relationships, both within and outside the fellowship (marriage, family, staff, with other members of the body, with those in the community)
- To disciple and train others in one’s area of ministry

## **SERVICE OF AN ELDER**

### **A. Board Meetings**

The elders normally meet two Wednesdays of each month.

They meet with the deacons or their representative at least once a quarter.

### **B. Weekly Saturday Service**

1. Service necessitates that you are available for each service except for planned absence or emergencies
2. Service consists of:
  - Being available for counseling following the service and during the week when appropriate
  - Visiting sick convalescing members when appropriate and as personal schedule permits
  - Leading communion, prayer, service, and small groups as scheduled

### **C. Visitation, Fellowship, and Discipline**

1. Work with pastor and deacon board to make contact with resident members who have been absent for more than three Sundays
2. Maintain and administer the church finances
3. Intercede in prayer, both personally and with the elder board
4. Study and apply scripture, both personally and as church circumstances arise
5. Cultivate and grow the spiritual walk of the body through scriptural teaching, example, counseling, guidance, prayer, and gifting as the Spirit directs