

THE LAKEWAY CHURCH

LAY ELDER

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Elders serve as spiritual overseers of the Lakeway Church. The Elder Council, consisting of one (1) Pastor Elder and six (6) Lay Elders, is the governing body of the church. Any adult who has been a member of the Lakeway Church in good standing for the previous three years, and who is not a spouse, parent, or child (including in-laws) of a current Staff member or Elder Council member, may be nominated. The Elders approve and oversee the work developed by the Pastoral Staff, Church Staff, Ministry Teams and any member as designated by the Elders. This includes:

overseeing the spiritual health of the church, fostering the church vision, purpose, and stated beliefs,
overseeing the development and implementation of ministries and programs and
overseeing the business affairs of the church.

In addition, Elders serve in the following ways:

- Read Scripture and provide offertory prayer in worship services
- Able to handle and discern God's Word as needed
- Serve on assigned Sundays;
 - Assist people in joining the church
 - Capable of sharing how to become a Christian, i.e., the plan of salvation, offering spiritual counsel
 - Assist in answering any other questions visitors may have
 - Comfortable with praying with people as appropriate
- Helpful in building up and encouraging the Body of Christ

CHURCH BY-LAWS: ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

Lay Elder qualifications include any adult church member who:

- Is a mature Christian
- Demonstrates through leadership, service, and financial support a commitment to the vision, purpose, stated beliefs, and ministries of the Church;
- Leads a life of obedience to scripture;
- Does not pursue dishonest gain
- Handles family matters in a Christian manner

ELDER QUALIFICATIONS ARE GIVEN IN SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3:2-7

- Above reproach – person of integrity, good reputation, proven character
- Live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or in chastity in singleness
- Temperate – not given to excess in any practice or thought
- Self-controlled – balanced, sound in judgment, speech and action
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Able to teach the Word of God
- Able and willing to pray (*James 5:14*)
- Not given to drunkenness
- Not violent, but gentle
- Not quarrelsome – not given to heated discussion/arguments
- Not lover of money – possesses a biblical understanding and handling of money
- Manages his or her family well
- Not a recent convert – mature and experienced in matters of Christian faith & practice
- Good reputation with unbelievers and non-church members

Titus 1:6-9

- Blameless – life and character beyond reproach
- Not quick-tempered
- Holy and disciplined – in his or her life, faith and actions
- Holds firmly to the trustworthy message – firm faith & belief in Scripture and the Gospel

1 Peter 5:2

- Be a shepherd of God's flock (the church)
- Be eager to serve
- Does not lord it over people – is humble and servant attitude
- Serves as an example to the flock

SERVICE LENGTH

An Active Lay Elder serves a three (3)-year term.