

Overview of the Office of Elder for Longview Community Church

Elders are responsible for:

- The overall administration and management of the church
- Working with the Lead Pastor to provide for the spiritual guidance, instruction and protection of the congregation
- Servant leadership that may include moderating Sunday morning services, helping with or leading activities, and participation in the life of the church
- As a body of elders (rather than as an individual Elder) providing direction to the Lead Pastor.
- Approving policies for governance of the church
- Approving all ministries of the church
- Approving the church budget, major capital improvements and other expenditures not identified in the approved annual budget
- Determining the number of Trustees and Deacons
- Receiving the recommendation of a Pastor Search team, evaluating the candidate and, if in agreement, recommending candidate to the church membership

Elders will:

- Be members of Longview Community Church
- Regularly attend Elder meetings, typically twice monthly
- Be active in the congregation's life and give evidence of seeking to grow in their own understanding and practice of the Christian life. Such evidence should include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Conduct of one's life in light of the teachings of Jesus Christ
 - Promote good will and Christian fellowship in the congregation and community
 - Regularly attend worship service and stated meetings of the congregation
 - Regularly contribute to the support of the congregation and its outreach programs
 - Willingly fulfill assignments on behalf of the congregation
 - Demonstrate gifts and skills or evident potential in carrying out the responsibilities of an Elder

Biblical Qualities of an Elder

Men and women are considered for the Elders and must be members of Longview Community Church. The New Testament calls elders to a high standard of faith and character (1 Timothy 3:1-7). At the same time, the scriptures indicate that God uses imperfect people, teaches that salvation is based on grace not works (Ephesians 2:8-10), and warns against legalism (Matthew 23:23-28). Thus, we do not impose a legalistic litmus test upon Elders. Elders should be substantially growing in love for God and others (Mark 12:28-31), demonstrate signs of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and practice a humble servant leadership modeled after Jesus (1 Peter 5:1-4).

1 Peter 5:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

To the Elders and the Flock

5 *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

Titus 1:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ *An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ 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.*

1 Timothy 3:1-7 New International Version (NIV)

Qualifications for Overseers and Deacons

3 *Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

Qualities for an Elder of Longview Community Church

These qualities are derived from 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4

- **Above reproach** - Nothing in your moral conduct could be attacked (i.e. abuse of alcohol, addictions to or use of gambling, illegal substances, pornography, unethical behaviors in your work environment). You are substantially upright and disciplined.
- **Faithful** – Your marriage (if married) reflects God's teachings and intentions for the relationship of a husband and wife; commitment to a growing, sharing and faithful relationship.

- **Temperate and self-controlled** – In dealing with others you are respectful - not overbearing, quick-tempered, quarrelsome or violent.
- **Free from the love of money** – Your giving is in line with Biblical principles and you are not preoccupied with the acquisition of wealth.
- **Respectable** – You hold firm to the scripture and have a good reputation with outsiders.
- **Hospitable** – Open to reaching out to others and building relationships
- **Able to share** – Ability to share and explain scripture to individuals and in group settings
- **Manage your own household** – The relationships and workings of your home substantially reflect Christian values.
- **Hold firmly to the message as it has been taught** – Be committed to a regular time of Bible reading and prayer.

Longview Community Church

Elder Application

Personal Information

Name _____

Email _____

Phone numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Number of years you have been a member of Longview Community Church _____

Marital Status: Married _____ Single _____ Widow/Widower _____ Divorced _____

Spouse's name _____

Names and ages of dependent children

Do you substantially agree with the Statement of Faith in the Bylaws of Longview Community Church? Yes No

Can you support the Bylaws of Longview Community Church?
Yes No

Are you willing to share your faith?
Yes No

What are your spiritual gifts?

Please list past and current areas of service within Longview Community Church.

Please list church and/or ministry service experience outside Longview Community Church.

Please list your experience sharing God's Word.

Please list your leadership experience inside and outside the church.

Why do you feel called to be an Elder at Longview Community Church?

On the attached page, please share your spiritual journey and how you came to follow Christ.

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?

Yes No

Are you willing to submit to a background check?

Yes No

(Date of birth and social security number will be required for background check)

By signing and submitting this application you confirm you have read this application and the overview of the Office of Elder for Longview Community Church in its entirety and agree that you are qualified and willing to be an Elder at Longview Community Church.

My Spiritual Journey: (use as much or as little space as you prefer)

[illegible]

Please email your completed application to Mary Gronseth at mgronseth@comcast.net or bring it to the Church Office in a sealed envelope marked to the attention of Mary Gronseth.