

## **Heart O' the Lakes Church of the United Brethren in Christ**

Our Purpose: "To glorify Christ Jesus in all that we do."

Our Mission: "Love God, Love People"

Our Vision: "We envision a community challenged and changed by the love of Christ."

### **Elder Nomination Form**

Name of Elder Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking time to complete a nomination 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 and evaluate each question honestly based on your knowledge of the nominee's qualifications for the office of Elder. Please take time to read 1 Timothy 3:1-11, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-7, which describe these qualifications, then please thoughtfully answer the questions listed on page three.

### **Qualifications of an Elder:**

Elders must currently be a member of this church. It is recommended that an Elder should be at least 25 years of age, and can be either male or female. It is understood that no Elder will be a perfect person, but if he/she is clearly and persistently lacking in any of these qualities, he/she should not serve in the church as an Elder. An Elder must be:

1. **Above reproach** 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7.
2. **The husband of one wife** (the man or woman must be living a sexually pure life)  
1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6, Ephesians 5:25; 1 Peter 3:7
3. **Temperate** (moderate, not given to excess) 1 Timothy 3:2.
4. **Sober-minded** (a sensible, serious person) 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8.
5. **Of good behavior** (respectable, orderly) 1 Timothy 3:2.
6. **Hospitable** (one who shows genuine kindness and hospitality) 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8.
7. **A lover of what is good** (one who is inclined to do good) Titus 1:8.
8. **Able to teach** (an able teacher and defender of the truth) 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 2:2, 24; 2:15; Titus 2:7-8).
9. **Not given to drunkenness** ("not a drinker" or "not addicted to wine") 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8.
10. **Not violent** (solves problems and settles disputes peacefully) 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7.
11. **Gentle** (patient, gracious, forgiving) 1 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:24.
12. **Not quick-tempered** (he must be slow to anger) Titus 1:7; James 1:19-20
13. **Not quarrelsome** (not argumentative) 1 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; James 3:13-18
14. **Just** (righteous or upright, known for doing what is right) Titus 1:8.
15. **Holy** ("devout" or "set apart to God") Titus 1:8.
16. **Self-controlled** (or self-disciplined) Titus 1:8.
17. **Not covetous** (not a lover of money) 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2.

18. **One who rules his own house well** (a good manager and leader) 1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6.
19. **Having his children in submission with all reverence** (having obedient, respectful, faithful children) 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6.
20. **Not a novice** (not a new or immature believer) 1 Timothy 3:6.
21. **He must have a good testimony among those who are outside** (well respected even by unbelievers in the community) 1 Timothy 3:7.
22. **He must serve, not by compulsion, but willingly . . . eagerly** (he must desire to serve) 1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 3:1.
23. **Not self-willed** (not anxious to control others or to have his own way) Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:3.
24. **An example to the flock:** 1 Peter 5:3; Titus 2:7.

### **Duties of an Elder:**

In the Bible, the distinction is made between a shepherd and a hired hand (John 10:11-15). A shepherd (Elder) has in his heart a God-given love for the sheep and a desire to care for those entrusted to him. The hired hand is unwilling to become as emotionally involved—unwilling to confront the dangers that threaten the sheep—unwilling to truly love the people under his care. The Bible spells out at least five duties and obligations of an Elder:

1. Elders are decision makers, and they help to settle disputes in the church.  
(Acts 15:1-2) A question was raised and forcefully argued, then taken to the apostles and elders for a decision.
2. Elders pray for the sick.  
(James 5:14) “Call for the elders of the church to pray”
3. Elders are to watch out for the church in humility.  
(1 Peter 5:1-4) Elders are the designated leaders of the church and are not to lead for the pay or the reward but because of their desire to serve and shepherd the flock.
4. Elders are to watch out for the spiritual life of the flock.  
(Hebrews 13:17) Elders / leaders are accountable for the spiritual life of the church.
5. They are to spend their time in prayer and teaching the Word.  
(Acts 6:2-4)

Elders should be peacemakers, prayer warriors, teachers, leaders by example, and respected decision makers in the church. While Elders are certainly not perfect or completely proficient in all these respects, they should be men and women of faith who strive to live lives worthy of the calling and title of Elder.

In addition, the Elders are responsible to the following Purpose and Job Description as it relates to our local church body:

1. Help the Senior Pastor set and articulate the vision for the church
2. Provide encouragement and support to the pastoral staff
3. Oversee specified individual teams for encouragement and accountability purposes
4. Render major church decisions

5. Possess final authority in all church matters
6. Give final approval to an annual budget

**Qualification Questions:**

- Is the nominee saved, and not a recent convert?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Do you consider him/her to be spiritually mature, able to make wise biblically sound decisions?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Is he/she above reproach, affording nothing in his/her moral conduct that can be attacked?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Does he/she manage his/her family well, assuming his/her responsibility as spiritual leader?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Do his/her children respect and obey him/her, not being open to the charge of being wild and disobedient?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Are his/her children believers?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Is his/her spouse worthy of respect, not a malicious talker, reasonable and trustworthy?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Do you know him/her to be sincere, reasonable, self-controlled, and disciplined?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- In dealing with others, is he/she 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/she hospitable, and a lover of what is good according to scripture?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Is he/she generous with his/her money, not focused on the acquisition of wealth, and does he/she obtain all of his/her money in an honest and straightforward manner?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Is he/she a person known for sound 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/she is a person who holds firmly to biblical truth with a clear conscience, no matter the cost to him/her personally?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Is he/she able to teach?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Can you recommend that he/she be considered for Elder without any reservations?  Yes  No  Don't Know
- Do you believe he/she has been sufficiently tested in his/her Christian walk and has demonstrated that he/she is fully qualified to serve as an Elder according to Scripture?  Yes  No  Don't Know

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_