

ARTICLE III - THE BOARD OF ELDERS

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Board of Elders is to oversee the spiritual life of the Congregation and its individual members.

B. Qualifications

1. Each member of the Board of Elders must be a voting member of the Congregation at the time of election or appointment.
2. Since the Elders serve as an extension of the Pastoral Office, the scriptural qualifications for Elders found in Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 apply to those who hold this

C. Membership

1. The number of Elders shall be no fewer than nine (9) elected members.
2. Elders are restricted to male members of the Congregation based on Article VII of the Constitution.
3. The Senior Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board. No other full or part time staff are eligible for the Board of Elders.

D. Elections and Terms of Office

Members of the Board of Elders shall be elected annually at the May Congregational Meeting.

The following election and term guidelines shall apply:

1. Exclusive of the Senior Pastor, Board members shall be elected by the membership, except that vacancies may be filled by the Board on an interim basis.
2. The term for all Elders shall be two years. There are no term limits for Elders.
3. Approximately half of the Elders shall be elected each year.
4. The Elders shall annually elect their own Chairman and the Chair will appoint a secretary.

The Chair shall be an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the Board of Directors.

E. Responsibilities

The Elders, as an extension of the Pastoral Office, are responsible for:

1. Assisting the Pastor(s) with all matters concerning the functions of the office of the ministry of the Congregation, which are:

- a. Preaching in or serving as the leader of the public worship service;
- b. The public administration of the sacraments (Baptism and Lord's Supper);
- c. The public exercise of Congregation discipline; and
- d. Teaching doctrines according to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

2. Counseling and assisting the Pastor(s) in the practices of performing the responsibilities of the pastoral office, including:

- a. Proper worship life and decorum;
- b. Pastoral care of the Congregation; and
- c. Proper preaching and teaching of the Word of God in accord with the doctrinal standard of Article II of the Constitution.

3. Caring for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the pastors, staff, and their families;

4. Creating and maintaining a Board of Elders Policy Handbook, which governs the operation of the Board of Elders and its role in the spiritual life of the congregation.

F. Meetings

The Elders shall meet as often as they determine necessary, but no less than quarterly.

G. Quorum and Decisions

50% of the Elders present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Elders will be made by a simple majority of those members present. The presiding Chairman shall not vote except in case of tie votes.

H. Committees

The Elders shall appoint through their Chairman as many committees as necessary to accomplish their work.

Approved by Congregation: November 9, 2010. APPROVED CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011