

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
BOARD OF ELDERS
PURPOSE, QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Official details on the purpose of the Board of Elders, qualifications for serving as an Elder, and the responsibilities and requirements of the Board and its members can be found under Article III of the constitution of Peace, available through the Church office. This document is meant as an overview.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Board of Elders is to oversee the spiritual life of Peace Lutheran Church, School and its members.

Qualifications and ideal characteristics for Peace Board of Elders members:

- Is approved by the Pastor for serving as an Elder of Peace.
- Is a voting male member of Peace who understands Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod doctrine and is publicly and privately supportive of the stated mission of the Congregation.
- Is a faithful participant in worship, including attendance at the Sacrament, a student of God’s Word and healthy in their prayer life.
- Is a committed steward of time, talents and tithes.
- Possesses and demonstrates strong Christian ethics and values.
- Possesses and demonstrates strong leadership skills.
- Has served on boards or in leadership positions (irrespective of title) at Peace, with other organizations and/or in the community.
- Exhibits maturity and stability in decision making; understands confidentiality and Board unity; does not put personal agendas ahead of group goals.
- Offers diversity in experiences and skills that fosters a well-rounded Board in supporting the mission of Peace.
- Has no conflict of interests with Peace and/or Staff, and if there are any conflicts of interest, will promptly and properly disclose such.
- Is visible and respected within the Peace family.
- Provides a proactive commitment to assignments, viewing the work of the Board of Elders as an opportunity to willingly carry out the work and will of our Lord.

The Bible shares the following in 1st Timothy 3:1-7 with regards to leadership in the church:

“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."

More is shared as the passage continues and in verse 13 says, *"Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus."* Additional passages to provide instruction include Titus 1:6-9 (leaders in the church must hold firm to the trustworthy Word) and 1 Peter 5:1-4 (leaders in the church are to serve with willingness).

Responsibilities of the Board of Elders:

- Engage in an active prayer life for leaders and members of Peace Church and School.
- Support the spiritual life/well-being of Peace, its leaders and members.
- Ensure that the Church remains on a true biblical path; that its members are being appropriately guided through accurate biblical teachings according to the Word of God.
- Provide support to the Pastors with all matters concerning the ministry of the Congregation (including but not limited to worship services and fellowship opportunities).
- Help protect Peace against harmful influences, confronting those who are contradicting biblical truth or continuing in a pattern of poor behavior.
- Lead by being an example and role model as taught to us through God's Word.

May the Lord work through the Board of Elders in leading and serving the Peace family – Thy will be done.

Dale Walk

Chair, Board of Elders

Peace Lutheran Church, Saginaw - Great Lakes Bay Region