

Roles and Responsibilities of Elders/Overseers

Below are the Most specific scriptural passages regarding the roles and responsibilities of elders or overseers. Please record your observations for each passage:

1. Numbers 11:10-17 (also see Ex.24:1-2, 9-14)
2. Acts 14:21-28
3. Acts 15: 1-4, 22-23
4. Acts 20:17-21, 28-32
5. 1 Timothy 4:14
6. 1 Timothy 5:17-21
7. Titus 1:5-9 (cf 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
8. Hebrew 13:7, 17
9. James 5:13-16
10. 1 Peter 5:1-5
11. Revelations 4:4, 9-11 (cf 19:4)
12. Matthew 20:25-28

In summary, what do you observe as being the 3 to 5 major responsibilities of elders/ overseers?

Gene Getz, in his book *Elders and Leaders: God's Plan for Leading the Church*, summarized the roles and responsibilities of elders into two "functions":

Overarching Functions

Managing (Poristemi)

1 Thessalonians 5:12

1 Timothy 3:5

1 Timothy 5:17

Shepherding (poimaino)

1 Corinthians 9:7

Acts 20:28

1 Peter 5:2

Special Functions

Teaching Biblical truth

1 Timothy 3:2 (Titus 1:9)

Modeling Christ-like behavior

1 Peter 5:3 (1 Timothy 4:12)

Maintaining doctrinal purity

Acts 20:30-31

Disciplining unruly believers (admonishing)

1 Thessalonians 5:12

Overseeing financial matters

Acts 11:27-30

Praying for those who are ill

James 5:13-16

Do you agree with this summary? How do your observations agree or disagree?

Generally, if your local church body has the position of elder or overseer, that position is defined in the church's governing documents, such as the bylaws. Can you summarize your church's definition?

Consider the following statement(s) regarding elder (board members) roles and responsibilities:

- I. Responsibilities
 - A. The Board shall be faithful to govern in such a way that the mission of the church is fulfilled for the benefit of its community and its members and to fulfill all of its responsibilities as prescribed in the scriptures and in the bylaws of the church.
 - B. In addition to the comprehensive statement of “A” above, the Board shall:
 1. Exercise leadership and oversight of the church’s ministries and structures.
 2. Shepherd the people of the church to Christian maturity;
 3. Protect the health and integrity of the church; and
 4. Model the faith
 - C. Further, to properly fulfill all of the above responsibilities, the Board shall;
 1. Under the teaching and guidance of the Senior Pastor, constantly seek the wisdom and leading of Christ, the Head of the church;
 2. Determine the overall vision and values of the church and the proper alignment of all activities and ministries to those values;
 3. Set appropriate board policies and procedures concerning the staff, ministries, and the structures of the church that enhance the effective fulfillment of the church’s mission.
 4. Ensure the financial integrity of the church for the protection of its assets and the welfare of its members;
 5. Under the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, exercise biblical discipline within the membership when necessary;
 6. Monitor and periodically evaluate the performance of the Senior Pastor;
 7. Delegate its responsibilities and/or authority to the Senior Pastor or establish work groups (teams) for specific tasks within its responsibilities if such will enhance the ministries and fulfillment of the church’s mission;
 8. Periodically review this document and revise it as needed; and
 9. Be accountable to Christ and the membership of the church for the proper fulfillment of all its responsibilities.

How is the above statement (s) different from your own thoughts or the written definition of elder roles used by your church?