

1.1 Qualifications and Designations of Elders

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Qualifications

Moral and Spiritual Qualifications

- Must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
 - Above reproach.
 - Faithful to his wife.
 - Exercise self control, live wisely, and have a good reputation.
 - He must not be a heavy drinker.
 - He must not be violent.
 - He must be gentle, not quarrelsome.
 - He must not be a lover of money.
 - He must manage his family well, having children who respect him.
 - He must not be a new believer.
 - He must have the respect of those outside of the church.
 - He must not be arrogant or quick tempered.
 - He must live a blameless life.

Personal Desire

- Must demonstrate a spirit given desire to be an elder. 1 Timothy 3:1
- A spirit given desire will naturally demonstrate itself in action.
- If his desire is spirit driven he will devote much time, thought, and energy to caring for the people and studying the Scriptures.
- He is already proving himself by leading, teaching and bearing responsibilities in the church.

Elder Honor

We believe that all elders have the same Biblical rights and responsibilities, therefore, they deserve the same honor and respect as any other elder. Their honor and respect comes from their God given office, not from the responsibility or function they perform in the church body. The VCB considers all serving Pastors of the VCB, and all past and present elected elders of the VCB to hold the office of elders in our church body, and therefore have the same spiritual importance to the body as any other elder.

Elder Functions

Even though all elders hold the same office with all its Biblical rights and responsibilities, we have organized the elders into different functions and responsibilities to effectively manage our church body

- **Senior Pastor**
Responsible for the *Pastor Elders* under him, and for assigning areas of authority to them. He along with the *Active Elders* is responsible for the direction, doctrine and discipline of the Village Church of Barrington. The *Senior Pastor* is accountable to the *Active Elders*.

- **Pastor Elders**
A current pastor of the VCB who is credentialed in the EFCA or a comparable organization, and is responsible for their assigned areas, and for shepherding/disciplining those who are in leadership in their specific area of responsibility. The *Pastor Elders* are accountable to the *Senior Pastor*.
- **Active Elders**
Those elected elders who are currently filling out an elected term. They make up the elder board along with the *Senior Pastor* and are responsible for giving the church direction, guarding the doctrine that is taught (shepherding the flock), and administering church discipline when needed. They are accountable to the congregation.
- **Elders at Large**
Previously Active Elders, who are not currently serving an elected term, but continue to fulfill the qualifications for an elder. They are to continue to fulfill the biblical responsibilities of an elder to guard and shepherd the flock. They are encouraged to be available to the *Pastor Elders* and *Active Elders* to carry out special assignments when needed.