

Biblical Qualifications

Ruling Elder

(From 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)

Character

- self-controlled, temperate
- respectable
- hospitable
- not violent, gentle
- not quarrelsome
- not a lover of money
- not given to drunkenness
- not a recent convert
- not overbearing, not self-willed
- not quick-tempered
- does not pursue dishonest gain
- loves what is good
- sober-minded, orderly, sensible
- just
- upright
- holy
- disciplined

Gifts and Calling

- desires to serve the body of Christ
- faithful in marriage (husband of one wife)
- able to teach
- able to exhort in sound doctrine
- able to refute those who contradict sound doctrine
- one who manages his own family well
- sees that his children are not wild and disobedient

Reputation

- above reproach (blameless)
- good report with those outside the church

Deacon

(From 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3ff)

Character

- sincere
- not double-tongued
- not addicted to wine
- does not pursue dishonest gain

Gifts and Calling

- desires to serve the body of Christ
- full of the Spirit & wisdom
- holds to the truths of the faith with a clear conscience
- good manager of his children and household
- faithful in marriage

Reputation

- above reproach
- good report

DUTIES

(from *The Book of Church Order*)

Ruling Elder

It belongs to the office of Elder...to watch diligently over the flock...that no corruption of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock . . . by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted and make disciples. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock. (*BCO* §8-3)

Deacon

It is the duty of the Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. . . . (*BCO* §9-2)