

Elder Ministry at MVCC

The Person and Role of an Elder: Who Elders Are and What They Do

I WHO ELDERS ARE

- A. According to the New Testament, elders are godly men who are characterized by the qualities stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9¹.
- B. According to the MVCC By-Laws (Article 2, Section B), an elder is a mature, godly man given to prayer, who can teach God's word and who oversees and shepherds God's people from a selfless and gentle heart.
- C. Scripture uses three terms to describe this office: (1) elder, (2) overseer, and (3) pastor. We find all three terms used in Acts 20:17-28. We see elder used in 20:17, overseer is used in 20:28, and Paul commands these men to be shepherds (pastors) of the church in 20:28.
- D. At Mountain View, elders are to be dignified men who shepherd God's people and oversee the work of the ministry.

II WHAT ELDERS DO

- A. As shepherds, the elders are to be directly involved in the ministry of the Word and Prayer. This includes but is not limited to: (1) leading a home group, (2) leading a discipleship triad, (3) teaching in adult education type settings (e.g. Dive-In, Living Water, Preaching, Seminars), (4) taking the lead² in the training of E.I.T. (Elder in Training), and (5) Attending church-wide prayer meetings/concerts of prayer, as well as being available to visit the sick and pray for healing in accordance with James chapter 5.
- B. As overseers, the elders are to oversee:
 1. The long term strategic and spiritual planning and vision for the Church, which is led and implemented by the Vision Action Team.
 2. The ministry of paid ministry staff. The pastors, along with all paid ministry staff, are supervised by the joint effort of the Sr. Pastor and Executive Director. The Senior Pastor will serve as the primary point of contact between the elder board and staff in areas pertaining to accountability, yearly job performance, and/or achievement of positional goals and benchmarks of the ministry of the pastors and ministry staff. Elders may still find it necessary to directly contact an associate pastor or ministerial staffer for issues which the elder or elder board deems to have eternal significance for, or impact on, our church body.
 3. The ministry of the deacon board.
 4. The Management Team, which directs all legal, administrative (including policies and procedures), and fiscal affairs of the Church (capital expenditures and/or operating expenses not in the budget and exceeding five percent (5%) of operating budget shall be brought before the congregation for approval).
 5. Disciplinary issues with regard to its members as well as the pastors, elders, and members of the deacon board.
- C. Some elders, though not all, will hold specific roles such as chairman, vice-chairman (who is the point of contact for the deacon board), secretary (who takes minutes of elder meetings and serves as the point of contact with the office staff) and EIT liaison.
- D. Other elders will focus primarily on special projects as they arise (e.g. Stewardship Campaign, Pastoral Search Committee³, and Focused Prayer).

The Elders of Mountain View Community Church
Aug. 25, 2010

¹ These qualities are: above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money, manages his own household well, keeps his children under control with dignity, not a new convert, has a good reputation with those outside the church, has children who believe and are not accused of dissipation or rebellion, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not fond of sordid gain, loves what is good, holds fast to the faithful word, able to both exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict (taken from the New American Standard Bible)

² The Sr. Pastor will be involved in Elder in Training (E.I.T.) but he is not to take the lead with regard to this ministry. The elder EIT liaison will partner with the Sr. Pastor and take the initiative with regard to EIT.

³ When the elder chairman is selected to serve on a pastoral search committee, the majority of his chairmanship responsibilities will be fulfilled by the vice-chairman.