

**First Presbyterian Church of Bellingham**  
**The Office of Elder**

**Qualifications:** Elders will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation. They are to be persons of faith, dedication, and sound judgment. They should be deeply in love with Jesus, committed to His Church, and willing to live a life open to His transformation. The call to be an Elder is a call to be a spiritual leader, serving the purpose and mission of Jesus and His church.

References: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Book of Order G6.0300

**Term of Service:** 3 years beginning in June

**Regular Meetings:**

1. Monthly Session Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6-9pm. Dinner is served..
2. Specific department meetings, scheduled throughout the month

**Expectations**

1. Attend Worship, Session, and Department Meetings prayerfully, prepared, and promptly.
2. Participate in a small group.
3. Communicate in a healthy, Christ-like manner.
4. Use ones spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ.
5. Be a minister because every member at FPC is a minister.
6. Live a life beyond reproach in all areas.
7. Grow in your relationship with Jesus through regular disciplines of worship, silence and solitude, and study.
8. Pray regularly for each other, FPC, WWU, and Bellingham..
9. Always seek first the Kingdom of God and be lead by the Spirit.

**Various Committee Roles:**

1. Adult
2. Children
3. College
4. Finance
5. Facilities
6. Missionary Care
7. Personnel
8. Worship & Arts
9. Youth

**Accountability:** Each Elder is accountable primarily to God and secondarily to the rest of the Elders and the church.

## *Elder Constitutional Questions*

The office of Elder is a larger responsibility than being a member. As such there are a series of very big questions that each Elder must affirm. If you have any questions about these or are not able to affirm each of these statements please talk to the pastor.

1. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
4. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
5. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
6. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
7. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
8. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
9. Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?