

## AFFIRMING THE LEADERSHIP TEAM (ELDERS) AT LAKESHORE

The Leadership Team (elders) is the primary leadership and governing body at Lakeshore Bible Chapel. A process of Affirming the Leadership Team takes place every third year. It is a time to encourage and endorse those who are serving well and is also the primary means by which new members are added to the team.

The New Testament teaches that a group of elders are to provide overall spiritual leadership and care for each church or congregation of believers. Acts. 14:23; 22:17,28; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5

### QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

A full list of the qualifications of elders is found in I Tim. 3:1-7; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-5. It is to be noted that the qualifications for elders relate mainly to character and maturity: not ability or giftedness.

Different individuals may hold these qualifications in varying degrees. The list should not be treated as a simple black & white "check-list", rather it is a composite picture of spiritual maturity to which all Christians should aspire. They are listed however as basic requirements for elders who:

- a) Must have a desire to do the work of an elder. I Pet. 5:2; I Tim. 3:1
- b) Should have an exemplary home life or family.
- c) Should be a man of steady, proven character, with a solid reputation both within the church fellowship & in the community.
- d) Should be able to teach (not necessarily publicly, but he should have a sound grasp of the Scriptures and be able to explain the Word of God to others).
- e) May not be a novice or recent convert. It is to be noted that age is not the determining factor but rather spiritual maturity is what matters. Timothy possessed this maturity as a younger man.
- f) Must not quarrelsome but gentle. He should not be self-willed.
- g) Should have demonstrated that he is free from the love of money and possessions.
- h) Should be free from enslavement to alcoholic or other addictive behaviors.

*Each elder must be able to teach and lead but it must be recognized that not all have the same degree of giftedness in spheres of teaching and leadership. Some will have more public roles than others because of the diversity of gifts the Holy Spirit provides.*

### DUTIES OF ELDERS

#### 1. Pastoral Care

- a) Know the people and be hospitable. I Timothy 3:2
- b) Pray for the congregation. James 5:14; Acts 6:4
- c) Minister the Word in various ways. I Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9
- d) Be an example of Christian maturity. I Peter 5:3
- e) Care for individuals with special needs. Ezekiel 34:1-6; John 10:11
- f) Provide direction for individuals. Acts 20:28
- g) Protect the church from false teaching or harmful influences. Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9

#### 2. Leadership - Acts 20:28 II Timothy 5:17

- a) Elders must provide direction within the congregation.
  - Its spiritual nurture and life
  - Its outreach
  - Its worship
  - Its relationships
- b) Elders must provide direction for the future of the congregation
  - By sensing the direction in which the Spirit is leading us.
  - By setting vision and goals and accordance with Scripture with prudence and faith.
  - By communicating with the congregation in such a manner that we are able to move forward together to the work He is calling us to.

### APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS

1. The raising up of spiritual leaders involves a blending of Divine activity with human responsiveness. God not only raises up leaders, but He causes them to be recognized as such by others. *Moses-* Ex.4:14-16;14:31;19:9; *Joshua-* Josh. 3:7;4:14; *Samuel-*I Sam. 3:19-20; *David-*I Sam. 23:17;24:20; I Chronicles 17:7; Ps. 18:43-45; *Paul & Barnabus-*Acts 13:1-2. 3.

We anticipate that this process taking place here at Lakeshore.

2. We are therefore inviting your prayerful response on this matter of affirming elders.

**The Process for Affirming Elders at Lakeshore**

- A. Public teaching on the subject of leadership in the church.
- B. Distribution of the "Affirming the Leadership Team (elders) at Lakeshore" sheets - *which may or may not include suggested Leadership Team members by the current Leadership Team.*
- C. Prayer and reminders on following Sundays
- D. Return of ballots
- E. The process of appointment (See the Constitution of LBC)
  - 1. Affirmation through the balloting process.
  - 2. Potential Leadership Team members will be visited by two members of the current Leadership Team.
  - 3. Candidates must be willing and have the available time to do the work.
  - 4. Candidates must have spouses who are supportive of their ministry role.
  - 5. The current Leadership Team must approve each candidate.
  - 6. The names of approved candidates will be presented to the congregation as prospective elders. *(unless there are unexpected reasons to the contrary raised by the congregation within a two week period)*
  - 7. The candidates will be publicly presented as members of the Leadership Team.



Place a check mark in the box next to the names listed to indicate those you affirm as suitable members of Lakeshore's Leadership Team

**Current Leadership Team Members**

- Elverne Bauman
- Vic Cowie
- Bruce Fournier
- Jay Gurnett
- Len Habermehl
- Gord Martin
- Larry Tierney

**Suggested as possible Leadership Team members by the current Leadership Team**

- Chris Cowie
- Dave Patterson
- Dave Roach
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**Others you would recommend as Leadership Team members**

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Please return this form/ballot to the *Affirmation of the Leadership Team* Ballot box located next to the library.