

brought against him that will stick

one-wife man—physically and mentally faithful to one woman

temperate, not a drunkard—never out of control, not addicted to wine

sensible, self-controlled—displays common sense in personal actions, controls his passions, balanced, discreet, reasonable

not a novice, not a recent convert—maturing in doctrine and experienced, not a brand-new Christian

well thought of by outsiders, pays bills promptly, gets along with neighbours, demonstrates wisdom in his relationship with non-believers, bears a good consistent testimony before the world

example to the flock—displays godliness in his actions, is transparent about God's work in his life

Attitudes:

dignified, respectable—maintains well-arranged life, orderly, disciplined, honourable

hospitable, opens home for hospitality, reaches out to strangers

not arrogant, not violent—not contentious, doesn't have a chip on his shoulder, a peaceable man

not quarrelsome—never in your face, willing to yield in arguments, doesn't demand his rights, not a fighter

not a lover of money or eager for gain—not a wheeler-dealer or a manipulator, content with God's provision

willing to serve, volunteers with his whole heart, willing to do the unnoticed service

not lording it over others, not bossy, demanding, overbearing, or claiming authority over others

must render an account—responsible to the Lord as his boss in everything, demonstrates a spirit of sub-

missiveness

Activities:

apt to teach and feed the flock, hold firm the sure Word, give instruction, able to refute opposers—has the spiritual gift of teaching and uses the Word as a cornerstone of his life

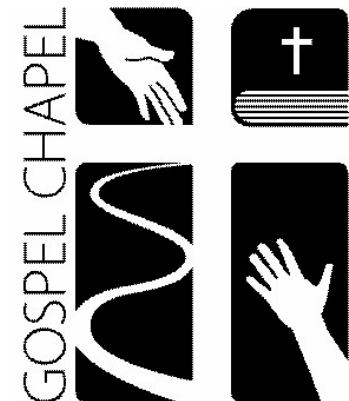
overseer, shepherds the flock, guards the flock—evaluates spiritual needs, helps people discover spiritual gifts, warns against spiritual perils, counsels, guides, protects the flock from spiritual dangers

manages home well, keeps children under control, respectable—employs wise home management, spiritual leader of his home, displays godly characteristics to family.

GOSPEL CHAPEL

Helping People Follow Jesus

**Choosing & Affirming Elders
at Gospel Chapel
2016**



*Helping People
Follow Jesus*

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***“Compelled by Christ’s love,
Gospel Chapel exists as a family
belonging to God that is united in
loving Him, loving others,
and helping people follow JESUS.”***

CHOOSING & AFFIRMING ELDERS

At the beginning of each year, we begin the process of choosing and affirming additional elders for this year. This is a 2-month process concluding at the end of February. We will set aside Sunday, February 21, 2016 as a day of worship, prayer, and fasting for the express purpose of calling upon God to help us determine His mind for the overseeing leadership of Gospel Chapel (Acts 13:1-3). On the 21st we also invite you to be part of a 24-hour prayer time specifically dedicated to this discerning process.

Please sign up for a half-hour time in the foyer.

How will we discern God's mind? It will be through the reading of God's Word, through prayer, and through obedient lives. He is the chief Shepherd, and He has a mind in this matter. Please take the specific Scriptures that follow; *read* them, prayerfully *meditate* on them, and *trust God* to bring specific men to your mind. As you believe you hear the voice of God, then *write* those names down. We are not specifying how many elders we need. God knows that too. Please *sign* your name to the list that you submit. (Unsigned lists will not be accepted.) Then *seal* those in an envelope and *give* them to our Elders Team Chair, **Hank McIver**. They will not be opened until the end of February.

As soon as possible after this, the elders will open the envelopes. They will begin by selecting the individuals who received the highest number of affirmations. All names, however, will be considered. The elders need to be unanimous on any names that they affirm from the list submitted by the congregation. These men will then be contacted to see if they are willing to serve in this capacity. Next they will meet with a 3-person team (the senior pastor, another elder, and a member-at-large). This team will report back to the Elders Team, and then the final selection will be made. Their names will then be put forward to the church. If anyone has a concern about the suitability of any of these individuals to serve as an elder, they would

need to indicate that in writing to the Elders Team that next week. To encourage responsibility and accountability, those that have a concern with a candidate are urged to talk to that person before bringing it to the elders. Once we have gone through this process, the candidate would then be invited to begin his responsibilities.

Our elders serve 3-year terms. They are able to serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms (6 years in a row), before they need to take a break from this responsibility.

Those on our present Elders Team are: **Rick Gill, Hank McIver, Allan Pauls, and Ian Robins**.

Hank McIver has completed 6 years so will need to take at least one year off. **Ian Robins** has completed one 3-year term so is eligible for another 3-year term. The other 2 will be continuing. Please take your time in discerning God's mind. This is not a popularity contest but a servant position, an opportunity to serve just as Christ came "Not to be served, but to serve."

SCRIPTURES REGARDING ELDERS

Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5: 1-3 and ...

It is a trustworthy statement; if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, free from the love of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (But if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgement as the devil. He must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's stew-

ard, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. **Titus 1:5-9**

Note: Not a single item (except possibly for the last one) in these lists refers to job description or to ability.

The way you live is what qualifies or disqualifies you from leadership. There is a concern here for character formation – people who know how to treat a congregation right. Leaders are distinguished by their character.

We are looking not for talented people whom we can use, but nurturing souls who are trustworthy and faithful. These are people who have acquired the habits of the heart that make it possible to live in faith and faithfulness.

Forget about charisma, go for character. Look for the "poor in spirit." We need a few souls in whom love is gently at work, covering a multitude of sins. We are looking not for someone who can *do* something spectacular, but for someone who *is* something regardless of whether anyone notices. It is almost always a mistake to recruit exceptional people for leadership; look for ordinary Christians.

(thoughts from Eugene Peterson in the book *The Unnecessary Pastor*)

The following is from a book entitled *Christ In Church Leadership*. The authors carefully studied the above passages and grouped elder qualifications in terms of *attributes, attitudes, and activities*. We believe them to be helpful.

Attributes:

above reproach, blameless—not open to censure, irreproachable, no charge can be