

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER

PRAYING (*Acts 6:4*)

GUARDING (*20:28*)

- (1) Doctrinal integrity/biblical faithfulness of preaching and all ministries
- (2) Right celebration of the sacraments

RULING (*I Tim. 5:17*) – Primarily through Session meetings

- (1) General oversight and direction to the ministries, programs, events, and activities of the church.
- (2) Establish and evaluate key policies and recommendations
- (3) Oversight and approval of the budget
- (4) Supervision and encouragement of staff (including hiring and firing), deacons, and other key leadership
- (5) Examine and receive new members
- (6) Presbytery and General Assembly activity

SHEPHERDING (*Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-4*)

- (1) Respond to personal, pastoral needs
- (2) Exercising spiritual discipline (accountability), both generally and specifically
- (3) Public words of encouragement and exhortation to the congregation
- (4) Practicing hospitality
- (5) Prayer

MODELING (*I Tim. 4:12; I Peter 5:3*)

- (1) Faithful in spiritual disciplines
- (2) Fruit of the Spirit
- (3) Marriage and family
- (4) Demonstrating commitment to and involvement in the general life and ministry of the church (as each elder prayerfully determines, in consultation with the other elders, according to his particular gifts, interests, and schedule)

*Let them see your
progress, not your perfection
- journey, not arrival*

TEACHING/TRAINING (*Acts 6:4; I Tim. 3:2; Eph. 4:11-16*)

- (1) Teach Sunday School classes
- (2) Lead Small Groups
- (3) Occasional preaching
- (4) Seminars, retreats, one-on-one, etc.