

# AN ELDER-LED CHURCH

## Why is First Baptist elder-led?

While there are many forms of church governments, we believe that an elder-led model is the most biblically faithful. It allows elders to fulfill their duties as Scripture describes, and preserves the roles and responsibilities of every member within the context of the priesthood of all believers.

## How does elder-led work?

It is best summarized in the church's Constitution:

*First Baptist Church of Powell is Elder-led with accountability to, and input from, the congregation. Elders include both ordained paid staff and non-paid staff members. The Elders will work with various church leadership teams for counsel. The Elders are accountable to the church membership through the Finance Committee in areas of finances and through the Personnel Committee in areas covered by the Personnel Policies.*

*The Elders are selected from the adult male membership of the church as led by the Holy Spirit and affirmed by the church membership. An Elder must have given evidence of spiritual maturity and service for an extended period of time. Prospective Elders will be examined according to the qualifications given in 2 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.*

## What is an elder?

- He is a **Shepherd** of God's people.  
*...<sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you...being examples to the flock...(1 Peter 5:1-3).*
- He is an **Overseer** (sometimes translated "bishop" or "pastor") of God's people.  
*<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28).*  
*<sup>5</sup> For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you...(Titus 1:5-9).*
- He is a principal **Teacher** of God's people.  
*Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. (1 Timothy 5:17).*  
*A bishop then must be...able to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2).*
- He is responsible for the spiritual **Protection** of God's people  
*<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church...<sup>28</sup> Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:17-31).*