

SunHills Community Church – Elders

Introduction and Overview

12/09; updated and approved 10/11

Leadership: The Elders have a significant leadership responsibility within SHCC. There are three primary leadership groups within SunHills: (1) Staff, who give leadership to the day-to-day ministries, both people and programs; (2) Elders, who give leadership through caring and praying for people and overseeing the health and development of our mission; and (3) Directors, who give leadership in the operational/ financial/ administrative aspects of the church. Our three leadership groups work separately in function but together in a unity that comes from our common purpose to *love God, love people and live the mission.*

Qualifications: The men who serve as elders are expected to be people who make no pretense of perfection but who are diligently following Jesus, and live in such a way that their leadership flows more from their character than their competencies. Two primary texts lay out the qualifications for elders (1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9); we use these passages to guide us in the consideration of potential elders. In addition, elders must be committed to the vision and mission of SHCC and engaged in the life and ministry of the church (team chemistry – within the church body and together with the other leadership groups).

Two details addressed in the SHCC Constitution and By-Laws: (1) elders will be appointed by the existing Board of Elders after receiving formal input from the congregation; and (2) elders serve one-year renewable terms with no maximum term.

Ministry: Being an elder is not just a role or office; it is a ministry of service and leadership. The following three headings summarize our approach to the ministry of elders. [1] SHEPHERD – knowing people with understanding and care (Prov 27:23; Acts 20:17-19,28,31,35; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4); being an example (see previous list of verses); praying (Acts 6:4; 1 Thess 5:17); [2] TEACH – teaching (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:9); guarding the teaching of the church, both in large and small group contexts (Acts 20:17,28-31; Titus 1:9); personally discipling others (2 Tim 2:2); [3] OVERSEE – leading to ensure the faithfulness and fruitfulness of our mission (Rom 12:8; 1 Tim 3:4,5; 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-4); discernment on key leadership decisions (previous verses; also Rom 12:2; Phil 1:9; Heb 5:14); discipline when necessary (Matt 18:15-20).

The personal ministry highlighted above can take expression in many different ways. In addition, the elders meet weekly (every Tuesday 6:00-7:30am) for prayer and discussion; engage in correspondence (email and otherwise) between meetings; and have occasional additional meetings as required which may be with other staff or the Directors (BOD).

Summary: Serving as an elder at SunHills is a significant responsibility – both for the individual serving and also for the church. Thank you for prayerfully considering this possibility with us.