

OPP 7.6 ELDERS MINISTRY

PURPOSE

This Operating Policy and Procedures (OPP) outlines the purpose, objectives, responsibilities, and oversight mechanisms of the Elders Ministry in accordance with the Bylaws of Round Rock Christian Church

MINISTRY PURPOSE

This Ministry provides leadership and oversight of the spiritual needs and concerns of the congregation's spiritual growth. Elders are teachers (2 John 1-3; 3 John 1-4); Elders are shepherds (Acts 20:17-18, 25-28, 1 Peter 5:1-4); and Elders are overseers (Acts 15:1-31)

Henri Nouwen, in his book *The Living Reminder*, teaches us, "There has been, and only ever will be *one* ministry in the whole history of the world—that of Jesus Christ. All any of us ever do is serve as living reminders of his one, true ministry." As Disciples elders, being a living reminder is our best and only work. Gary Straub, *Your Calling as an Elder*, p. 8-9

MINISTRY OBJECTIVES

The Elders Ministry encourages and empowers the servants who provide support to the congregation, clergy and staff in these areas:

- Preside with the pastor at the Lord's Supper each time it is celebrated
- Identify, encourage, and prepare members of the congregation to serve as deacons
- Integrate new members into the congregation
- Lead Agape Groups
- Serve communion to shut-ins
- Provide clergy support and resource
- Provide spiritual growth
- Provide oversight and support to the Bereavement Team
- Provide oversight and support to the Deacons Ministry
- Provide oversight and support to the Stephen Ministry
- Mentor baptismal candidates
- Support programming and services of the church
- Work within the Ministries Council to foster inter-ministry activities
- Provide support of additional activities as identified by the Guiding Board, Elders Ministry, and/or staff in coordination with the Sr. Minister

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Annually, according to the Financial Team timeline, prepare the budget for this Ministry for the coming year.
- Annually, in January according to the timeline of the Guiding Board, review, and revise this OPP .

COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Members of the Elders Ministry are church members who are active in personal worship, service, and growth, and are committed to the mission and vision of the congregation as they:
 - Oversee the objectives and responsibilities of the Ministry
 - Work with the Sr. Minister and Ministry Chair
- The Elders Ministry is comprised of 9-12 members who are nominated annually for three-year rotating terms. The slate is presented for vote of approval at a duly called meeting of the congregation.
 - Unexpired vacancies among Elders may be filled by a majority vote of the Guiding Board.
 - Senior Minister – The Senior Minister is an ex-officio member of the Elders Ministry.
 - Chair of Elders – The members of the Elders Ministry annually choose a chair from within the group to serve a one-year term. The chair schedules and presides at meetings.
 - Guiding Board Representative – A representative of the Ministry serves on the Guiding Board as a voting member with the purpose of representing the spiritual needs of the congregation. This representative is chosen from within the group and serves a one-year term. [Note: Guiding Board members are limited to holding only one position on the Board.]
 - Ministries Council Representative – A representative of the Elders serves on the Ministries Council is chosen from within the group and serves a one-year term.
 - Senior Minister Evaluation Committee Representative – A representative of the Elders serves on the Senior Minister Evaluation Committee. This representative is chosen from within the group and serves a one-year term.
 - Elder positions noted above may be re-elected/selected for the same position.(chair, Ministries Council representative, Guiding Board representative, Sr. Minister Evaluation Committee)

SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT

- Support and oversight of this ministry is given to the
 - Senior Minister – programming
 - Financial Team – Ministry budget
 - Guiding Board – administrative; OPPs (Operating Policies and Procedures);

AUTHORITY: *The Bylaws of Round Rock Christian Church and RRCC OPP 1.4 – Ministry Designations. The Guiding Board designates and establishes ministries to carry out the mission of the congregation.*

DATE CREATED: January 10, 2010

LAST REVIEW and REVISION: August 2019

APPROVED BY THE GUIDING BOARD: September 16, 2019