

Bellicose Church Eldership Requirements

1. A Man

- Must be a man (1 Tim 2:11-12, 2 Tim 2:2)

2. Character

- Above reproach (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:6-7)
- Husband of one wife (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:6)
- Sober-minded (1 Tim 3:2)
- Self-controlled (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8, Acts 20:28)
- Respectable (1 Tim 3:2)
- Not a drunkard (1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Not violent, but gentle (1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Not quarrelsome (1 Tim 3:3)
- Not greedy or a lover of money (1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7, 1 Pet 5:2)
- Not a recent convert (1 Tim 3:6)
- Well thought of by outsiders (1 Tim 3:7)
- Not arrogant (Titus 1:7)
- Not quick-tempered (Titus 1:7)
- A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
- Upright (Titus 1:8)
- Holy (Titus 1:8)
- Disciplined (Titus 1:8)
- Financially responsible (1 Tim 3:4, Acts 11:29-30)
- Not selfishly ambitious (Phil 2:3) or looking to be seen (Matt 6:1), first (3 John 9), or praised by man (John 12:43)
- Demonstrably free from the dominion of the following sins *for a period of at least one year*: “sexual immorality (in all forms, including lust and pornography), impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.” (Gal. 5:19-21)

3. Training

- Completed Workmen’s Trust (the elders reserve the right to waive this requirement)

4. Teaching

- Able to teach (1 Tim 3:2, 2 Tim 2:2)
- Strong biblical convictions: holding firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it (Titus 1:9)
- Strong statement of faith convictions

5. Ordered Household

- Manages his household well with all dignity (1 Tim 3:4)
- If married, a healthy marriage
- Keeps his children submissive (1 Tim 3:4)
- Children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination (Titus 1:6)

6. Hospitality

- Hospitable (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8)
- Open home, heart, and schedule

7. Leadership

- Has led or is currently leading a missional community
- Has people following him
- Not unnecessarily weird, divisive, or given to faddish teachings
- If married, the husband is leading, and the wife is helping
- A shepherd (1 Pet 5:1)
- Not domineering (1 Pet 5:3)
- A good example (1 Pet 5:3, Heb 13:7)
- Decisive (Acts 16:4)

8. Calling

- Not under compulsion, but willing and eager (1 Pet 5:2, Heb 13:17)
- Desires the office and views it as noble (1 Tim 3:1)
- Called by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:24,28, Eph 4:11)
- Caring deeply for the church (Acts 20:28)
- If married, in unity with spouse about the call to eldership

9. Relationship

- Has a history of walking in the light and having healthy friendships with partners in our local church and with the current elders