

## **Grace Auburn – Elder Qualifications**

Elders will be men who agree and live a life consistent with Grace Auburn's Statement of Faith; meet the qualifications of an Elder described in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9; and exhibit Christ-like leadership as follows:

- \* **Above Reproach** – Elders must lead by example and demonstrate a lifestyle free from patterns of sin
- \* **Husband of One Wife** – Elders and their families are to be role models for the congregation. They shall further concur that God created and sanctioned marriage to bring together men and women, the complementary halves of humanity, by joining them in “one-flesh” unions (Genesis 2:18-25) and that marriage is solely between one man and one woman and is intended to be for life; and that this uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). Candidates who have been divorced may be considered for service as an Elder after a thorough evaluation and examination of the circumstances/biblical basis.
- \* **Temperate** – Elders must be self-controlled, enslaved to nothing, free from excesses.
- \* **Prudent** – Elders must be sober, sensible, wise, balanced in judgment, not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.
- \* **Respectable** – Elders must demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.
- \* **Hospitable** – Elders must be unselfish with their personal resources. They must be willing to share blessings with others.
- \* **Able to Teach** – Elders must be able to communicate truth and sound doctrine in a way that is not argumentative.
- \* **Not addicted to wine** – Elders must be free from any form of addiction and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.
- \* **Not pugnacious or quick-tempered** – Elders must be gentle, patient, and able to exercise self-control in difficult situations.
- \* **Uncontentious** – Elders must not be given to quarreling or selfish argumentation.
- \* **Free from the Love of Money** – Elders must not be stingy, greedy, out for sordid gain or preoccupied with amassing material things. Elders are expected to support the work of the church through systematic, regular giving (i.e., tithing).
- \* **Manage Own Household** – Elders must have a well-ordered household and a healthy family life.
- \* **Not a New Convert** – Elders must not be new believers. They must have been Christians for a long period of time and have a good reputation with outsiders. Elders must be well-respected by unbelievers and free from hypocrisy.
- \* **Not Self-Willed** – Elders must not be stubborn, prone to force opinions on others, or abuse authority. They must be servants.
- \* **Loving what is Good** – Elders must desire the will of God in every decision.
- \* **Just** – Elders must desire to be fair and impartial. Their judgments must be based on scriptural principle.

- \* **Devout** – Elders must be devoted Christ followers seeking to be conformed to His image. They must be committed to prayer, worship, the study of scripture and the guarding of their own walk.
- \* **Holding fast the Faithful Word** – Elders must be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, and continually seeking to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- \* **Baptism** – Elders must have made a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ and experienced Christian baptism, as commanded/modeled by our Lord Jesus.
- \* **Grace Auburn Family Commitment** – Elders shall have been fully engaged in the Grace Auburn Family for an extended period of time and must have signed and be in agreement with the Grace Auburn Family Commitment.

We understand, agree with and humbly believe we meet these qualifications.

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Elder Candidate

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Elder Candidate's Wife

We assess – and believe – based on our personal observation/knowledge of this man, and on the absence of any significant/substantiated concerns voiced by church membership, that this candidate meets these qualifications for eldership.

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Senior Pastor

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Chairman, Elder Board