



# Elder Submission Guide

*a guide to submit a qualified name  
& an explanation of our selection process*

As you prayerfully consider submitting a name for Elder consideration, we want you to first understand the role and requirements of being an Elder at Wellspring. If you desire more details, please speak with an Elder (listed below, or email [elders@wellspringchurch.com](mailto:elders@wellspringchurch.com) and an Elder will be in contact).

## The Role

Wellspring Elders serve as...

### ***Spiritual Leaders of the Church:***

Based on New Testament writings, Elders ensure the doctrinal and moral purity of the church; shepherd the flock which include teaching the Bible and admonitions when needed; pray for and minister to the sick; provide accountability and encouragement to the Lead Pastor and staff. Elders must show evidence of Christian maturity and a commitment to the health and growth of Wellspring Church.

### ***Administrative Leaders of the Church:***

Elders provide guidance and oversight to personnel and financial matters; validate structure related to fulfilling our mission; and are responsible for matters of congregational votes, governing documents, and legal matters of the church.

## Qualifications

Elders should meet and/or show evidence related to the Biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy, Titus and the governing documents of Wellspring (you're encouraged to read 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1). In summary:

An Elder should have respectable character; be self-controlled, sober-minded, gentle, not arrogant, and pursuing holiness; doctrinally sound, able to teach the Bible; manages own household well, not a recent convert (new Christian) and well thought of by outsiders. Additionally, the Bible shows that the office of Elder is held by men only. And at Wellspring, has been a member of the church for longer than one year and shown himself to be actively engaged in the life and work of the congregation (attendance, serving, giving) and he should be willing to set aside the time to serve in this important role.

**Candidates passing initial vetting and showing a desire to move through the process will be provided a more comprehensive listing of requirements and responsibilities.**

## The Selection Process: What Happens Next?

For 2024, Wellspring intends to add one or two new Elder(s). Two Elders will rotate off at the end of 2023, and one (or two) will be added for 2024 to complete our Elder team (Pastor Dick Stafford also serves the Elder board in an advisory capacity). The existing Elder Board will consider name submissions from the congregation, vetting each to verify the Biblical and Wellspring requirements. A list of names that go through this process will then be prayed over and discussed.

With eligible and willing candidates, a selection process will include spiritual discernment and written and in-person interviews. The Elder board will select one (or two) person(s) to join the Elder Board for 2024 and present the new Elder(s) to the congregation for awareness and prayer (in December). While you can, you do not have to seek a candidate's permission to submit their name. If they move through the process, they'll be given an opportunity to consider their willingness to serve.

## Elder Candidate Submission

If you would like to submit a name (that to the best of your knowledge, would meet the Biblical and Wellspring requirements) you may submit up two names for consideration. You will be required to include your name as submissions should come from within the Wellspring congregation. There are three ways to submit a name:

1. Online form
2. Email up to two names as Elder submissions to [elders@wellspringchurch.com](mailto:elders@wellspringchurch.com) (if your email address is not clear, please state your name in the body of the email)
3. Paper submission (submission forms are at the gym's Info Table and can be placed in giving receptacles)

## Current Elders



**Jason  
Hiles**



**Ernie  
Molina**



**David Graeff  
(2023 Chairman)**



**Brian Dodridge  
(Associate & Executive  
Pastor)**



**Bill  
Phillips**



**Dick Stafford  
(Associate Pastor)**



**Chris Stull  
(Lead Pastor)**



**Dan  
Woodworth**