

Responsibilities of Elders

All Ruling Elders serving on Session are expected to:

- Lead a life that reflects the image of God in our church and community, conforming with Scripture passages describing expectations for elders and leaders in the church
- Use one's unique gifts under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the role of a servant leader and spiritual leader of our congregation,
- Model financial stewardship through a demonstrated pattern of providing financial support to the church which can include tithing one's income, making and fulfilling pledges during the stewardship season and capital campaigns of the church or other types of consistent financial giving.
- Exercise appropriate discretion and great care in communications with FPC members about church business, particularly concerning sensitive subjects. (The concern is that your response may be mistakenly interpreted as speaking for the Session)
- Model involvement with covenant partners by:
 - Leading or participating in a small group Bible study
 - Teaching and/or attending a Sunday school class or Equipping class
 - Committing time to service, mission, or evangelism
- Commit to a personal devotional time of prayer and study on a regular basis (ideally daily)
- Pray regularly for covenant partners, Session members, Trustees, pastors, and staff of FPC, our denomination, and the church worldwide
- Prioritize attending worship in person weekly
- Serve a full three-year term
- Attend Elder-Elect training prescribed by the Pastor and Clerks prior to installation
- Attend regular monthly Session meetings (usually excludes July and December), called meetings, and when asked, attend new covenant partner reception meetings
- Prayerfully prepare for Session meetings and read all materials distributed for such meetings beforehand
- Attend and participate in the annual Session Retreat and ad hoc Session gatherings
- Attend Congregational Meetings including the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
- Serve as liaison to an assigned Session Committee, providing servant leadership to the committee and communicating the vision of the Session
- When appointed by the Clerks or Session Moderator, serve on a short-term task force or committee
- If eligible and when Session participation is required, serve on a committee of the congregation, e.g., Standing Committee on Nominations, Officer Nominating Committee, and Pastor Nominating Committee
- When requested, represent the church as an Elder Commissioner at meetings of the Presbytery
- Serve Communion during worship services on Communion Sundays (commit to a Communion Service Team by serving or providing a substitute Shepherding Elder); serve homebound covenant partners when requested
- Perform other tasks and leadership roles reserved to active Elders in ECO's Polity