

Appendix 2 MINISTRY COVENANT SAMPLES

1. This is a Ministry Covenant we used for our CHURCH ELDERS.

(Preamble: (This was a statement concerning the Constitution and By-Laws of the local church and its Statement of Faith. Naturally all elders would be expected to recognise and support these.)}

Biblical Qualifications: These are to be mostly found in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9.

We would recognise that:

It is good for a man to desire such an office.	1 Tim.3:1
Such office is 'God-given'.	1 Cor.12:28
Should be recognised by current pastor/eldership.	1 John 4:1
Approved by congregation (election).	1 Tim. 3:7

On being appointed to the office of elder, the undersigned is accepting the above statements and the following authority/responsibility as a Ministry Covenant commitment.

- ✓ To make his primary spiritual concern that of his own personal growth and meeting the biblical standards of eldership.
- ✓ To make his primary spiritual ministry that of serving as elder at this church.
- ✓ To honour the confidentiality of the Elders' Board.
- ✓ To recognise the office of other elders and their right to disagree.
- ✓ To publicly support the pastor at all times.
- ✓ To publicly support the corporate decisions of the Elders' Board.
- ✓ To voice any disagreements with other elders' actions/ministry, only to that elder directly or at the regular Elders' Board meeting.
- ✓ To carry one's own personal ministry burden and to actively encourage others in carrying theirs.
- ✓ To shepherd those under his care – to seek reconciliation where necessary – to maintain the unity of believers – to encourage commitment to church ministries.
- ✓ Not to grant confidentiality where it would impair the effective functioning of the Elders' Board. The Elder's Board must have open communication. When members desire such confidentiality, they must be referred to the pastor.
- ✓ Not to initiate any meetings without prior consultation with the Elders' Board.

- ✓ To work with the pastor in interviewing and approving potential new members.
- ✓ To act with the Elders' Board in disciplining members/adherents where necessary. This must be along biblical guidelines. (One should note that the disciplining of an elder is a serious matter and will be public before the membership – 1 Tim. 5: 1,2,19,20)

Relationship with Pastor

Having been responsible for the pastor's 'call' the Elders' Board is responsible for his welfare and support. Each elder should make it his responsibility to encourage the pastor (and his family). He does this by evident support, by praying for him, by acting as a buffer/liaison between him and the congregation, by safeguarding his privacy, days-off, etc., by willingness to serve and active participation in church ministries.

Relationship with the Congregation

Eldership is primarily 'serving'. LEADING BY SERVING should be our goal, not serving by leading. Without the recognition and support of the congregation (preferably 100%) there is no such office as elder. We hold this position just so long as we are considered worthy to carry it. However, one should zealously guard the office at all times, lest the Lord should remove that 'calling' and give it to another.

Relationship with other Elders

"In love, honouring one another" (Romans 12:19). As men called together in responsibility, we need to strive for the 'unity of the Spirit'. (See Philippians 2: 1-8)

We cannot expect the church to be more unified, burdened, blessed, Christlike, etc., than we are as its elders are! No church can advance beyond the maturity of its elders!

Being appointed as an elder at ***** church, I have read and accept the above document with its authority/responsibility.

Signed: _____;
Sec. Elders' Board: _____;
Pastor: _____;

Date: _____.