

Elder's Election

By Pastor Ivan Leung

Elders are the spiritual leaders of the church. They are chosen by God through an election by our church members in the Annual Membership Meeting. This elaborate election process starts with the formation of a Nomination Committee. This committee, comprised of the Senior Pastor, Elder Ian Ma, Elder Janson Ho, and two church members, Franca Hsin and Deacon Stephen Lee, was formed on August 23, 2009.

The Elders' Board takes this Elder's Election seriously and therefore drafted, discussed, amended and approved the "Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines" and "VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant" in order to provide a reference for the Nomination Committee and the members. Based on the "Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines" and the "VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant", it was announced on December 20, 2009 that the 2010 - 2012 Elder candidates are: Elder Danny Chak, Elder Victor Lee, Deacon Stephen Tsui (Knight Street Church) and Elder Clifford So (Fraser Lands Church).

Church members may also refer to the "Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines" and the "VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant" and actively participate in the nomination process. With a minimum of two church members, nominees may be named and put forward to Elder Ian Ma, the current Acting Chair of the Elders' Board before the nomination deadline at 12:30 pm, on February 7, 2010. The names of the 2010 - 2012 candidates nominated by the Nomination Committee and members will be announced on February 14, 2010.

To enable the congregation to have a better understanding of the background of the candidates, an information insert will be included in the February 28, 2010 bulletin. An Elder Candidates Sharing Meeting has been scheduled at Knight Street Church, 2:30 p.m. on March 21, 2010, followed by the Annual Membership Meeting at Knight Street Church, 2:30 p.m. on March 28, 2010, with the Elder Election being one of the agenda items.

The aforementioned "Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines" and the "VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant" aim to assist the congregation in understanding the qualifications and responsibilities of an elder, so that the most suitable candidates will be elected to assume the role and services of a Church Elder. These guidelines also encourage all pastors and the elected elders to lead and serve the flock based on Biblical principles. Please read the following Guideline and Covenant documents for specific content and procedures.

Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 07 Elder Candidate Nomination Deadline
- Feb. 14 2010 - 2012 Elder Candidates announced
- Feb. 28 Elder Candidate Information Insert available
- Mar. 21 Elder Candidates Sharing Meeting @ 2:30 p.m. at Knight Street Church
- Mar. 28 Annual Membership Meeting (includes Elder Election) @ 2:30 p.m. at Knight Street Church

Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church

Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines

Qualifications of an Elder

1. Is an exemplary member actively participating in the core activities of the church including worship, prayer meeting, Sunday school, and other major church activities.
2. Has a consistent daily devotional relationship with Christ through the Word of God, prayer, or personal worship.
3. Committed to and practices regular financial tithing to the VCAC church body.
4. Has demonstrated the ability and desire to continue to shepherd the VCAC body through the use of his spiritual gifts of discernment, wisdom, teaching/preaching, leadership, shepherding, and administration.
5. Be above reproach in the following areas:
 - Family - A faithful husband of one wife, and whose children believe and not known to be wild or disobedient. (1 Tim. 3:2,4; Titus 1:6)
 - Character - Blameless, not arrogant, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Tim 3:2-3; Titus 1:7-8)
 - Spiritual Character - Loves what is good, upright, holy and disciplined. (Titus 1:8)
 - Social Reputation - has a good reputation in all areas of life such as work, school, church, home, neighbourhood, socially, etc. (1 Tim. 3:7)
6. Has a solid understanding of the Word of God and a willingness to uphold it's truth.

Responsibilities of an Elder

1. To direct and manage the spiritual affairs of the church through the regular attendance and participation at the Elder Board meetings.
2. To carry out the ministerial duties appointed by the Board of Elders.
3. To develop and establish polices in regards to the Spiritual, Administrative, and Operational affairs of the church.
4. To ensure compliance with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) Constitution, VCAC bylaws, and government regulations pertaining to the operations of a charitable and religious organization.
5. To protect the church body against false teaching and disunity.
6. To partner with Pastoral staff in the shepherding of the entire church-wide VCAC body. (Acts 20:28)
7. To maintain good standings in accordance with the Elder's Covenant.

Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church

VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant

1. Maintain a regular active role in the core activities of the church including worship, prayer meeting, Sunday school, and other major church activities.
2. Maintain a consistent regular devotional relationship with Christ through the Word of God and prayer.
3. Tithe financially and regularly to the VCAC church body.
4. Be above reproach in the following areas:
 - Faithful to your spouse
 - Manage your own family well
 - Self controlled, not arrogant or quick tempered
 - Has a good reputation inside and outside the church
 - Not a heavy drinker
 - Not violent but gentle
 - Not quarrelsome
 - Not a lover of money or dishonest with monetary issues
 - Enjoys having guests in your home
 - Lives a wise, just, and godly life, and has a blameless character
 - Is able to feed the sheep through teaching
 - Lives a devout and disciplined life
5. Serve the VCAC church body alongside church staff with an attitude of humility and respect.
6. Attend all Pastoral Staff or Elder Board meetings unless unavoidable.
7. Carry out the ministerial duties appointed by the Board of Elders.
8. Commit to protecting and praying for the church body, especially in the areas of unity and doctrinal teaching.
9. Resign from the Pastoral or Elder position if unable to adhere to the spirit of this Covenant.

As a Pastor or Elder of the Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church, I pledge to adhere to this covenant.

Name

Date

Biblical References

1 Timothy 3:2-7 (NLT)

²So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. ³He must not be a heavy drinker or be violent. He must be gentle, not quarrelsome, and not love money. ⁴He must manage his own family well, having children who respect and obey him. ⁵For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? ⁶An elder must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall. ⁷Also, people outside the church must speak well of him so that he will not be disgraced and fall into the devil's trap.

Titus 1:6-8 (NLT)

⁶An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. ⁷For an elder must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money. ⁸Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life.

Acts 20:28 (NLT)

²⁸“So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock - his church, purchased with his own blood - over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NLT)

¹And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ²Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly - not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.

The “Elder Nomination and Selection Guidelines” and the “VCAC Pastor's and Elder's Covenant” use the same reference Scripture. The Bible sets a high standard for the selection of Elder as spiritual leaders for the church because they are chosen to work closely with the pastoral staff to shepherd the entire flock. When I think of the challenge to serve as an Elder, they need to face the demand of church service and stresses from marketplace and responsibilities in family. I pray that God will bless them with extra strength in terms of spirit, soul and mind.

Our Church Bylaw stipulates that an elder needs to take a break of a minimum of one year after 6 consecutive years of service. The following elders will start their year of break from March 2010: Elder Ian Ma, Elder Ernest Sin and Elder Wai Fung Chow. The elders for the term of 2009 - 2011 are: Elder Ezra Kwok (Knight Street Church), Elder Janson Ho, Elder Eugene Li and Elder Albert Tam (Fraser Lands Church).

I praise the Lord and sincerely thank all the Elders for their unfailing and faithful service. I also urge you, brothers and sisters in Christ, to continue to pray for the Elders. May the Lord bless our church abundantly by appointing a group of Elders who are pleasing to Him and willing to serve together to build up a healthy multi-site church for the sake of glorifying God and advancing His Kingdom.

“To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:21)