



ELDER (THE SESSION)

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. The session is a council for the congregation, composed of active ruling elders, who serve together with all ministers and associate ministers. The Head of Staff serves as the moderator of session, and the session does not meet without the pastor or an assigned moderator.

REPONSIBILITIES

- Receive members into the church.
- Lead the congregation in participation in the mission of the church.
- Provide for the worship of the people of God including preaching and the sharing of the Sacraments during worship and to those unable to attend in-person.
- Provide for the spiritual growth of its members.
- Lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing.
- Challenge the people of God in stewardship of money and time.
- Establish the annual budget and other special offerings.
- Lead the congregation continually to discover God's working in the world.
- Oversee the board of deacons and all other ministries and committees within the congregation.
- Provide for the management of the church's property.
- Serve in judicial matters in accordance with the *Rules of Discipline*.
- Keep accurate rolls and records of members in accordance with the *Book of Order*.