

The Qualifications Proper for the Office of Ruling Elder

Taken from The Ruling Elder by Samuel Miller (1768-1850)

The design of appointing persons to the office of ruling elder is not to pay them a compliment; not to give them an opportunity of figuring as speakers in judicatories; not to create the pageants of ecclesiastical ceremony; but to secure able, faithful and truly devoted counsellors and rulers of the church – to obtain wise and efficient guides, who shall not only go along with the flock in their journey heavenward, but GO BEFORE THEM in everything that pertains to Christian duty.

It cannot be doubted, indeed, that every member of the Christian church is bound to exhibit a holy, devout and exemplary life; to have his mind well stored with religious knowledge; to be able “to give an answer to everyone that asketh a reason for the hope that is in him” (1 Pet. 3:15); and to avoid everything that is criminal in itself, that may be just cause of offence to his brethren, or that may have even the appearance of evil. But it is equally manifest that all of these qualifications are still more important, and required in a still higher degree, in those who are entrusted with the spiritual inspection and regulation of the church. As they occupy a place of more *honour* and *authority* than the other members of the church, so they occupy a station of greater *responsibility*. The eyes of hundreds will be upon them as *elders*, which were not upon them as *private Christians*. Their brethren and sisters over whom they are placed in the Lord will naturally look up to them for advice, for instruction, for aid in the spiritual life, and for a shining example. The expectation is reasonable and ought not to be disappointed. The qualifications of elders, therefore, ought, in some measure, to correspond to it.

1. An elder, then, ought first of all, to be a MAN OF UNFEIGNED AND APPROVED PIETY.
2. Next to piety, it is important a ruling elder be possessed of GOOD SENSE AND SOUND JUDGMENT.
3. A ruling elder ought to be SOUND IN THE FAITH, AND WELL INFORMED IN RELATIONS TO GOSPEL TRUTH.
4. Again, an elder ought to be a man of EMINENT PRUDENCE.
5. It is important that an elder be of “GOOD REPORT OF THEM WHICH ARE WITHOUT” (1 Tim. 3:7).
6. A ruling elder ought to be a MAN OF PUBLIC SPIRIT AND ENLARGED VIEWS.
7. The last qualification on which I shall dwell, as important in the office before us, is ARDENT ZEAL AND IMPORTUNATE PRAYER.

** This excerpt was compiled from pages 251-262 of the 1999 reprint edition of Samuel Miller’s The Ruling Elder, published by Presbyterian Heritage Publications (Dallas, TX).*

Announcements

- Prayer Meeting this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the church.
- To volunteer to help clean the church property, please contact the church at info@antiochpca.com.

Vision

Our vision is to see the historic Antioch Presbyterian Church revitalized as a worshipping community to be a blessing to every man, woman, and child in the growing residential hub west of Woodruff and south of Reidville, to the glory of God.

Mission

Our mission as a parish church at the crossroads of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties is the gathering and perfecting of God’s people through biblical worship, evangelism, and pastoral care.

Areas of Ministry Focus

Expository Preaching
Biblical Worship
Parish Evangelism
Pastoral Care
Discipleship

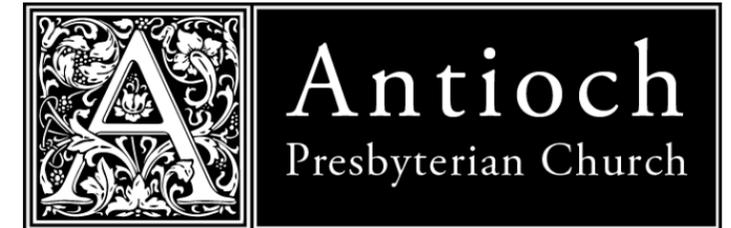
Leadership & Accountability

As a *mission work*, Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCA) is governed and overseen by a *provisional session* of elders serving as a *commission* of Calvary Presbytery. The six men appointed to the *provisional session* are active elders within the bounds of Calvary Presbytery, and they have graciously agreed to serve “above-and-beyond” to encourage the revitalization of Antioch. They include:

Dr. Chipley Bennett, Ph.D. – Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church
Dr. E. Todd Buchner, D.Min. – Pastor, Reidville Presbyterian Church
Mr. Richard Hollifield – Ruling Elder, Roebuck Presbyterian Church
Mr. William Johnson – Ruling Elder, Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr., Ph.D., D.D. – Professor of Systematic & Applied Theology, President Emeritus, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary;
Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church
Pastor Richard Thomas – Senior Pastor, Mount Calvary Presbyterian Church;
Clerk of Session, Antioch Presbyterian Church

Church Staff

Mr. Zachary Groff – Ministerial Assistant
Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. – Organizing Pastor & Moderator of Session



The Lord’s Day
December 27, 2020

“A Few Good Men (Part Two)”

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Dr. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr.

Worship – Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

3600 SC-417 | Woodruff, SC 29388

864.519.3604 | info@antiochpca.com | antiochpca.com

The Lord's Day

December 27, 2020

Meditation

Psalm 80:1-3

¹ Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth! ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your power and come to save us! ³ O God, restore us and cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.

*Call to Worship

*Congregational Commitment

Minister: Congregation, in whom is your confidence?

Congregation: Our help is in the Name of the Lord, Who made the heavens and the earth.

*Salutation

*Hymn of Adoration

No. 146

Praise the LORD! My Soul, O Praise Him!
RIPLEY

*Prayer of Adoration & Invocation

*Revelation of God's Will

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

*Confession of Sin & Supplication for Grace

O Holy Father, often do we approach You with our mouths and with our lips when our hearts are not in worship. We offer to You that which costs us little. Though You are a great King, we often bring to You the leftovers of our time, energy, and worship. We have neglected Your commands when it is inconvenient for us to keep them. We have ignored Your law where it causes us to lose our ease. We have disregarded our neighbors' needs, and wondered aloud why other people do not meet our needs. O Father, have mercy on us! Forgive us our debts! Cleanse us and give to us the mind and heart of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. In His Name do we come to You. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Offering

No. 295

Song of Simeon
NUNC DIMITTIS

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Supplication

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation

No. 119I

You Treated Your Servant with Grace
TREWEN

*Prayer for Illumination

*Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-8

*New Testament Reading

Titus 1:1-16

*Congregational Response

Leader: Man shall not live by bread alone,

Congregation: But by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!

Sermon

"A Few Good Men"
1 Timothy 3:1-7

Prayer of Application

*Hymn of Response

No. 23B

The Lord's My Shepherd
EVAN

*Benediction

*Doxology

No. 310

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
(stanza 6)
CHRISTMAS

**Congregation standing, unless physically hindered*

"A Few Good Men (Part Two)"

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Main Proposition

Because the office of elder is a noble office, a man must have personal, domestic, and ecclesiastical qualifications.

Outline

- I. The Dignity of the Office
- II. The Personal Qualifications for the Office
- III. The Domestic Qualifications for the Office
- IV. The Ecclesiastical Qualifications for the Office