

Questionnaire for Prospective Elders

1. If a man desires the position of bishop...(1 Timothy 3:1)

- a. Do you wish to be an elder? Why?

- b. Do you believe you are qualified for this office? Why?

- c. What are the duties of an elder?

- d. How do you plan to carry out those duties? (“blameless as a steward of God, Titus 1:7)

- e. Do you believe your motives for leadership to be pure? (Not for being noticed or wielding power (see q. 13) but for service?) Would your wife agree?

2. The husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2)

- a. Have you ever been divorced?

- b. Are you a good husband? What does this mean?

- c. How do you husband your wife? What are your husbanding practices?

- d. Do you (or have you ever) hit or physically coerced your wife?
- e. Have you looked at ('peered at') any pornographic images in the last year on your computer, TV, magazine, or otherwise? Have you been to any locations that would be considered inappropriate by church members?
- f. Do you have any formal boundaries set up to protect against inappropriate relationships? (E.g. regarding women in the work environment)

3. Temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior (1 Timothy 3:2)

- a. Give an example of a time you showed temperance or were temperate.
- b. What is it to be sober-minded? Give an example of a time you demonstrated sober-mindedness when it was difficult.
- c. Give an example of a time when you failed to exhibit good behavior and how you dealt with the situation.

4. Hospitable

- a. Describe your practice of hospitality. How often? With whom?
- b. Do you have a formal plan for hospitality (perhaps regarding neighbors or members of your small group or church)? What is it?

5. Able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2)

- a. Do you consider yourself able to teach? Why? What is it to be able to teach?
- b. Do you read your Bible regularly? What are your practices?
- c. Do you read books outside the Bible? What kinds and why?
- d. What are your views of discipleship? What are your practices?
- e. Do you practice evangelism? When is the last time you shared your faith?

6. Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3), not quick-tempered (Titus 1:7), self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

- a. Do you have any addictions (alcohol, tobacco, pornography, food, medications, gambling, etc.) subtle or gross?
- b. Do you drink alcohol?
- c. Have you been drunk or been accused of drunkenness in the last twelve months?

- d. Describe your temper. What things make you angry? How do you handle anger?
- e. Would anyone you know claim that you have an uncontrollable or unstable temper?
- f. What are your hobbies? What books have you read in the last six months? What are your television habits?
- g. How do you spend your free time?

7. Not greedy for money (1 Timothy 3:3)

- a. How are your household finances? Do you carry any personal debt?
- b. Do you have a budget and do you stick to it?
- c. Are you adequately providing for the future needs of your family (college, retirement, etc.)?
- d. What are your views on gambling? Do you gamble? Do you play the lottery?

e. Have you filed bankruptcy in the last 10 years?

f. Would anyone who knows you believe you to be preoccupied with money?

g. Do you have the time to devote to your office in fulfilling responsibilities? (This includes prayer, pastoral visits, phone conversations, interventions, emergencies, and committee work)

h. Do you tithe? For how long has this been your practice? Does your tithe go to the general fund of the church or do you direct it somewhere else?

i. Do you give offerings?

8. Gentle, not quarrelsome (1 Timothy 3:3)

a. Describe a time when you were gentle despite an impulse not to be gentle.

b. Describe how gentleness looks practically.

c. How do you avoid conflict when it is not necessary?

d. Give an example of a time when you avoided such conflict.

e. Would anyone you know believe you to be quarrelsome? Why?

f. Have you criticized a decision of the elders or deacons in the last year? What was it and how did you follow up on it?

9. Not covetous (1 Timothy 3:3)

a. What are your aspirations?

b. What are your career goals?

c. What are your goals for your family?

d. Where are you discontent?

e. Would anyone describe you as being discontented?

f. If you are in debt, what sorts of debt do you carry and for what things?

10. One who rules his own house well (1 Timothy 3:4)

a. Describe how you shepherd your wife. Give an example of a time you have shepherded her through a difficult situation.

b. Give an example of a time you have defended your wife.

c. Give an example of a time you have corrected your wife.

d. Describe how you shepherd your children. Give an example of a time you have shepherded them through a difficult situation.

e. Give an example of a time when you have defended your children.

f. Give an example of a time when you have corrected your children.

g. Do you believe in (and practice) corporal punishment? If not, why?

11. Having his children in submission with all reverence (1 Timothy 3:4), having faithful children, (Titus 1:6)

a. Describe how your children show reverence.

b. Do you have any children who are outside the church or are under church discipline?

c. Are your children walking with the Lord now? If not, what are you doing about it?

d. Do you display submission to authority to your children in relation to government? (e.g. Do you pay your state and federal taxes?) The church?

12. Having children not accused of dissipation or insubordination (Titus 1:6)

a. How are your children employed?

c. How do your children honor their mother?

c. Have your children been accused of dissipation or insubordination?

13. Not a novice (1 Timothy 3:6), men who fear God (Exodus 18:21)

- a. Describe your conversion.
- b. How long have you been a believer?
- c. How long have you been a member of The Reborn Church?
- d. How long have you been reformed?
- e. Describe your personal practice of obedience to God.
- f. Have you read the entire Bible?
- g. Describe your practice of prayer.
- h. Describe your household's practice of family worship.
- j. What is your practice of memorization of Scripture?

14. Lest being puffed up with pride (1 Timothy 3:6)

- a. Describe a time you sinned and had to be reconciled to a brother.

- b. Did you seek reconciliation or did he?

- c. Do you have any un-reconciled matters in the local church? In the universal church?
Do you know of anyone who would claim not to be reconciled with you or has a grudge with you?

15. Holding fast the faithful word (Titus 1:9)

- a. What, if any, are your exceptions to the Statement of Faith of The Reborn Church?

- b. Do you have any 'scruples' (doubts) about any issue in the statement?

- c. Do you have any known differences with other ordained men of the church that could lead to controversy?

- e. Do you hold Bible studies in your home? If not, will you be open to hosting one?

16. Able by sound doctrine to exhort and convict (Titus 1:9)

a. Give an example of a time that you exhorted an erring brother. How did you go about it?

b. Give an example of a time that you convicted an erring brother. How did you go about it?

c. Briefly describe your views on abortion.

d. On homosexuality.

e. On the role of women in the church.

f. What is the mission of the local church?

g. Describe briefly, but precisely, what Jesus' death on the cross accomplished, and how it did so.

h. Is the Bible inerrant?

17. Having a good testimony among those who are outside (1 Timothy 3:7)

a. What person outside the Church is most likely to have a poor view of you and why?

d. Please provide contact information for three references outside the church (i.e. unbelievers).

c. Are you associated with any groups (e.g. political, racial, religious, social, professional, social media, etc.) that might be considered controversial by others? If so, please describe.

18. For there are many insubordinate (Titus 1:10)

a. Describe a time when you submitted to authority in the Church, though you could have pressed the matter.

b. Have you been accused of being rebellious or unwilling to submit to authority?

19. Whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant (Matthew 20:26)

a. How have you denied yourself in the service of your family?

b. How have you denied yourself in the service of the Church?

c. Would members of this church say that you have shown yourself a servant to others?

20. Do you believe anyone would take issue with the manner in which you have understood the questions or provided answers?

21. Is there anything you have not revealed about yourself or your past in this process for fear of how others would react to the information?

22. What is something you would like to see prioritized or dealt with in the church?

23. What is something you would like discontinued in the church? (i.e. “The thing that bothers me most about our church is _____”)

24. Should you recall any circumstances, events, etc. that would change any of your answers above before the election, would you please contact that elders and inform them?