

Market Square Presbyterian Church Ruling Elder Position Description

A member of the session must be an active member of Market Square Presbyterian Church. The individual must be willing to make the session a high priority for at least three years. Upon election by the congregation, examination by session, ordination and installation, a ruling elder may be asked to serve a second consecutive three-year term.

Ruling Elder Responsibilities:

The session is responsible for the mission and governance of Market Square Presbyterian Church. Ruling elders:

1. Strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation.
2. Serve on at least one of the session's active committees:
 - Education – including subcommittees for Children, Youth and Adult
 - Membership
 - Mission and Stewardship
 - Nominating
 - Peacemaking
 - Personnel
 - Worship, Music and the Arts
3. Cultivate their ability to teach the Bible.
4. Approve the annual budget, determine the distribution of the church's offerings
5. Lead the congregation to discover what God is doing in the world
6. Instruct, examine, ordain, install and welcome elders and deacons on their election by the congregation
7. Delegate and supervise the work of the board of deacons and the board of trustees and all other organizations and task forces within the congregation
8. Provide for the administration of church programs, including employment of non-ordained staff
9. Establish and maintain ecumenical relationships necessary for the life and mission of the church

Ruling Elder Qualities and Skills

A member of the session should:

1. Have a deep and abiding faith in God.
2. Be a person of sound judgment and dedication.
3. Be a good listener who works well with others.
4. Be able to keep information confidential.

Time Commitment for Ruling Elders

A member of the session must be willing to set aside the time necessary to attend 10 regularly scheduled meetings each year. Meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month at 7

pm. The meetings last at least 1.5 hours. Additional meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis.

Elders also represent Market Square Presbyterian Church by attending at least one Presbytery meeting per term.

Why Serve as a Ruling Elder

Here's what Nancy Sheets says about why she has found it rewarding to serve as a ruling elder:

I have a great love not only for Market Square but also for our denomination and its work in the world. In a big picture sense, I believe that God is using us to bring light and hope to a hurting world. In a smaller sense, as an elder, I believe that we're doing good work here at Market Square.

Serving on the session gives me many opportunities to use my particular gifts for service, whether as Clerk of Session or serving on the Membership and Archives Committees. Being an elder can be time consuming but the work we do is important and potentially transformative, not only for those within the walls of Market Square, but for those in the community. I feel honored to join all the elders who served before me in maintaining this wonderful place for all those who will come after me.