

ARTICLE 2.5 The Session

Section 1 – Composition

Definitions: There are two classifications of elders at Westover Church:

- 1 - On Session - Those elders currently elected to and serving on the Session.
- 2 - Off Session - Those elders who are not currently serving on the Session but still meet the qualifications of elder at Westover Church.

Once ordained, elders retain their positions, whether on- or off-session, so long as they continue to meet the qualifications in Article 2.4, Section 2 and affirm the annually presented Elder Covenant.

The Session shall be composed of the on-session elders and the Lead Pastor. The number of on-session elders shall be determined by the Session, but there shall be at least 12 Elders.

Section 2 – Qualifications for Elders

The qualifications for elders are outlined in the Scriptures: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In addition, a candidate for elder must be examined and approved by the Session before his name may appear on the ballot, he must wholeheartedly accept the Articles of Faith as contained in the Constitution, he must be a member of the Church in good standing, exemplary in his general Christian conduct, devoted in his attendance and service to the Church, and shall have served Westover Church at least one year as Deacon.

Section 3 – Duties

The Session shall be responsible for the nurture and maintenance of the spiritual welfare of the Church; to provide sound Bible teaching, avenues of fellowship and service, and Christ-centered discipleship; and to supervise the affairs and activities of the Church and any organization that is a part of the Church. Certain powers and responsibilities included as duties of the Session

may be delegated to other organizations or to individuals within the Church, but with the understanding that such powers and responsibilities are always subject to the oversight and discretion of the Session.

The Session also has the right, authority, and duty to examine candidates for the Gospel ministry, and to duly ordain such as they find qualified. Such men need not be members of the Church but shall be those requesting ordination to a ministry not affiliated with an established denomination.

Section 4 – Structure and Tenure

There shall be four (4) classes of on-session elders constituting the Session, each composed of approximately one fourth of the total men elected for four (4) years, per Section 1.

Section 5 – Meetings

The Session shall meet regularly each month, with exception as approved by the Session, and at other times as called by the Lead Pastor, the Moderator, or upon request of two on-session elders. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the on-session elders.

Section 6 – Officers

At the first meeting of the Session following election and installation of a new class of on-session elders, the Session shall elect a Moderator, a Vice Moderator, and a Clerk of Session. These officers shall also serve in their respective capacities at congregational meetings. The Clerk shall be responsible for keeping safely and in good order pertinent records and correspondence, membership records, and all Session-related minutes. In the absence of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator shall be in authority and responsible to call meetings of the Session to provide a continuing, orderly ministry by the Church. In the absence of both Moderator and Vice Moderator, another member of the session may temporarily function in this capacity as determined by the Moderator.

Section 7 – Committees

The Session may establish standing and special committees and determine their composition, function, and term of service.

Unless specifically approved by the Session, no person may serve on a committee to which their spouse has been appointed.

Section 8 – Limitation of Obligations

The Session shall not enter into any outside financial obligation, encumber any Church property, authorize the borrowing of any money, or purchase or sell any real Church property without approval of the congregation. Such approval shall require a favorable vote by 2/3 of the members present and voting at a duly called congregational meeting.

Disposition of real property which has been donated to the Church shall be determined by a majority vote of the Session and does not require a congregational vote.