ELDERS

- BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE CHURCH

I Timothy 3: 1-7 ,Titus 1: 5-9

Providing a list of qualifications for board membership is not easy. Biblically we look at the ideal. Few, if any, measure up completely. Imperfections should not totally disqualify one for service. Any areas of weakness should be considered areas for growth and development.

- PERSONAL QUALITIES

1. Above reproach - against whom no moral criticism can be made.
2. Temperate - possessing a stable perspective on life.
3. Respectable - having a well-adjusted life according to His Word.
4. Not given to wine - not addicted to anything that is controlling one's life.
5. Not self-willed - not always having to have one's own way, capable of supporting the will of the majority when out voted.
6. Not quick-tempered - in control of one's temperament holding no resentments.
7. Gentle - mild-mannered reflecting meekness, forbearance and kindness.
8. Free from the love of money - seeking first the kingdom and His righteousness.
9. Love that which is good - desiring to associate oneself with truth, honor and integrity.
10. Devout - able to make objective decisions and be honest in relationships with people.
11. Not a new convert - one who is in the process of continual growth in disciplined Christian living.

- INTERPERSONAL QUALITIES

1. Prudent - having a correct view of oneself in relationship to other Christians.
2. Hospitable - using one's home as a means to minister to other members of the body of Christ as well as to non-Christians.
3. Able to teach - (does not refer to the gift of teaching) able to communicate the Word of God to others in a non-argumentative manner.
4. Not pugnacious - never strikes out physically at others because of angry feelings.
5. Un-contentious - does not take the opposite point of view to stir up arguments and destroy the unity of the group.
6. A good reputation with those outside the church - having the respect of unbelievers even if they disagree with your point of view.
7. Just - able to make objective decisions and be honest in relationships with people.

- FAMILY QUALITIES

1. Husband of one wife - a loyal husband, preserving marriage in all its purity (if unmarried: handling one's sexual urges properly).
2. One who manages his own household well - having the love and respect of one's wife and children seeing them respond to God and his claims upon their lives.

THE GIFT OF RULING

The gift of ruling, more properly translated " leading", is essential for effective service on a board of elders. The Greek work means "one who stands in front". A leader must have the ability to lead in matters of the church organization and government. Another aspect of this gift is the ability to direct and organize the larger group of believers so that each one is released to perform his ministry without hindrance of disorganization.

- COMMITMENT TO THE CHURCH

Two basic qualifications come by way of reason as well as inference from the Word:

1. Commitment to the church - Faithful commitment to the total church program is essential. A board member who does not faithfully attend the regular Sunday and Wednesday evening services is hardly in a position to make decisions concerning them.
2. Tithing - God's plan for church finance is the tithe. A board member should set the example as a spiritual leader of his church. A board member shall be a tithing Christian: "Where a man's treasure is there his heart will be also".

- A SEPARATED LIFE

Believing themselves to be in accordance with the teachings of scripture and in concern for board members to exercise leadership by separation from worldly practices.

The Elder Board accepts nominations of up to 3 persons whom attendees feel meet the requirements listed above. The Elder Board will review all nominations.

I am Nominating _____ to be considered as an Elder of Stone's Hill Community Church.