

September 9, 2018



ELDER LEADERSHIP @ FIRST



We're excited about the future God has in store for us. We want to be a light for Jesus Christ in the downtown Minneapolis community. If there was ever a time in the history of our church where strong leadership is needed... the time is now.

A Change for the Future: Elder Leadership at First

While for many years we have had dedicated people faithfully serving on our church board, decisions on ministry strategy and vision were ultimately made and executed by the Senior Pastor. That may have been effective in the past, but we need a new model of church governance to guide us into the future.

What is the proposed change? We move from our current leadership structure to an elder leadership model

Why are we changing? There are several reasons why this is the right move for our church family:

- It's the biblical model of church leadership (see 1 Timothy 3)
- The shared model of leadership will allow First to act faster: Stronger partnership between lay leaders and ministry staff will allow our church to be more nimble in serving the needs of the community and caring for our members
- Shared leadership will lead to a more effective outreach to the downtown community and a more vibrant, growing community of believers

When are we changing? We would like to have the congregation vote on this decision in January 2019

How can I find out more about this change? There are several ways you can find out more – and support the change:

- Attend one of the first Town Hall meetings on September 23 or September 27
- Join a book discussion group exploring Church Membership and Church Elders, starting September 16 or September 19
- Attend the Biblical Principles of Elder Leadership seminar with Pastor Jeremy and Steve Treichler on October 7
- Put the rest of the Elder Leadership @ First events on your calendar now

What can I do right now?

- PRAY! We need God's blessing, guidance, and lordship over this process
- Post a question you want answered in the first Town Hall

Please reach out to me or other Church Board members to hear more about this proposed change. I look forward to walking this path to the future with you.

In Christ,
Rick Swanson, Chair
First Baptist Church Board



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Find out more about our path to elder leadership through the following events.

Town Hall and Congregational Meetings

What it Will Look Like – Get a better understanding of why we’re making this move now and learn what elder leadership will look like. The same information will be presented in each of these meetings.

Sunday, September 23 at 12:30pm (lunch and childcare through 2nd grade provided)

Thursday, September 27 at 6:30pm

How Ministry Will Work – Learn how we will operate under elder leadership, how we will elect elders and deacons, and how current ministry and staffing plans will be impacted.

Sunday, October 21 at 12:30pm (lunch and childcare through 2nd grade provided)

Governance and Transition Details – Learn how we will be legally organized, and how we will operate between the time we adopt elder leadership and when we elect our first elders. The same information will be presented in each of these meetings.

Thursday, November 15 at 6:30pm

Sunday, November 18 at 12:30pm (lunch and childcare through 2nd grade provided)

Ways to Learn More About Elder Leadership

Book Discussions – If your community group isn't already reading these books this fall, sign up for one or both of the book discussions that will meet on Sundays or Wednesdays.

Church Membership	Sundays, 9:30-10:45am	September 16 through October 7
	Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm	September 19 through October 10
Church Elders	Sundays, 9:30-10:45am	October 21 through November 11
	Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm	October 24 through November 14

Biblical Principles of Elder Leadership seminar – Pastor Jeremy is teaming up with Steve Treichler, founder and senior pastor of Hope Community Church, for this two-hour seminar that will present a vision of elder leadership, sharing both biblical perspectives and Steve's experience from his 20 years working in and helping plant elder-led churches.

Sunday, October 7 at 6:00pm

Small Group Discussions – Following the town hall and congregational meetings, there will be numerous small group discussions. Stay tuned to hear specific dates and times.

Submit a Question – Write your question on a connection card and drop it in the offering plate. If you give us your name and contact information, we'll reply directly to you!

Elder Leadership @ First web page – We will be posting new articles, frequently asked questions, and all of our communications about the path to elder leadership on our website. Check it out at <http://fbcmminneapolis.org/about/elder-leadership-at-first/>