Definition of Ruling Elder

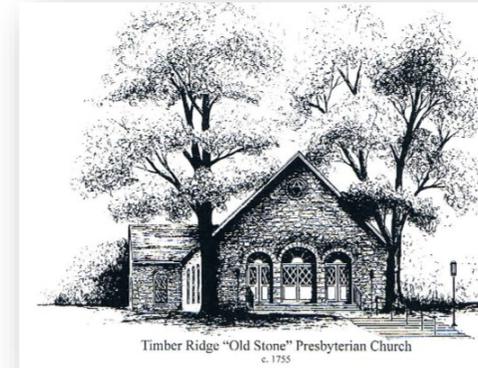## DEFINITION OF RULING ELDER FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER (G-2.0301)

"As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people. Accordingly, congregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation (Matt. 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."

Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church
February 6, 2022
Ordination & Installation Service

Timber Ridge "Old Stone" Presbyterian Church
c. 1755

Constitutional Questions:

Installation of elders Joe Lipscomb, Dixie Steck & Elder Ordination for Jessie Lotts.

Question to elders:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

(The people respond)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

(The people respond)

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

(The people respond)

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Anointing   *(The candidate and elders respond)*

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
I do.

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
I do.

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?
I will.

Do we, the members of the church, accept Jessie to be ordained an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and for elders Joe, Dixie and Jessie to be installed to the session, all chosen by God thru the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

(The people respond)
We do.

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

(The people respond)
We do.

Laying of Hands

Prayer for Elders

Charge to Elders   [*from 2 Tim. 2:15*]

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

 Welcome Elders to the Session

* **Hymn of Sending   589**   *"Here I Am, Lord" [vs 1,3]*

* **Charge & Blessing**

* **Choral Response**   *The Peace of Christ*

* **Postlude**