

The Biblical Standard

Elder qualification is not based on our vote, but rather on a **detailed biblical standard**, which is described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3.

¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

(Titus 1:6-9)

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

(1 Peter 5:1-3)

Our church constitution also requires that nominees be men who have been members of SSBC for at least three years. These nominees meet that requirement.



Request for Feedback

While we believe each of the nominees we have selected is indeed qualified and has potential to serve as an elder, we are seeking your help in the discernment process.

Have you have had the opportunity to observe their character, their lives outside of church, their teaching, their leadership skills, their love for the Lord and this body of believers?

Based on such exposure you may have had, **please prayerfully consider each of these men** in light of the scriptural qualifications. After doing that, if you have any feedback about their qualifications to serve as elders, please contact the elders on the nominating committee as noted below.

Please respond with your comments by Sunday, June 5, in order for us to take it into consideration in advance of the June vote. Let's honor God together in this process by following his standards with integrity and love.

Thank you.

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Our Nominees

Elder Nomination and Discernment

The elders and the nominating committee of South Shore Baptist Church are recommending four men for consideration to serve as elders at South Shore Baptist Church beginning in July 2022.

These nominees are:

Vincent Lifrieri

Pete Longley

Conrad Spaulding

Jim Van Arsdale

A vote on this matter will be taken at our annual meeting in June. However, due to the importance of this decision and the clear biblical standards for this role, we invite each member of the congregation to prayerfully consider each of these nominees. Because it is not usually possible or appropriate to discuss matters that relate to individual character and qualifications in a large congregational meeting, we are asking you to give this your attention now and to provide input to us in advance of the vote.

To help you pray and consider any thoughts you may have, we have included the relevant scriptural passages, a short summary about each nominee, and some contact information you can use if you would like to follow up.



Vincent Lifrieri has been a member of SSBC since 2013. He and his wife Danielle reside in Plymouth, MA and have been married for almost 12 years. They have one son, Dante. At SSBC, Vincent has served as an elder, as a member of the missions committee, and has taught Sunday School. He holds an M. Div. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and holds degrees

in Ancient History and Curriculum Development. He previously served as a missionary in east and southern Africa. Vincent loves discussing Biblical theology, reading church history, and taking scenic drives and hikes with his family.



Conrad Spaulding has been attending South Shore Baptist Church since January of 2018. He has been a member since March of 2019. He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 31 Years. They met at church while serving together in youth ministry. They have two adult daughters, Katherine and Elizabeth. Katherine is married to Nate Richards and

they have two children, Eleanor and Elijah. Elizabeth currently works in education. Conrad and Mary love the worship and biblical preaching at SSBC. They have also grown to love and appreciate the people here. He is involved with the Cambodian Fellowship as a friend and one of the Bible study leaders. He has also been part of the men's Thursday night Bible study, a men's prayer group, and Christian book study. Conrad loves the mission focus of SSBC, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples in His name on the South Shore and around the world.



Peter Longley came to Christ while he was in college. He has served in other churches for many years before moving to MA. Pete's areas of service include: deacon, elder, Sunday School teacher, and a choir and worship leader. Since joining SSBC in 2005, he has served in Missions, Stewardship, Growth Group, and Prayer Team Ministries, helped lead adult Sunday School for seekers, and

led the Christian Creative Writers Workshop. He and his wife Linda, married 38 years, are proud parents of three adult children and have five grandchildren.



Jim Van Arsdale and family first attended South Shore Baptist Church in 1999 soon after moving to the area from the Midwest. They joined the church not long after that year. Jim and Cindy have been married since 1981 and have two adult, married children - Sarah and John - and one grandchild, Eleanor Grace Kleberg. Jim has served two previous terms as an elder and has been involved with the Finance Committee,

Capital Campaign, Sr. Pastor Search Committee, Men's Ministry, and growth groups. He has been employed in financial services since ~1980 and currently works as an independent financial advisor. They feel blessed to worship at SSBC and are often amazed how our Lord leads, convicts, and instructs through the preaching, teaching, and pastoral care of our gifted pastors and staff. The church family and ministries have meant a great deal to them for the past 23 years.