



# The Branch

*At The Branch, a leader seeks to help people live in an intimate relationship with God.*

*As we consider the recommendation of elders to lead our church spiritually, we want to do it in three ways:*

## **Biblically**

*What does the Bible say about the characteristics and qualities of shepherds and spiritual leadership?*

## **In Community**

*Part of this process will be asking you to consult with your fellow believers at The Branch.*

## **Prayerfully**

*We will ask the Holy Spirit to inform our hearts in prayer and fasting.*

## *Elder Selection Schedule:*

**January 24:** Begin the process of considering who you should nominate. Spend time in the Bible, in Community, and In Prayer.

**Starting February 6 :** Begin turning in Recommendation Forms

**February 14:** Recommendation forms are **due**.

**March 13/14:** Announce the names of those to be ordained.

**March 20/21:** Ordination Service

*As you consider the men to recommend, perhaps the most important thing to remember is that this is not a process to nominate a potential leader. This is a process to recognize **men who already lead**, whose spiritual maturity and leadership skills have already been demonstrated in lives they currently shepherd.*

*What are the characteristics or qualities of an elder?*

### *Shepherd*

- He already has a number of people in the church who know, respect, and follow him in the Lord
- His leadership style reflects Jesus' model
- He has a positive attitude about The Branch, our values and our mission
- He builds unity in everything he does

### *Mentor*

- He demonstrates Christian maturity (is not a new Christian)
- Others in the church look to him for spiritual direction and instruction
- He demonstrates a balanced life (family, church, career)
- His wife is his spiritual partner in ministry

### *Equipper*

- He trains and teaches others how to serve
- He is a man of Bible study and prayer
- He is a builder of people - an encourager

### *What Shepherds Do:*

- Keep watch over the church
- Care for and feed the flock
- Give guidance
- Preach & teach
- Exhort & admonish
- Act as an example
- Serve the church
- Prepare God's people for service
- Pray over and anoint the sick

### *What Shepherds Don't Do:*

- Boss people around
- Think for everyone else
- Call the shots and make all the decisions
- Legislate in matters of opinion
- Grease the squeaky wheels

*The characteristics and qualities of the type of man God desires to spiritually lead his church are outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. As you prayerfully consider men that fit the previous characteristics listed, reflect also on these qualities and questions.*

**Good Reputation:** Do others hold them in high regard?

**Morally pure:** Does their life reflect moral and sexual purity, honoring their wife in everything?

**Balanced Life:** How anchored/stable are they?

**Wise:** In uncertain situations, how sound is their judgement?

**Good role model:** Do their lives attract others to Christ?

**Generous and caring:** What kind of "hospital" are they?

**Communicate well:** Are their conversations non-threatening and not defensive?

**Moderation:** Do they have any addictive behaviors? Do they over-indulge?

**Humble:** Are they teachable? Do they always have to be in control?

**Patient and Forgiving:** Are they vengeful or bitter? Do they release offenses quickly?

**Not abusive:** Are they kind and respectful, even when provoked or angry?

**Fair-minded:** How considerate are they of others?

**Peace-loving:** How contentious are they? Do they strive for win/win scenarios?

**Non-materialistic:** Do their spending habits honor God?

**Good spouse/parent:** What do you see of God in how they parent their children?

**Pursues godly activities:** Which do you see as the bigger magnet for them-- the Spirit or the flesh?

**Non-prejudiced & fair:** Are they equitable and impartial, and refuse to play favorites?

**Holy, devoted to God:** Do you see more of Christ in them today than a year ago?

**Disciplined:** Are their habits holy or human? What's their "spiritual fitness?"

*Please consider also:*

- These are qualities, not qualifications.
- Not every elder will possess all these qualities to the same degree.
- Who would you seek out in a time of crisis for spiritual comfort and guidance?

*An elder need not be:*

- Outstanding in the business world
- A good public speaker
- A charismatic personality
- Wealthy

# Elder Recommendation Form

Forms not signed will not be considered.

Based on the guidelines previously read, prayerful consideration and consultation with others at The Branch, I prayerfully recommend the following candidates:

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Signed

Print name and phone number

***Please place this form in the designated boxes in the lobby or you may go online to [www.thebranch.org](http://www.thebranch.org) to submit your recommendation.***

***Forms may be turned in starting February 6.***

***Forms must be returned by February 14.***



**The Branch**

*Helping people live in an intimate relationship with God.*

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