

TESTIMONY & FINANCIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for your interest in becoming an elder at Redemption Church Gateway. We believe that “if anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task” (1 Tim 3:1). Serving as an elder is a huge responsibility and wonderful privilege that is to be done eagerly (1 Peter 5:2).

Throughout this process, please commit yourself to prayer. Pursuing eldership puts you at significant risk in a few key areas. First, *you are more directly opening yourself to spiritual attack*, as the Enemy’s schemes always involve attacking those in leadership. Second, *you are putting yourself in a vulnerable position*. Your life, marriage, finances, and family will be thoroughly examined in a way that would make many people feel uncomfortable. Last, *you are opening yourself up to possibility of rejection*. Not all men who apply are selected as elders. This requires emotional and spiritual maturity as well as trust in the Holy Spirit, who appoints elders (Acts 20:28). If any of these risks are more than you want to expose yourself to, please do not continue.

The following questionnaire is the first formal step in the eldership process at Redemption Church Gateway. It is intentionally thorough and quite personal. This questionnaire will explore a) your testimony and calling to eldership and b) your family’s financial health.

Please answer all of the following sections in this document with *complete honesty*. These questions are designed to get to know more about you and to assess your readiness to serve as part of the Elder Team. Additionally, this questionnaire will help your supervising elder craft a customized growth and development plan if you are approved to continue into the Candidate Phase.

Please answer the questions electronically in this Word Document. When completed save the document as “Testimony & Financial_Your Name” and email it to your supervising elder.

Thank you for taking the time to pursue eldership. Regardless of the specific outcome, our prayer is that you would grow spiritually through the process and experience God’s grace abundantly.

TESTIMONY & CALLING TO ELDERSHIP

1. Describe the family you grew up in, and please include the important events that have shaped your life.
2. Describe how you met Jesus including what your life was like prior, the key factors that led you to Jesus, and how your life changed after meeting Jesus.
3. Describe your spiritual disciplines and how you walk, hear, and learn from God.
4. Describe some specifics as to what Jesus has been doing in your life in the past year.
5. What have been your five most influential books (outside of the Bible) and describe why?
6. Please describe briefly how you and your wife met, what your relationship was like before marriage.
7. Please provide a candid narrative of your marital history. What are the key challenges you've worked through, milestones you look back on, and issues that you regularly monitor?
8. Why are you interested in serving as an elder at Redemption Church Gateway?
9. Within our church, describe how you are currently shepherding and/or overseeing the flock.

10. What are a few things about you that would strengthen our elder team? What potential weaknesses might you bring to the team?

11. Does your spouse affirm your interest in being an elder at Redemption Church Gateway? Explain.

FAMILY FINANCE SURVEY

12. In your marriage who is responsible for your family finances? Describe what roles you and your wife play, either shared or individually.

13. Has this been an area of friction and/or tension in your marriage? If so, how have you worked this out?

14. What is your family's approach to giving? What percentage of your income do you give to Redemption Church Gateway (specify general giving vs. other giving)? What percentage do you give to other ministry-related efforts?

15. Have you ever struggled with debt (credit card, personal bankruptcy, or other kinds of debt)? If yes, please explain.

16. Please list your significant financial obligations, including all types of debt for which you must make provisions (mortgages, major bills, alimony, child support, etc.). Please list the amount of each obligation, what your annual payment is, what your plan is for meeting it, and the degree to which it concerns you.

17. What has been your experience with personal finances, balancing accounts, budgeting, forecasting, tracking receipts and expenses, bank and tax records, etc.? Has this been, or is this now, an area of difficulty or struggle for you?

18. Do you have life insurance? Why or why not?

19. Do you have a buffer of liquid money in savings in case of emergency? Please describe.

20. Do you have a retirement investment plan? Please describe.

Optional: if you wish you may attach your family budget or any other content you feel might be helpful to your explanations WITHIN the same word document as your answers to the above questions.