

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A RULING ELDER?

Who: Ruling Elders (REs) are members of the current Session at Sunset Presbyterian Church (SPC). REs seek to follow the Biblical model of leadership described in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9.

What: Session serves SPC, providing spiritual and financial leadership for the church. Session makes decisions as a group (not as individuals). Most of the Session meeting proceedings are open, but some discussions are held during Closed Session. Anything said during Closed Session is to be held in strict confidence, not to be discussed outside that meeting with anyone (including other REs).

How: As a servant and spiritual leader of Sunset Pres, REs are called to first seek the Kingdom of God. Your personal relationship with God is extremely important in this role, as you will rely heavily on His wisdom when discerning His plan for SPC. We lean on God's mercy and grace as we collectively make decisions that impact His church. These expectations demand much time in His Word, prayer and communication with the people God has placed around us.

When: The time commitment varies, but about 20 - 25 hours per month as follows:

Meetings: Our regular Session meetings are currently scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30pm-9:30pm. Meetings can be extended or additional meetings scheduled, as needed. Meetings often include a Bible study segment that requires homework between Session meetings.

Committee assignments: REs typically serve on 1-2 committees.

Participating in the Life of the Church: Church attendance, communion, prayer, and continue serving in ministries that fit your passions and giftings.

Session Emails: Session conducts some business in between meetings via email, many requiring feedback.

Presbytery meetings: SPC needs to send 4 voting participants to quarterly Presbytery meetings. Meetings run Thursday evening to noon on Saturday and are held in OR, WA or ID. Voting participants can be REs or Past REs. REs are encouraged to attend one meeting a year, if possible.

Training: During Nov./Dec., onboarding REs attend training sessions and observe Session meetings to prepare them for their term beginning in January.