



Emmanuel Baptist Church

Elder Apprenticeship

November 23, 2023 (Updated June 29, 2024)

Vision: To help equip future and potential elders with the knowledge, skills and maturity to engage in sustainable, Biblically faithful leadership within the local church.

Program length: 1-3 years

Who: Candidates will be men who have an interest in the ministry of eldership (1 Tim 3:1) and who are on a trajectory of growth towards the character requirements of 1 Tim 3:2-7 & Tit 1:6-8

How: The process of beginning an elder apprenticeship may be initiated either by the candidate or the existing elders. After discussion, if there is agreement on proceeding between the elders and the candidate, the apprenticeship may begin. What follows is a general description; specific details will be arranged on a person-by-person basis. It must be understood that there is no guarantee that the candidate will become an elder at Emmanuel upon the completion of the apprenticeship.

Resource List:

- *Church Elders* by Jeramie Rinne
- *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever
- *Bethlehem's Elder Affirmation of Faith*
- Read/listen to a series of 9 messages on the church from the "Pillar of the Truth" series (ebcnipawin.ca/sermons/topics/ecclesiology)
- chose 1-2 other ministry/theology books in an area of personal interest

Practical Ministry Experience:

- ministry leadership role within the church which includes some form of teaching
- attend 4-6 elders meetings per year
- work toward mentoring a younger man yourself

Character, Maturity & Spiritual Development

- become a member of Emmanuel
- join a small group
- connect monthly with a mentor
 - preferably an elder themselves, though not necessarily from Emmanuel
 - year one: work through *Gospel Eldership* by Robert Thune
 - year two: work through the MentorLink leadership covenant
- connect quarterly with cohort
 - working through MentorLink's "Leading Like Jesus" material
- connect with one of our elders once every 2-3 months to discuss ministry experiences, reading material, etc.
- join one of our elders for pastoral visits/conversations as availability coincides