



### The Office of Pastor/Elder/Overseer

God gave the New Testament church the office of Pastor/Elder/Overseer (*these words are used interchangeably throughout the New Testament*) to lead local churches as undershepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Chief Shepherd (**1 Peter 5:4**). Elders are called to shepherd (**Acts 20:28**), equip (**Ephesians 4:11-12**), oversee (**Hebrews 13:17**), admonish (**1 Thessalonians 5:12**) and protect the saints from false doctrine and false teachers (**Acts 20:28-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-16**), devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (**Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; James 5:14**). Those who lead as an elder must be fully surrendered to Christ, setting the believers an example to imitate (**1 Peter 5:3**), and qualified according to Scripture (see **1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9**). Each man evaluated for this office must possess a desire for this noble work (**1 Timothy 3:1**), but should never be affirmed hastily without proper examination and earnest prayer (see **1 Timothy 5:22**).

### To the Elders:

1. Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God eternally existing in three persons, the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inerrant Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and thus the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

**I do.**

3. Do you subscribe to the Statement of Faith, Church Covenant, and By-Laws of Chaffee Crossing Baptist Church?

**I do.**

4. Will you fulfill your office and duties in obedience to Jesus Christ, being continually guided by the Holy Spirit under the authority of the Bible, and will you endeavor by the grace of God to honor Christ and the gospel by keeping a close watch on your life and doctrine?

**I will, with God's help.**

5. Do you, as far as you know in your own heart, desire to accept the office of Elder, not because of selfish ambition, but because of your love for God and Christ's bride the church?

**I do.**

6. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the gospel and the unity of the church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise against you on that account?

**I do, with God's help.**

7. Are you now willing to take personal responsibility in the life of this congregation as Elder, to oversee the ministry and resources of the church, and to devote yourself to prayer, the ministry of the Word, and the shepherding of God's flock, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that Chaffee Crossing Baptist Church and the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be blessed?

**I am, with God's help.**

### **To the Congregation:**

1. Do you, the members of Chaffee Crossing Baptist Church, acknowledge and publicly receive these men as elders, pastors, as gifts of Christ to this church?

**We do.**

2. Will you love them and pray for them in their ministry, and work together with them humbly and cheerfully, that by the grace of God you may accomplish the mission of this church, giving them all due honor and support in their leadership to which the Lord has called them, to the glory and honor of God?

**We will.**