

Ministry Description: Church Board Member

Preamble

The church board will play a strategic part in the life of our church. Their collective wisdom and competence will provide strong support and guidance to our developing needs. The scriptures speak of such a role as 'Deacon' and various scripture passages provide insight on this subject:

The same goes for those who want to be servants (deacons) in the church: serious not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women – same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected...

1 Tim 3:8-13 (MSG)

A member of the Church Board is held with esteem in the life of Narara Valley Baptist Church because they are given high levels of responsibility. They provide tactical support within the church and indirectly, its connected communities. At NVBC, the value of both female and male is recognised.

In order to keep the Church Board role vibrant, the content of this document should be periodically reviewed. Comments and enquiries regarding this content or governance matters should be currently directed to the Church Leadership Team.

The Role of the Church Board

In the context of the NVBC structure, the Church Board relieves the Eldership of, and assists the Pastors/Staff with the more pragmatic, administrative and legislative matters associated with our Vision, Mission and Values.

With the grace of God the Church Board will:

- 1) Invest time in their own spiritual formation and prayer

- 2) Provide a place of functional support for the implementation of elements of the Vision, Mission, Values and day-to-day administration.
- 3) Develop, implement and monitor processes to ensure Narara Valley Baptist Church complies with its legislative and other requirements
- 4) Ensure the development and oversight of strategic or required policy matters, including matters delegated by the Elders
- 5) Provide a place of support and accountability in matters relating to legislative and other requirements.

Required Skills:

It is anticipated that amongst the Church Board the following qualifications and/or experience will be essential:

- 1) Communication
- 2) Financial management
- 3) Administrative Management
- 4) Human Resources and OH&S

Additional abilities that would be helpful on the Church Board include:

- 1) Project Management
- 2) Risk Management / Legal skills
- 3) Research skills

Personal Characteristics

While acknowledging the range of qualities spoken of in scripture, particular characteristics being sought are:

Respect:

- Integrity
- Transparency in practice
- Sees and speaks realness
- Significant level of personal ownership

Balance:

- Experience of life
- Mature emotional responsiveness
- Commitment to self development
- An assurance that comes with maturity / experience

Competence:

- Sound theological understandings
- Able to find a pathway through
- Familiarity / grounding in governance principles
- Grounding in business and administration

Commitment:

- Dedication
- Enterprising
- Works for the common good
- Able to challenge to bring clarity, change and development

Role Requirements

Involvement:

The role of a Church Board Member is both proactive and strategic and they will make time available to fulfil their responsibilities. Church Board members will actively attend to the governance needs of the church as required, yet at the same time recognise the importance of personal reflective times and of seeking God.

Estimated time commitment:

It is anticipated the Church Board will meet monthly with an equivalent number of hours given to ministry outside of meetings.

Term:

The term of a Church Board member is 3 years. They may be re-appointed after a break. Initially elder appointments will conclude in an earlier staggered cycle in order to provide future continuity.

Nominations

Nominations for church board members may be passed to Debbie Blain by completing a "Suggested Names For Elder/Church Board" form, by March 29th. These will be passed to the nominations selection panel.

Supplementary Information

The following information is available on the church website - www.nvbc.info/new_leadership_structure.htm . Those without internet access are welcome to contact the church office for a copy of any of the material listed:

- Nomination Form
- Church Leadership Team
- Related Scripture References
- NVBC Organisational/Governance Chart
- Charter (Under construction)

Clarification & Enquiries

For further clarification, contact:

Maurice Wrightson (before 15th March) on: 0418 640 444

Owen McKay (between 15-22 March) on: 0408 446 598

Craig Corkill (after 22nd March) on: 0448 113 381

Attachment 1:

Biblical Criteria

The following biblical criteria for deacons are summarised from 1 Tim 3:8-13, 4:12:

1. Respectable – Church Board members will demonstrate a well-ordered life and honourable behaviour.
2. Sincere – Church Board members will demonstrate integrity in speech, life, love, faith and purity.
3. Free from addictions – Church Board members will be free from addictions and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.
4. Honest – Church Board members will be honest in their dealings with others.
5. Holding fast to the faith – Church Board members will be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, continually seeking to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
6. Devoted to spouse and family – Church Board members, if married will be devoted to spouses. They will demonstrate a healthy family life.