



UCJC PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP

ELDERS | DEACONS | MINISTERS | EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | AUXILIARIES | U-GROUPS

ELDER or DEACON

The Elders are responsible for the spiritual oversight and vision of UCJC. They are spiritual shepherds who care for the wellbeing of church members and have oversight over the various auxiliaries and ministries. In alignment with Hebrews 13:17, elders must lead with an understanding that they will give an account to God for the way they shepherd God's people.

The Deacons are responsible for executing or overseeing all aspects of serving and building needs at UCJC. As outlined in Acts 6, this includes serving those who are in need within our congregation.

Elders and deacons are expected to positively impact the church-wide vision and culture, and are willing to be looked to for spiritual leadership and guidance.

Qualifications and Qualities

Must be adequately met to become an Elder or Deacon nominee

A. Salvation experience and water baptism

1. John 1:12, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38, Luke 3:16

B. A heart and hunger for God

1. Psalm 27:4 & 8, Philippians 3:8-10, Philippians 1:22 & 28

C. Must be a permanent member of UCJC, in good standing, for at least 2 years

1. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service, and faithful giving.
2. Romans 8:1, Proverbs 10:9, 1 Peter 3:16, 1 Peter 4:8

D. A strong personal sense of calling and a commitment to this role and the work of ministry

1. 1 Corinthians 9:16, Philippians 3:12, Ephesians 4:11-12

E. Agreement with, and support of, the church vision, mission, and bylaws

1. Corinthians 9:16, Philippians 3:12, Ephesians 4:11-12

F. Alignment with UCJC doctrinal beliefs

1. **ONE TRUE GOD:** There is one God manifest in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

2. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, suffered and died on the cross, was raised from the dead by Father God, and is seated at His right hand (John 1:14, Luke 1:26-38, Hebrews 4:15, John 2:11, Luke 24:39, John 1:29, Acts 1:9-11)
3. **RESURRECTION, RETURN & FINAL JUDGEMENT:** The resurrection of the dead, Jesus' return to earth, and the final judgement (Luke 1:26-38, Hebrews 4:15, Matthew 27:32-56, Ephesians 1:19-23, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 20:11-12)
4. **BIBLICAL MARRIAGE:** Biblical marriage is between a man and a woman. In order to serve as a leader at UCJC, you must agree with and apply this biblical truth. Following Jesus' example, we must love everyone but must also ensure we do not compromise the position of biblical truth (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:22-27)
5. **PRAYER & STUDY:** A lifestyle and commitment to prayer and study of the Bible (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 Timothy 2:1-5, Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:15)
6. **PERSONAL INTEGRITY:** 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9
7. **A HEART FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:** John 10:11-15, 1 Peter 5:2-4, Ephesians 3:14-19
8. **TITHING:** Believes in and practices biblical tithing to Unity Church of Jesus Christ (Leviticus 27:30-34, Nehemiah 10:35-37, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
9. **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** Believes in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:38-39, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Romans 12:4-8)

G. Appropriate Child Safety Clearances

The Process

Carried out once every 12 months, as necessary

A. Nomination and Selection:

1. Must be nominated by the elders
2. Selection to move forward in the process of becoming an elder or deacon is contingent on the following:
 - a. Adequately fulfilling the qualifications and qualities outlined above
 - b. Confirmation from the elders through prayer, fasting and observation or experience with the nominee
 - c. Confirmation of integrity - the nominee's name is brought before the congregation for a confirmation of character (1 Timothy 1:6)

B. Training (4-6 Months):

1. Elder:
 - a. Foundations of Leadership Class
 - b. Spiritual SHAPE Class
 - c. Elders Training Class
2. Deacon:
 - a. Foundations of Leadership Class
 - b. Spiritual SHAPE Class
 - c. Deacon Training Class

****Foundations of Leadership Class and Spiritual SHAPE Class are also offered to UCJC members and attenders, and do not have to be retaken***

- C. Apprenticeship: (Timeline TBD) – The apprenticeship process is designed to provide any additional training needed to nominees who have already proven to be a candidate for ordination as an elder or deacon. This includes:
1. Completing all required training courses
 2. Discipleship and Mentoring from an existing elder
 3. Servanthood: Faithfully carry out assigned tasks, as well as show initiative through volunteerism. (1 Peter 4:10, Luke 22:25-27, Philippians 2:3-7)
 4. Attendance at elders' and/or deacons' meetings
 5. Continued training, confirmed through prayer/fasting by the nominee and the elders

****Becoming an apprentice does not guarantee ordination***

- D. Ordination: The candidate gained official status as an elder or deacon through the sanctioned process of UCJC, and holds all the authority, rights, and privileges commensurate with that office or ministry
- E. Licensing: The additional authority given to an elder, by the senior pastor, which enables them to perform such obligations as weddings or other duties requiring a license.

MINISTER

A minister is someone who believes he or she is called to leadership at UCJC and has proven to be scripturally sound, spiritually mature, faithful in service, and high in character and integrity.

Ministers are proficient in teaching and preaching God's Word, and can be called upon to do so as needed. Ministers positively impact the church-wide vision and culture, and are willing to be looked to for spiritual leadership and guidance.

Qualifications and Qualities:

Please refer to the qualifications and qualities for elders and deacons

The Process:

- A. Nomination and Selection:
1. Nominated by the elders
 2. Confirmed through prayer by the elders
 3. Confirmation of integrity – the nominee's name is brought before the congregation for a confirmation of character (1 Timothy 1:6)
- B. Training: (4-6 Months)
1. Foundations of Leadership Course
 2. Spiritual SHAPE Training
 3. Mentoring by an elder
 4. Other classes, as required

- C. Ordination: The candidate gained official status as a minister through the sanctioned process of UCJC, and holds all the authority, rights, and privileges commensurate with that office or ministry.
- D. Appropriate Child Safety Clearances

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

A member of the Executive Committee is a part of the group of people who oversee the church budget, finances and physical plant operations.

Qualifications and Qualities:

- A. Must be a permanent member of UCJC, in good standing, for at least 2 years. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service and faithful giving. (Romans 8:1; Proverbs 10:9; 1Peter 3:16; 1Peter 4:8)
- B. Agreement with and support of the church vision, mission, and bylaws
- C. Alignment with UCJC doctrinal beliefs: See beliefs in “Elders & Deacons” section

The Process:

- A. The nominee may nominate himself/herself or be nominated by a permanent member of the congregation for any elected position on the Executive Committee.
- B. Voted in by members of the congregation, with the nominee’s permission.

AUXILIARY OR MINISTRY HEAD

An auxiliary or ministry head is a leader of one of UCJC’s auxiliaries or ministries.

Qualifications and Qualities:

- A. Must be a permanent member of UCJC, in good standing, for at least 2 years
 - 1. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service, and faithful giving.
 - 2. Romans 8:1, Proverbs 10:9, 1 Peter 3:16, 1 Peter 4:8
- B. Agreement with, and support of the church vision, mission, and bylaws
- c. Alignment with UCJC doctrinal beliefs: See beliefs in “Elders & Deacons” section
- D. Appropriate Child Safety Clearances

The Process:

- A. Training:
 - 1. Must complete the Foundations of Leadership Class, if not already completed.

U-GROUP FACILITATOR

A U-Group facilitator schedules and organizes UCJC small group meetings and activities.

Qualifications and Qualities:

- A. Must be a member of UCJC, in good standing, for at least 2 years. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service, and faithful giving. (Romans 8:1; Proverbs 10:9; 1Peter 3:16; 1Peter 4:8)
- B. Agreement with and support of the church vision, mission, and bylaws
- C. Alignment with UCJC doctrinal beliefs: See beliefs in “Elders & Deacons” section
- D. Appropriate Child Safety Clearances

The Process:

- A. To become a U-Group leader, a person can volunteer or be asked by the U-Group auxiliary head
- B. Must complete U-Group training for facilitators.
- C. Must complete the Foundations of Leadership Class