



# UCJC PATHWAYS TO LEADERSHIP

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

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## ELDER

The Elders are responsible for the spiritual oversight and vision of UCJC. They are spiritual shepherds who care for the wellbeing of church members, have oversight over the various ministries and help actively move the church forward. 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.

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

## DEACON

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.

Deacons are expected to positively impact the church's vision and culture, and willing to be looked to for spiritual leadership and guidance.

## Elder and Deacon Qualifications and Qualities

The following must be adequately met to become an Elder or Deacon, and should be maintained in order to continue serving in these offices.

### 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. 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 JUDGMENT:** The resurrection of the dead, Jesus' return to earth, and the final judgment (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)

## The Process

- A. Nomination and Selection:
  - a. Must be nominated by the elders
  - b. Selection does not guarantee ordination
  - c. Selection to move forward in the process of becoming an elder or deacon is contingent on the following:
    - i. Adequately fulfilling the qualifications and qualities outlined above
    - ii. Confirmation from the elders through prayer, fasting and observation or experience with the nominee
    - iii. Confirmation of integrity - the nominee's name is brought before the congregation for a confirmation of character (1 Timothy 1:6)
- B. Training:
  - a. Training as specified by UCJC Leadership will include aspects of doctrinal, leadership, general skill set, and spiritual development.
- C. Ordination:
  - a. The candidate gains official status, and holds all the authority, rights, and privileges commensurate with that office.
- D. Licensing:
  - a. The process of licensing is not an automatic part of eldership, but given in specific cases.
  - b. This is an 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.

## **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; 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

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.

## **MINISTRY LEAD**

A ministry head is a leader of one of UCJC’s ministries.

Qualifications and Qualities:

- A. Must be a Christian, having made a profession of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- B. Must be a permanent member of UCJC, in good standing, for a minimum of 6 months and contingent upon approval of the Elders.
  1. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service, and faithful giving. (Romans 8:1, Proverbs 10:9, 1 Peter 3:16, 1 Peter 4:8)
- C. Must express agreement and alignment with our statement of faith, doctrinal beliefs, vision, mission and bylaws.
  1. Prior to assuming the Ministry Lead role, the overseeing Elder must review the requirements with the candidate and ensure continued agreement with the items above.
- D. Ministry leaders working with children, youth and young adults up to age 21 must have appropriate up-to-date Child Safety Clearances on file in the church office.

## **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 6 months. This includes regular attendance, a track record of faithful and dependable service, and faithful giving. (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

The Process:

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