

Call to eldership – our commitment to God’s Church at BBC

Ephesians 3: 20-21: ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Dean Sawtell

One of our greatest expressions of faith comes to life when we step into the story God has for each of us to participate in. We have to trust that everything God says to us is truth and that comes to life for us as we accept Jesus into our lives. Through that expression of Love, God has a plan for our lives that He believes in absolutely.

So what is my story and how will it unfold?

The more I explore who God is the more I’m convinced that He wants me to be the best that I can be. God responds to me in a very personal way. The discussions I make in my day, both good and bad, He wants to train me up. God invites me to discover the lessons he wants to teach me. God never stops pursuing me.

I have a choice in life or not, that is free will.

So if the Creator of the universe is willing to take the time to catch me when I fall, what more could I be if I pursue Him for guidance in my story.

To be invited up as an elder for a time such as this is both a privilege and a response. I trust that God is for me and for His church. God has accepted me to bring the little that I have, to offer it prayerfully, be teachable, honest and available. I respond because I trust God with how it goes when I offer myself, because that is out of my control.

My heart is for people. I desire to discover who a person is and enable them to be the best that they can be. By building community up through relationships and safe places to be, God is able to make an impact that changes lives.

I am Blessed! God’s Promise to us is Love. I want that to always be seen in my story.

Steven Mogg

It is with some fear and trepidation that I approach the idea of being an Elder at BBC. Reading the lofty job description of an Elder at BBC is pretty challenging, I think I can half do a couple of those things. I don’t know I would score full marks in the 1 Timothy 3 passage either. It has been a pretty rough road to journey along for our previous and current elders. And I can still remember it being pretty tough last time I was formally involved in leadership. So I could easily come up with a long list of reasons why not to do it.

One thing that kept jumping out at me was the “Team Player” requirement. That fits with me pretty well. I really like hanging out with BBC people and being involved in what goes on here. There are just some fantastic people to be with, work with, and struggle with. Really I hate the thought of missing out on being neck deep in what God is going to be doing next in His church at BBC. I also want to help and support the other Elders as they have both given everything to the role and it is such a privilege to support them in any way I can.

My passion is to encourage and enable people to join in with what God is doing through His Church to build His kingdom locally and across the planet. I like to be challenged and to challenge others to think and act like there is an amazing God hanging around that loves us all to bits.

Paul Bainton

I am seeking your confirmation that God is calling me to be an elder for the next two years. The last two years have been hard – no doubt about that – but I am seeing God doing a new work in me and in others. This is an exciting journey to be part of!

I am discovering the gifts which enable me to ‘shepherd’ God’s church which, among other things, involve helping to nurture the whole church and individuals. I will seek to create a God-protected and God-infused environment in which each person is encouraged to rise up into their spiritual giftings. I will support the development of effective ministry areas or ‘homes’ for those gifts. My desire is that each person will play an effective part in the body of Christ at BBC. I have much to learn in overseeing both areas and need your patience. But I have a passion to see God’s Kingdom rise up and flow out into our community through the gifts He is giving to His people.

Nurturing the whole church

God has established through scripture a clear order for His Church.

Ephesians 4:11-13 ¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

There are gifts other than the five-fold ministry gifts referred to by Paul, which are given by the Holy Spirit to the people of God for building up the whole church. My desire is to see all of God’s gifts recognised and honoured, and each person exercising those gifts respected. My hope is that, by the grace of God, each individual will rise up, exercise their God-given gifting in the proper place within the life of the church. When people find the freedom to exercise those gifts, the whole church and our families and community will be equipped and blessed as God intends. As a member of BBC I need this to happen.

Nurturing individuals

It would be a privilege to be appointed as an elder at BBC. I would care for individuals in their own, unique faith journeys but that does not mean that I will ‘pastor’ each individual as that would take over the role of those with a pastoral gifting. I would work alongside the other elders to oversee the proper operation of the church but not take over day to day responsibilities as that would take over the role of those with a gifting of administration. I would also work alongside the other elders to oversee and provide spiritual direction to the ministries of teaching, youth, children, outreach and mission, worship and creative arts but not take over day to day responsibilities as that would be the role of those with the relevant gifting.

If I am appointed as an elder I would:

- Hold fast the core values of BBC to “love God, love His Word, love each other and love others”;
- Encourage individual and group prayer, biblical teaching, vibrant Christ-centred worship and God-centred decision making;
- Work closely with the other elders and with ministry leaders and/or ministry groups to ensure a respectful team environment that honours both individuals and God (Psalm 133: 1-3);
- Pray for the sick, through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit; and
- Allow God and others to nourish my own faith journey and prayer life, gratefully receiving the ministry given to me by others in the Church!