

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING ELDERS ACTIVE IN MKP CONGREGATIONS Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

As participants in the worship and fellowship of a particular congregation, teaching elders have an implicit influence in the congregation. This influence – not necessarily sought – requires special care. By virtue of their membership in MKP, teaching elders are accountable to the presbytery (G-2.0503). Teaching elders should, at all times, be a friend among “colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit” (W-4.0404e).

To support teaching elders who are active in the life of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery congregations and to help congregations live in “covenant life with God and each other,” MKP offers these guidelines (or policies when the word “shall” is used) (G-1.0101):

- Teaching elders should use their God-given gifts in ways that build up the body of Christ (Eph 4:11).
- Teaching elders “shall in all things be committed to teaching the faith in word and deed and equipping the saints for the work of ministry” (G-2.0501).
- Teaching elders shall live into their ordination vows, which include, but are not limited to, being governed by the church’s polity, abiding by its discipline, loving one’s neighbors, and caring for people (W-4.0404).
- All ministers of Word and Sacrament who serve MKP congregations in any formal relationship shall be members of the MKP in order to ensure appropriate accountability and support from the presbytery.
- In accordance with the *Book of Order*, teaching elders shall not serve as ruling elders or as deacons (G-2.0401).
- Teaching elders shall not serve as a member of a congregational personnel or nominating committee, transitional pastor or transitional associate pastor nominating committee, nor a pastor or associate pastor nominating committee.
- To nurture leadership and engagement from among the members of the congregation, teaching elders shall not serve in the role of “chair” or “co-chair” for any session-appointed committee, team, or board of deacons.
- The appointment of teaching elders to committees, teams, and boards shall be reviewed by the session on an annual basis.

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