

Eagle Ridge United Church

Ministry Description: Member of Session (Elder)

Position:	Member of Session (Elder)
Purpose:	To oversee the spiritual interests of the congregation.
Duties & responsibilities:	<p>Oversight of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Purpose, Vision and Values of the congregation and the development of strategies and goals to fulfill the Vision 2. Encouragement of individual congregational members to deepen their relationship with God through spiritual disciplines and study 3. The admission of persons into full membership, their removal, and the granting of certificates of transfer of membership 4. The conduct of members, with power to exercise discipline 5. The administration of the sacraments 6. The religious training of the young, and the organization of meetings for Christian fellowship, instruction, and work. For this purpose a Committee to address the faith formation and Christian education needs of the Pastoral Charge or Congregation, as detailed in section 242, shall be established, and its members elected, by the Session 7. The order of public worship, including the service of praise and the use of the church edifice 8. The care of the poor, and the visiting of the sick 9. The outreach of the Congregation in evangelism and social action 10. To receive and judge Proposals and appeals from members 11. To transmit Proposals and appeals to the Presbytery 12. To recognize suitable lay members as Inquirers 13. To recommend to the Presbytery suitable Inquirers to be Candidates 14. To recommend to the Presbytery suitable lay members to be recognized as Designated Lay Ministers 15. To recommend to the Presbytery suitable lay members to be recognized as Congregational Designated Ministers 16. To keep the roll of the Congregation, clearly recording the date of admission, transfer, removal, suspension, or other action concerning each member 17. To keep the record of children and Adherents 18. To keep the register of baptisms, marriages, and burials 19. To ensure support of senior adults in the Congregation 20. The Session shall fulfil such other duties as the Congregation, with the consent of the Presbytery, may assign to it. <p>Each member of the Session should have an assigned district and should keep a list of the communicants and Adherents residing within the assigned district and cultivate special acquaintance with them, visiting, counselling, and encouraging as may be required. The member should give special attention to any who become irregular in attendance at Sunday services or otherwise manifest declining concern for the duties of church membership, and so encourage their return to active participation in the life and work of the Congregation.</p>
Length of term:	5 years (starting/ending at the Congregational Program Meeting usually in June). Retiring members are eligible for re-election.
Meeting frequency:	4 to 5 meetings a year, including an overnight retreat.

Eligibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full member of Eagle Ridge United Church • Confirmed affinity through the ERUC Membership Covenant • Signed ERUC Behavioural Covenant
Nomination and election process:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominated by congregational member 2. Interviewed by nominating committee of Session 3. Recommended to Congregation for election
Preferred Spiritual Gifts (for the whole team):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Vision • Discernment • Encouragement • Knowledge • Organization • Faith • Wisdom
Practical skills required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to maintain confidentiality