



May 2, 2021

A letter from the Elders regarding the inclusion of women to serve as Elders

The church membership will soon be voting on the question of whether to amend our bylaws to allow women to serve as Elders at Lambrick Park Church. In advance of this vote, the Board of Elders felt it was important to share their position on this matter with the Lambrick Park Church family.

We want to reaffirm the place we start from in understanding our role in the church. As elders, we have been entrusted to care for and provide direction to “God’s household”. We take this responsibility seriously and deeply desire for the church to grow in good health and always be moving toward God and His will for us. Our heart is for unity even as we confront questions that have the potential to divide. We believe that unity is always possible when we seek God first. We take the call to help “shepherd the flock” very seriously.

If you have been following along in previous letters on this topic and in the teachings by Scott, you will know that the Elders have been deeply engaged in the journey to this vote. When we first asked Scott to lead us in a deeper scriptural understanding of whether women could and should serve as Elders, the Elders committed to a process of discerning God’s direction, even if it were counter to the wisdom of our culture. As we have become more familiar with the relevant scriptures and the context in which to understand them, **we have experienced a growing and shared conviction that Lambrick Park Church would be best served by inviting women onto its Board of Elders.**

We recognize that God-loving people committed to following scripture have arrived at different conclusions on this issue. We also acknowledge that the different perspectives on women serving as Elders has caused a degree of hurt for some people. We have endeavored to minimize such hurt by following a good process and by dialoguing together in ways that put God’s will above our own agendas.

In anticipation of the upcoming vote, the Elders invite you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider this question yourself, and to vote in the direction that you feel God is calling us as a Church community. **However, to be clear and transparent, the Board of Elders is unanimous in its support for the proposed bylaw changes that would invite women to serve as Elders .**

As we proceed, we call the church to not make this a divisive issue. We pray that grace will abound as we undertake this process, that we will come to know God and His Word better, that we will live out the unity of the Spirit, and that we will maintain the bond of peace in the midst of our diversity.

The Board of Elders