

Cuyahoga Valley Church

Questionnaire for Elder Candidates



Chip Bell

1. *Have you carefully and prayerfully read the CVC "Profile of an Elder" position paper?*

Yes.

2. *Please share a short summary statement about your life as it relates to each of the characteristics listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.*

The Lord has shaped me in many ways (and still has a work to do in me). As I look at my walk with Christ and how he has shaped me as a person, his spirit has affected me across most of not all of the dimensions in 1 Timothy. First and within my household, I'm been married to my wife Joy since 1998 and we have four wonderful children who love the Lord, love each other and respect the two of us as parents. I've consistently been involved in ministries (often with my wife and other times alone) at CVC and other churches I've belonged to as we've lived in a number of cities across the US - helping to teach the word of God to children, teens, and men. I've worked for the same company for 29 years and have been part of our leadership team over the last 15 years, helping our company and our clients work through difficult issues, decisions, and transformations. My experience in working on an Elder Team is new; however, I am on or have served on several boards for both Christian based organizations and non-Christian organizations - several in leadership roles. In all of this I have learned to work together, share my opinions, and lead when asked.

3. *What are your top three strengths when it comes to the characteristics listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7? I'VE PUT THEM IN BOLD*

- a. Temperate
- b. Sensible
- c. Not Violent
- d. Not Quarrelsome
- e. Respectable
- f. Good Reputation with Outsiders
- g. Able to Teach (with the help of the Spirit)**
- h. Husband of one wife**
- i. Manages own household well**

4. *What are your three greatest weaknesses when it comes to the characteristics listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7?*

- a. Not given in to drunkenness - not that I overindulge but I do drink wine, enjoy pairing food and wine and making and drinking craft beer and pairing that with food. I also enjoy having a beer or wine at a bar with friends.
- b. Not a lover of money - it's not that I'm obsessed with money, but I do have a fairly high income, have multiple houses, and other stuff. My job also requires me to be out of town and away from my family quite a bit, which may leave some with the perception that I value career over family. I do have a personal balance sheet and financial investment that I track and monitor. I also give a lot of money away each year to the cause of the Gospel tithing

- (+) at my church as well as giving significantly to other Gospel causes (e.g., The City Mission, Cru, AME, World Vision, PK, etc.). (Perception)
- c. I'll leave it to others to come up with #3

5. *What do you feel are your top three spiritual gifts?*

- a. Teaching – I love teaching and I've seen the spirit do wonderful things in the words shared, the interest people take and what they learn and how it changes them.
- b. Giving – I recognize that all comes from God and we are his stewards. I also recognize that I can't do anything without him and so I honor HIM with my giving – to say thank you and show my appreciation for all his blessings.
- c. Administration – Just something I've been good at and developed in the 29 years in my job. A lot of what I've done required bringing organization, governance, problem solving, gaining buy in, etc. to get large programs completed.

6. *What evidence can you share that these gifts are indeed your top three gifts?*

(see above)

7. *What is your greatest passion for ministry? In other words, what causes your heart to beat fast or your tears to be shed?*

- a. My greatest passion (and joy) comes in teaching the Bible – and especially to children. I love watching their minds work through Biblical teachings and grow spiritually as a result. I've been in children's ministry for the better part of 25+ years at Grace Brethren Church in Columbus, Scottsdale Bible Church in Arizona, and Cuyahoga Valley Church.
- b. I also have a strong passion for fathers raising/teaching their sons about Christian values and showing them what it means to be a Christian man. This started in 2001, when a group of fathers within CVC read "Raising a Modern Day Knight" and formed a Father/Son community group called the CVC Knights. I've had three sons be a part of this group with the last one being "knighted" (good Lord willing) at the end of April.
- c. Lastly, I have a heart for those in crisis – especially those in the inner city. I've been involved with The City Mission since returning to Cleveland in 1999, first working with Men in their Cross Roads Ministry and then as a member of their Board.

8. *Please share with us helpful information about any personality profiles, success style profiles, or Myers-Briggs type inventories that you have taken in the past.*

Within the last month I took a Gallup StrengthsFinder test at work. Below are my (top 5 strengths and bottom 5 weaknesses)

Top 5

Harmony - People who are especially talented in the Harmony theme look for consensus. They don't enjoy conflict; rather, they seek areas of agreement.

Relator - People who are especially talented in the Relator theme enjoy close relationships with others.

They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal.

Belief - People who are especially talented in the Belief theme have certain core values that are unchanging. Out of these values emerges a defined purpose for their life.

Responsibility - People who are especially talented in the Responsibility theme take psychological ownership of what they say they will do. They are committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.

Analytical - People who are especially talented in the Analytical theme search for reasons and causes. They have the ability to think about all the factors that might affect a situation.

Bottom 5

Strategic - People who are especially talented in the Strategic theme create alternative ways to proceed. Faced with any given scenario, they can quickly spot the relevant patterns and issues.

Input - People who are especially talented in the Input theme have a craving to know more. Often they like to collect and archive all kinds of information.

Adaptability - People who are especially talented in the Adaptability theme prefer to “go with the flow.” They tend to be “now” people who take things as they come and discover the future one day at a time.

Win others over (Woo) - People who are especially talented in the Woo theme love the challenge of meeting new people and winning them over. They derive satisfaction from breaking the ice and making a connection with another person.

Ideation - People who are especially talented in the Ideation theme are fascinated by ideas. They are able to find connections between seemingly disparate phenomena.

9. *How do you see yourself impacting CVC with your top three character qualities, your gifts, and your passion?*

I'm not sure actually. I hope that through the Elder Apprenticeship, it becomes evident where the Lord is leading and the Elders, the Staff and I (and my wife) see it.

10. *Have you read though CVC's mission statement, vision statement, focus statement, goals, and objectives?*

Yes.

11. *Are you in agreement with the overall direction of the church?*

Yes.

12. *What parts of the overall direction of the church give you the greatest joy?*

- a. Commitment to Children's ministry and the creativity within that ministry that keeps children engaged and wanting to come back
- b. Commitment to sound Biblical teaching providing growth for those who are seeking, the new believer as well as those who have been walking with Jesus for a long time.
- c. Authentic Leadership who are transparent and real with the members of our church.

13. *What parts of the overall direction of the church give you the greatest concern?*

N/A.

14. Complete the following: "If I could change three things about CVC, they would be..."

More people would be involved and passionate about serving. It seems as though, like anything, most of the burden (and that's probably a poor choice of words) is on the few.

15. Who are references from previous churches who can give us an idea about your character and ability to work well with people?

I've been at CVC for a long time - since 1999. Hopefully you can find people within the church who can speak to my character. If you are looking for areas - CVC Knights (Myatt, Kerezy, Zion, Eimers), within Sunday School (Matt Finn, Petek) and longtime friends in the Ministry at the church or elsewhere (Nick Oleff, Rich Trickle- City Mission). It's been a while since I was at Grace Church of Powell, but you can see if my old pastor remembers me (Rick Nuzum).

16. Describe some conflicts that you have experienced at previous churches and how you worked to resolve them.

I had a conflict at CVC with another member. This member was saying things which weren't true - nothing about my character or my family, but telling others things he said I shared which weren't true, or commitments I made, which weren't true. We both were at a prayer meeting at the church and while I was praying, the spirit prompted me to go speak with him about it. At that time I tended not to speak with him - as I was concerned my words would get twisted. I told him what I was feeling, how it affected me, along with examples. We hugged, prayed...and all has been well ever since.

17. How do you intend to support and encourage the others on the elder team?

As a team of elders, we need to support one another through prayer, transparency, encouragement and help.

18. Will you have time to develop relationships with the other elders?

Yes - Lord willing, I will have the time to do so. I understand the importance of those relationships in how we serve as a team and work together.

19. Share how you have reacted in the past when a group you were a part of made a decision that you felt was wrong.

I'm a fix and go forward person. Just notice it, own up to it, figure out what's right and make the adjustment.

20. What do you anticipate will be your greatest joy in serving as an elder?

Growing in Christ by being with other men who are already in Eldership as well as working with the leadership of the church and seeing where the Lord leads me to impact his kingdom.

21. What is your greatest concern about serving as an elder?

Not having the time and impact and being accountable to HIM for that someday.

22. What things do you think might be distractions for you to keep you from serving effectively as an elder?

- a. I have a demanding job which takes me out of town virtually every week, so there may in instances where I cannot attend Elder functions
- b. I sit on several non-profit boards such as the City Mission and the City Mission Endowment Board
- c. As I mentioned, we have two houses – one in Cleveland the other in Western NY. We spend quite a bit of time there on weekends in the summer and attend a Methodist Church which is spirit filled and preaches the word of God.

23. What do you feel will be your greatest contribution to CVC as an elder?

TBD.

24. Please share what each member of your immediate family feels about your serving as an elder at CVC.

Kids are good with it. While my wife has said she's supportive, I think she is a bit nervous – she hasn't said so – but I can tell. Her love language is Quality Time and with my job and any additional commitment I make that's in jeopardy. The good news is the six month Elder apprenticeship model let's her see how it may be.

25. Share anything else that you feel would be helpful for the elders to know.

N/A.