

POLICY FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF ELDERS AT SESSION AT PROVIDENCE FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Book of Order G-6.0301 states “As there were in the Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry.” The Book of Order G-6.0302 states “Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large....” and “they shall serve faithfully as members of the session.”

Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Providence Forge Presbyterian Church that each Elder serving actively on session will contact the Clerk of Session, church office or active elder prior to each stated meeting of the session if he or she is unable to attend. That absence will be recorded as an excused absence. In cases of more than two (2) unexcused absences, or four (4) consecutive excused absences an elder may be contacted by a committee, appointed by the session and consisting of two elders actively on session, to examine the circumstances surrounding the absences and report to session. The committee visiting the elder in question may include the Pastor, as determined by the session.

The session may evaluate the circumstances surrounding the absences, taking into consideration the subject elder’s accomplishment of committee duties and other activities in support of the mission of the church in determining if the elder in question can continue to “serve faithfully” as a member of session. The session may meet, as a body, with the elder in question and determine what action, if any, would be appropriate. In the event that the session determines that it would be appropriate to request the resignation of said elder, such request will be made only if two-thirds (2/3) majority of the session present and voting approves of such action.