



Sola Oshunniyi

1. **Have you carefully and prayerfully read the CVC “Profile of an Elder” position paper?**
Yes, I have.

2. **Please share a short summary statement about your life as it relates to each of the characteristics listed in I Timothy 3:1-7.**
Felicia and I have been married for over 23 years and are blessed with two daughters – Dara and Ife. Though I grew up going to church with my mom, I did not know Jesus as my Lord and Savior till towards the end of my high school and my discipleship did not start until when I was in college for my first degree. I have had many opportunities to be involved in teaching, leading, and discipleship training while in Nigeria, UK and in the USA. I am fortunate to also have a wife and children who are equally hospitable, and we have had many opportunities to host many people in our home, disciple others and encourage many individuals and families in their walk with God.

3. **What are your top three strengths when it comes to the characteristics listed in I Timothy 3:1-7?**
 - A. Hospitable
 - B. Able to teach
 - C. Not greedy for money

4. **What are your three greatest weaknesses when it comes to the characteristics listed in I Timothy 3:1-7?**
 - A. Not blameless – I am a working progress in the hand of the Master Potter
 - B. Temperate

5. **What do you feel are your top three spiritual gifts?**
 - A. Teaching
 - B. Pastoring
 - C. Administration

6. **What evidence can you share that these gifts are indeed your top three gifts?**
I became a Christian towards the end of my high school years and started growing in the Lord when I went to the College. While in Nigeria, I was involved in starting, and co-leading youth fellowship at First Baptist Church, Idikan, Ibadan, Nigeria which allowed me to be able to use the gift of teaching, pastoring, encouragement, administration and others. I also had the opportunity to be the youth Pastor for the church in 1992 which allowed me the opportunity to preach at the main service and able to work very closely with the lead Pastor for the church, forming a long lasting bond with him

and his family. I was involved in coordinating and leading Bible study and Sunday School classes at the Church between 1992 – 95. I had the opportunity to be involved in leading a group of youths who met weekly to pray for salvation for the lost and re-awakening of the local churches to her calling in Christ. While in the United Kingdom, I was involved in organizing “Alpha course” in the area we lived in England and ran several of these 12-13 weeks seeker friendly bible studies with other friends from England and New Zealand. I was invited to be part of the leadership team of Thurrock Christian Fellowship, Grays, England in my last 3-4 years in England. Prior to involvement in the leadership, I was involved in leading small groups, worship, teaching sometimes and other mission/ministry work. Being part of the leadership team gave me the opportunity to co-lead one of the three local churches where I was able to exercise gift of teaching, pastoring and administration regularly (and other gifts as the Lord allowed). While in Nigeria and UK, I was part of the worship team. Since I have been in the USA in the last 9 years with my family, I have been part of the CVC worship art team, prayer team and have been leading the prayer team for the last 4- 5 years where I have had many opportunities to be close to members and also lead/coordinate the prayer ministry. My wife and I were able to lead the CVC Appalachia Mission Team for 4 years from 2015 -2018. While leading the team, we were able to sort out new leaders and handed over the leadership to the new family. I currently serve with the worship Art ministry, prayer team and Mission Development Team

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

My passion is to see the church fulfilling God’s ordained calling to be equipped, thoroughly furnished for every good work to reach the lost for Christ

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.

I did Myer-Briggs inventory for the first time and result is as below:

Personality type: Consul – At hearts, Consul personalities are social creatures and thrive on staying up to date with what their friends are doing.

Mind (How we interact with our environment) – Extraverted 76%; Introverted 26%

Energy (Where we direct our mental energy) – Intuitive 49%; Observant 51%

Nature (How we make decisions and cope with emotions) – Thinking 11%, Feeling 89%

Tactics (Approach to work, planning and decision-making) – Judging 82%; Prospecting 18%

Identity (This trait underpinned all others, showing how confident we are in our abilities and decisions) – Assertive 69%; Turbulent 31%

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

I will like to come alongside current elders and staff in continuing to strive for CVC to be a house of prayer for all nations, encouraging, teaching and leading in worship, discipleship and be involved in ministry to the young adults.

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.... But unclear about direction for the young adult ministry
12. **What parts of the overall direction of the church give you the greatest joy?**
Mission minded church (Great Commission) and call out to members to engage in mission anywhere and everywhere
13. **What parts of the overall direction of the church give you the greatest concern?**
Young adult or lack of in the active life of the church.
Student ministry
14. **Complete the following: "If I could change three things about CVC, they would be..."**
A. Prayer
B. Passionate/heartfelt corporate worship
C. Youth and young adult engagement within CVC activities.
15. **Who are references from previous churches who can give us an idea about your character and ability to work well with people?**
Russell Godward – rgodward@blueyonder.co.uk
Andy Blakey – familyblakey@blueyonder.co.uk
Dr Abraham Ayantunde – biodunayantunde@yahoo.co.uk
16. **Describe some conflicts that you have experienced at previous churches and how you worked to resolve them.**
The decision to move the church we attended in England in a different direction was a challenging one. I was not really worry about the idea to move the church in what is called "Mission shaped communities" but genuinely concerned about the way and manner it was going to be implemented, including the speed of implementation. This also concerned few other leaders and members when they got to know. I raised the concern with the lead Pastor in one-on-one meeting and at the leadership team. The lead Pastor and few other leaders were going ahead anyway, irrespective of few concerns raised. Few other leaders and I then had a tough job of how to communicate to the church that we lead but we were unable to answer their questions satisfactorily. Neither were those in support of the new direction able to give clear and concise answer to the genuine questions and concerns raised by members of the local Churches. The new direction was hurriedly implemented and that was about the time my family were moving to the USA. Many people left the Church at the time of implementation. Few years later, report stated that the new direction went on for few years and then broke down leading to disintegration of the church. This brings sad memories and bring fear

of being involved in leadership at that level again. It is sometimes easier to come, worship, serve in any capacity but not be involved in leadership.

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

Regularly pray for them, get to know them and their family and encourage them in their calling.

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

I will have time to develop relationship with other Elders and will love to get to know them and their families.

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.

When I sensed the decision that was made could be wrong, I first had one-on-one discussion with the lead Pastor and further discussion with the leadership team about possible error in the decision and the speed of implementation of the new direction for the Church

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

It is always my joy to serve the Lord and serve in any capacity or any open door. My greatest Joy is to see life transformed....Christ being formed in people's life (Galatians 4:19) – Lost being saved, marriages/families being restored, weak receiving strength from Him, captives being set free from sin, sickness, addiction and all manner of yokes of slavery.

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

If am accepted to serve as an elder, I would probably be the first and for now, maybe the only ethnic minority in leadership and/or staff in 30 years history of CVC. I know my experience in Ministry could be slightly different hence eager to know how the Lord might be able to use that in service to CVC. It is a lot of responsibility to be an Elder, It's beyond my capability, and I hope I will never get to a point I will say "I got it" but rather continually depend on God to lead.

I will be alongside people who have served for many years hence I will be lacking in some knowledge. I wonder if I will be able to ask intelligent questions that will help me understand things better or why some things are been done or needed to be done in a particular way

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

As of now, I do not know of what could distract me from serving effectively as an Elder at CVC

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

I would like to join CVC leaders in devoting ourselves to prayer and ministry of the word (Acts 6:4) and that this His house will be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7c; Matthew 21:13)

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

Felicia (my wife) – “I am happy for you to serve as an Elder. You have my full support”

Dara – “I believe you will bring a different perspective to leadership as a result of your background and opportunity to have lived in 3 different countries (continents) and serve the Lord in those countries”

Ife – “I think it will be beneficial to the church for you to serve as an Elder and as the first ethnic minority in CVC leadership team”

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

I have been to many schools in Nigeria, England, and USA. These schools have a specific start and end time. However, the most challenging schools that I discover I will keep learning till I die is that of School of Ministry/living with Jesus Christ, School of marriage and School of Parenting. All these are showing weaknesses in me and making me look at the mirror, call on the Lord who impart wisdom, Grace, Strength, and all I need to carry on.

Questionnaire for elder candidates / Refreshed 2020