

Article XII Ecclesiastical Authority

- A. This church is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.
- B. Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these Bylaws, doctrine, or matters of faith, shall be deferred to the highest ecclesiastical authority of this church. In this case it would be the Senior Pastor/President, with the advice of the Senior Leadership Team.
- C. In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that: “Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them . . .”

Article XIII Ministers of the Gospel

The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

Section 1 Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

- A. Ordained Pastor/ Minister: A pastor is a man who has proven himself both called and mature in the Word of God fulfilling the Biblical qualifications as set forth below.
 - a. Qualifications:
 - i. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
 - ii. The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)

- iii. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
 - iv. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
 - v. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
 - vi. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
 - vii. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
 - viii. Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
 - ix. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - x. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - xi. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - xii. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - xiii. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
 - xiv. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
 - xv. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
 - xvi. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
 - xvii. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
 - xviii. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
 - xix. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
 - xx. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)
- b. This recognition is given by the corporate membership to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry.
- c. Ordained Pastors are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions:
- i. Conduct religious worship
 - ii. Religious instruction

- iii. Administer communion
- iv. Provide spiritual counseling
- v. Lead the Senior Leadership Team of a church
- vi. Ministry administration
- vii. And other sacerdotal functions including
 - 1. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
 - 2. Perform baptisms
 - 3. Perform weddings
 - 4. Conduct funerals
 - 5. Visit the sick and shut-in
 - 6. Minister in prisons

d. He must be capable, as determined by the corporate membership, to take charge of a congregation.

B. Chaplain: This recognition is for ministers of the gospel that are called by God, recognized, and licensed by the corporate membership to minister primarily in prisons, hospitals and government and private agencies.

C. Minister's Apprentice: This recognition is given by the corporate membership of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are starting out in the ministry but need extensive training.

- a. They are to work closely with a licensed or ordained minister.
- b. Such persons are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

D. Licensed Minister: This recognition is given by the corporate membership of this ministry. Such persons are authorized to perform the following religious functions:

- a. Conduct religious worship
- b. Religious instruction
- c. Provide spiritual counseling
- d. Serve on the Senior Leadership Team of a church

- e. And other sacerdotal functions including
 - f. Conduct funerals
 - g. Visit the sick and shut-in
 - h. Minister in prisons
 - i. However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry
- E. Commissioned Minister: This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitation, ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

Section 2 Senior/Lead Pastor/President's Authority

The Senior Pastor of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to present who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above to be confirmed by the congregation.

Section 3 Ordained Pastors

An ordained pastor in this congregation is examined by a board of ordination chosen by the Lead Pastor and the candidate for ordination. Ordained Pastors may hold various offices within the church and are ready and capable to step in should the Lead Pastor become incapacitated or unavailable.

A. Qualifications:

- a. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- b. The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- c. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
- d. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- e. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)

- f. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
 - g. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
 - h. Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
 - i. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - j. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - k. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - l. 12. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
 - m. 13. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
 - n. 14. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
 - o. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
 - p. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
 - q. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
 - r. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
 - s. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
 - t. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)
- B. Duties: They shall assist the Senior Pastor in the shepherding of the church of God.
- C. Manner of Appointment: The Senior Leadership Team shall along with a board of ordination examine the candidate, following a successful examination they shall present the candidate to the Corporate Membership for confirmation, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.
- D. Removal: Should an Ordained Pastor be found in violation of the Bylaws; the Corporate Membership may dismiss him by a two-thirds majority vote.

Section 4 Deacons

- A. A Deacon cares for the physical and material well-being of the church. Their authority is limited to that which has been granted them by the Senior

Pastor/President. All Deacons must qualify by exemplifying the following in their lives:

- a. Qualifications
- b. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- c. The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- d. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
- e. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- f. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
- g. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- h. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- i. Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
- j. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- k. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- l. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- m. 12. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- n. 13. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
- o. 14. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
- p. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
- q. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- r. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
- s. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
- t. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- u. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

B. Duties

- a. Deacons shall care for the temporal needs of members

- b. Attend to the accommodations for public worship
 - c. Encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration
 - d. They shall count the tithes and offerings
 - e. They shall review the church financial report monthly
- C. Manner of Appointment
- a. The Senior Leadership Team shall nominate, and the Corporate Membership shall confirm the Deacons with a two-thirds majority vote
- D. Removal: Should a Deacon be found in violation of the Bylaws; the Corporate Membership may dismiss him/her by a two-thirds majority vote.

Article XIV Senior Pastor's Vision

To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Senior Pastor/President shall be responsible to articulate in clear, concise, and simple language the vision of the church. The purpose of this is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision-making processes that reflect the Senior Pastor/President's heart and vision for the church.

Article XV Ministry of Helps

To help ensure the protection, security and safety of congregants, guest and volunteers during church functions, this church recognizes the Ministry of Helps. The Senior Leadership Team may establish teams and committees who are trained in the policy and procedures of the church to carry out this ministry.

Article XVI Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the Senior Pastor/President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.