



CONNECT CHURCH GOVERNANCE

A Biblical Model of Church Leadership

Throughout the New Testament, principles of church leadership point to a central theme of plurality. Relying upon consensual agreement of godly Elders selected from within the congregation, creates a healthy checks-and-balance of leadership direction, financial accountability, spiritual guidance, and ministry implementation.

Connect implements these biblical principles of plurality in its leadership structure as well. A strategy of biblically based policies and guidelines within its Elder board and ministry leaders ensure that a healthy, God-honoring implementation of leadership and pastoral care is carried out. Connect Elders and leaders are committed to the example of Jesus who modeled servant leadership. They take seriously the role of shepherding the body of Christ.

Policy Governance: Optimizing Elder Direction and Staff Leadership

Connect Elders are entrusted with the governance of Connect Church. The Elder board provides visionary direction and spiritual covering and oversight for the ministries of the church. They provide leadership for the overall church, entrusting the implementation of that direction to ministry leaders and Staff, under the leadership of a Senior Pastor.

This system of organizational leadership allows the Elders to focus their gifts and time on the biblical mandate to lead and shepherd the church, while allowing ministry leaders and Staff the opportunity to maximize their gifts and talents as they lead their ministries and make practical decisions regarding implementing and carrying out the direction provided by the Elders.

How are Elders selected?

The Elders who serve as representatives of the church are nominated by the existing elders and undergo a prayerful screening, interview, and approval process. Once approved, Elders serve until which time they resign for personal reasons, are disqualified by sin or a failure to meet the biblical standards of the office, or leave Connect Church. Elders are not paid staff; they serve as volunteers.

The completed Elder board consists of not less than three Elders which shall include the Senior Pastor who provides a key link between the Elder board and Staff. Each member of the Elder board has equal voice to the system of consensual agreement on the team. Until there is unanimity on an issue, no decision is finalized or acted upon.

What do the Elders do?

The tasks and responsibilities of the Elders vary greatly and require discernment as the board strives to keep the church on its biblical course. The Elder board addresses key issues facing the church. These include:

- Determining the overall vision and future direction of the church.
- Creating policies to clearly define church values and biblical operating procedures.
- Ensuring the church's teachings and practices reflect accurate biblical theology.
- Providing avenues for pastoral care, conflict resolution, discipline, and restoration.
- Providing direction on financial or risk-management issues.
- Providing accountability to the Senior Pastor, ensuring the vision and values are carried out.