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 ***OCC Handbook and Guide***

VERSion 1.9

June 17, 2015

#### Presented by:OCC Church Board and Pastors Jeremy Greer and Tommy Booth

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## ***Foundational Belief***

### At One Community Church, Romans 12:5 is our foundational Scripture. “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one member’s one of another.” Our belief is established on The Holy Bible and we believe:

* The Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and that these Three are One.
* That you MUST be born again to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven through the blood of Jesus Christ.
* That Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was crucified, rose on the third day, and ascended into Heaven.
* That after Salvation, the next steps for the believer are Sanctification, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirt working in their lives.

## ***Purpose Statement***

### The primary purpose of OCC is to reach our community – the non-believer and the believer, with the love of Jesus Christ. To mature them in a relationship with Jesus, using the Word of God and equipping them with spiritual tools to return to the community and share the love of Christ with others. To summarize:

* Reach our community with the love of Jesus Christ.
* Teach and mature each individual in a close relationship with Jesus Christ.
* Equip each individual with Bible-based tools so they can reach others.

## ***Mission Statement***

### The mission of OCC is to provide the gospel of Jesus Christ freely to everyone by preaching, teaching, and manifesting Jesus Christ in our lives. The gospel is delivered by means of church services, tracts, praise and worship teams, the internet, puppet ministry and literature prepared by our church leaders to be given to the general public. To summarize:

* The goal of OCC is to reach out with the Gospel message – indeed the love of Jesus Christ, to one soul at a time.

## ***BY-LAWS***

## ***Preamble:***

### For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of Faith in Jesus Christ, and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner consistent with accepted tenets of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church, and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith and order, we do declare and establish these By-Laws. These By-Laws will take precedence over any and all other Constitutions and By-Laws adopted prior to this action. We the members of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH do herby accept this document as an instrument of church administration for the purpose of guiding the affairs of our Church toward accomplishing our mission as a New Testament Church.

## ***Article 1. Name:***

The name of this non-profit church corporation shall be ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH (OCC). It is located at 104 Fairway Shopping Center, Hudson, and Caldwell County, North Carolina.

## ***Article 2. Doctrine:***

In accordance with the Holy Bible Doctrine, the only authority for doctrinal belief shall be the Holy Bible.

## ***Article 3. Church Covenant:***

The church recognizes only the Holy Bible as authority in matters of Christian conduct. However, as a practical statement of Christian ethics by which the church shall expect its members to abide, the church recognizes the following Church Covenant.

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and to become sanctified and seek the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of the gifts of the spirit for power to be witnesses of the profession of our faith. Believing further in the water baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its spirituality and prosperity; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (manner of behavior); to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of destructive drugs or intoxication drinks as a beverage; to shun pornography and gambling in any form; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God’s word.

Members of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH of Caldwell County will be given a copy of the Church Covenant to study for themselves.

## ***Article 4. Purpose:***

The purpose of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH is to exalt the Savior, equip the Saints, and evangelize the sinner to the glory of God.

In addition, this body shall provide regular opportunities for public worship and fellowship; to sustain the ordinances, doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian education; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Redeemer’s Kingdom, and to preach and propagate among all people, the Gospel of the Revelation of God, through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

## ***Article 5. Government:***

The government of the church, in accordance with the historical Bible position, shall be congregational in form, all matters (unless otherwise stated) to be decided democratically by majority vote of the members in good standing.

### **Section 1 – IRS:**

OCC is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue law), including, but not limited to establishing and maintaining religious worship, proclaiming the Gospel, and providing Christian education.

### **Section 2 – Private Inurement/Conflict of Interest Clause:**

No part of the net earnings of OCC shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the tax-exempt purpose of the church.

### **Section 3 – Political Activities Clause:**

No substantial part of the activities of OCC shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

NOTE: Simply because a person holds a position of authority at OCC or is a member of the church, does not mean that the activities of the individual(s) are considered actions of the church. The person may be acting in his/her official capacity for his/her actions to be attributable to the organization. Campaigning by the pastor(s) on their own time and by their own initiative is not attributable to the church as long as the pastor(s) actions are not endorsed or funded by the church.

### **Section 4 – Dissolution Clause:**

Upon the dissolution of the non-profit corporation, after paying or making provision for payment of all its liabilities, the non-profit corporation shall dispose of all of its remaining assets to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Any action to dissolve the church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the church present at a meeting called to specifically consider such action, for which meeting written notice has been issued to all members in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. Assets may be distributed only to organizations that agree with OCC Foundational Beliefs.

### **Section 5 – Exempt Activities Clause:**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the non-profit corporations shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## ***Article 6. Membership:***

### **Section 1 – Methods of Receiving Members:**

Candidates shall be presented to the church at regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

* **Public Profession of Faith:** Upon public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
* **Recommendation:** On the recommendation of the Pastor(s) and Church Board, and by unanimous consent.
* **Statement of Faith:** In those circumstances where having been saved, or for some reason unable to secure a letter.
* **Associate Membership:** Those who desire to hold membership in this church while living in the area for a limited time, but who also wish to maintain membership in their home church in another place may present themselves for Associate Membership. Associate members are entitled to all privileges of membership.
* **Restoration:** Members shall be restored to full membership upon recommendation of the Church Board if they have shown godly repentance and sorrow regarding the matter for which they were removed from the membership.

Persons desiring to join ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH (OCC) shall first be considered as candidates for membership before actual membership is granted. All candidates for membership shall complete a membership application that provides appropriate information needed to evaluate their eligibility for membership in ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH (evidences of Christian conversion, a willingness to cooperate with the stated purposes of the church, affirmation of our statement of faith and church covenant).

Upon successful review of the membership application by the Pastor(s) and Church Board, actual membership will be granted (if joining by profession of faith) or in a business session (if joining by letter, statement, restoration, or as an associate member).

In all cases, the church has final authority for reception of members.

### **Section 2 – Reaffirmation of Faith:**

Any member of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH desiring to reaffirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may be re-baptized as a testimony of this commitment, after having discussed the matter with the Pastor(s).

### **Section 3 – Duties of Church Members:**

Each member is expected to support the church to the fullest extent possible in the following ways:

* Financially with tithes and offerings.
* Personally through consistent attendance at regular and special meetings of this church.
* Agreement with the purpose of this church.
* Agreement with the doctrinal position of the church.
* Abide by the principles of this Church Covenant.

These duties define a member in ***“good standing”*** with this church.

### **Section 4 – Rights of Church Members:**

Members of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH equally share the following rights:

* Each member is equally entitled to all blessings and benefits of the ministries of the church.
* Only members in good standing will be permitted to vote in business matters before the church (as stated in Section 3 – Duties of Church Members).
* Except as otherwise set forth herein, every member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective office.
* Members shall have access to the principal records of the church including minutes of its governing body and principal financial reports. However, these rights shall not include the right to review or inspect individual donor records or personnel files.

### **Section 5 – Discipline of Church Members:**

Each member is subject to disciplinary action of the church in the event of failure to support or cooperate with the church program and in the event of doctrinal or moral default. All disciplinary cases are to be handled in a Christian manner. Where discipline is considered, the Pastor(s) and Church Board shall handle the procedure until such a time as the entire church must be involved. Attempts will be made to contact and restore the person.

This church stands ready to receive any repentant former member.

### **Section 6 – Termination of Membership:**

Membership in this church shall be terminated in the following ways:

* **Death:**  The clerk shall remove the name of a member from the church roll upon death of that member.
* **Discipline:** The church, after due notice and a reasonable opportunity for hearing and kindly efforts to make such action unnecessary, may terminate the membership of persons who fail to fulfill the obligations of the Church Covenant, and of persons whose conduct is of such a nature that it hinders the work of the church and Christ’s Kingdom.
* **Resignation:** A member may request that their membership be terminated and such termination shall be effective as of the date the request is received.
* **Withdrawal of Membership by the Church:** The church shall periodically update its roll, with members who can no longer be contacted, the church may (in a regular business session) vote to withdraw their membership.

### **Section 7 – Non-Resident Membership:**

The church shall maintain a non-resident membership list and, when possible, encourage these members to affiliate with a local church.

## ***Article 7. Church Meetings:***

The church will plan to hold the following meetings with specific dates and time as determined or deemed necessary by the Pastor(s) and/or Church Board of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH. All meetings will be held in various areas of the church and notification of each meeting will be announced at least one (1) week beforehand. The “moderator(s)” – one or both of the pastors, shall determine the rules of procedure according to their sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The “moderators” are the final authority on questions of procedure, and their decision(s) are final and controlling.

### **Section 1 – Business Meetings:**

* Monthly Board Meetings. To be held in church Fellowship or Board Room on first Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Pastor(s) to make announcement one week beforehand.
* Quarterly Church-wide business meetings to give financial report and address any outstanding items of business
* Annual Meeting – access leadership offices and leaders to determine if any changes requested or necessary. To be held in the General Assembly area in the month of June.

### **Section 2 – Regular Meetings:**

* Weekly Meetings – Church-wide meetings held on Wednesday and Sunday.
* Musician Practice Sessions – To be determined by Worship Leader.
* Praise Team/Choir Practice Sessions – To be determined by Worship Leader.

The church shall maintain such worship services as are essential to the inspiration, information, encouragement, and growth of its constituency. The times, hours and periods of its worship shall be freely determined by the church leadership as events, social conditions and community needs may call for. The church shall carry on an educational program to meet the needs of all those who come into its fellowship.

## ***Article 8. Church Wedding Policies:***

The wedding ceremony is not primarily a social event but is a sacred rite in which one man and one woman pledge themselves to each other under the blessings of God and are united by God in holy wedlock. The wedding ceremony is a Christian service of worship.

In order to establish a regular practice with regard to weddings in our church, and to make available to inquiring wedding parties the accepted customs of the church, the following procedures have been instituted:

### **Section 1 – Reserving a Date for Your Wedding:**

We will be happy to make a confirmed reservation for your wedding when all of the following requirements have been met:

* Returned the Information Form.
* Paid all relevant Fees (i.e., license fee, notary fees, etc.).
* Dates confirmed with the Pastor(s).
* All conditions provided in the instructions are understood by wedding party.

Please note that no weddings or rehearsals will be scheduled on Sunday or holidays.

### **Section 2 – Premarital Counseling:**

Marriage is a serious matter. We want your marriage to be a tremendous success. That is the reason we have a premarital counseling ministry. Marriage is one of the greatest commitments you will ever make. It is for this reason that we make such a commitment to you in helping prepare for your special day. Accordingly, every couple must comply with the following church requirements:

* Every couple to be married in our church is required to have an initial visit with the minister who is to perform the wedding ceremony. At this time, the date and details of the wedding are discussed.
* The couple is also required to have at least three (3) sessions of premarital counseling which are to be conducted by the Pastor(s). Please be aware that the Pastor(s) may suggest additional sessions if deemed necessary.
* Failure to attend required counseling sessions will result in forfeiture of the ceremony and any required fees will be refunded.

### **Section 3 – Minister:**

ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH’S doctrine states that marriage as God intended is only between one man and one woman and that marriages outside those parameters will not be performed by any minister of this church or any other minister in this church, or on this church property.

* All weddings will be conducted by the Pastor(s) of the church or a minister approved by one of OCC’s Pastors.
* The Pastor(s) are under no obligation to perform any wedding.
* The Pastor(s) have the right to refuse to perform a marriage ceremony if they do not believe it is biblically permitted.

### **Section 4 – Rehearsals:**

We will be happy to make a confirmed reservation for your wedding rehearsal when all of the following requirements have been met:

* Rehearsals should be held on the day before the wedding, whenever possible. Special arrangements should be made with the Pastor(s) if a rehearsal needs to be held on another day.
* Everyone in the wedding party is expected to be present at the rehearsal – including the bride and groom’s parents and ushers.
* The marriage license shall be given to the minister at the rehearsal.
* No wedding rehearsal will be conducted when any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol.
* It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to ensure all the policies are known to the wedding party well in advance of the rehearsal and actual wedding events.

### **Section 5 – Reception:**

Church facilities will only be used by those celebrating a biblical marriage between one man and one woman and the following items are expected without exception:

* The reception in the church building must be in character of Christian conduct.
* No alcoholic beverages may be served /consumed on church premises.
* The use of tobacco products is not allowed inside the church building.
* The caterer should supply dishes, silverware, punch bowl, and any other necessary supplies.
* The church will allow three (3) hours for the reception and cleanup afterward.
* Reception should be concluded no later than 9:00pm.

Please ensure the church’s sanctuary and reception areas are cleaned and ready for other services before making final departure.

### **Section 6 – Decorations:**

Since our church is already furnished as a place of dignity, elaborate decorations may not be necessary. If you choose to decorate the sanctuary and or reception areas, please observe the following criteria:

* Notify and provide Florist with a copy of our church’s policies.
* Florists should make arrangements with the church office as to when they can decorate.
* Flowers must be in clean, rustproof, leak proof containers.
* Dripless candles must be used to prevent dripping of wax on the floor and/or windowsills.
* Protective coverings should be used under any candles used.
* Florist must furnish equipment such as candle lighters, candelabras, etc.
* Ensure any decorations do not damage the floors, or furniture.
* Permission MUST be obtained prior to moving any furniture in the sanctuary.
* All decorations, flowers, etc. need to be removed from the church after the ceremony unless they are to be used for the church service the next day (i.e., flower arrangements for Sunday services).

Please ensure all furnishings are placed as they were in an orderly fashion. If there are any damages incurred to the premises, the wedding party will be responsible.

## ***Article 9. Supplementary Provisions:***

The supplementary provisions sections include ordination, designated giving/contributions, the OCC morality clause, and dissolution and exempt activities clauses.

### **Section 1 – Ordination and Licensing:**

Ordination through OCC is a local church matter. It is up to the leadership of the local church to decide the criteria by which an individual is recognized as ordained. Therefore, from a legal standpoint, the church bylaws set forth the qualifications for a candidate for licensing or ordination and should direct who will determine whether the candidate should be presented to the church for licensing or ordination. The bylaws are considered to be a “living/working” document which outline the qualifications and procedures for ordination.

***SECTION 1.01 ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS***

(A) Any member who meets the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be considered for ordination as a minister of the Gospel. Candidates for ordination must be members of this local assembly or one of its mission churches. No other persons may be ordained by this church.

(B) The candidate must have an experience of conversion, a divine call to the ministry, a consistent Christian walk, a vital concern for souls and for the edification of the church at home and abroad.

(C) The candidate must affirm his/her unequivocal adherence to the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith set forth in these bylaws. His/her doctrinal position on matters not specifically addressed in the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith must be based on the Scriptures as the Word of God.

(D) Graduation from a four-year Bible college, or its equivalent, is recommended. Any uncertainty as to call or other obvious disqualifications should bar a person from ordination regardless of educational attainments.

(E) All persons licensed or ordained by this church must be convinced Christians, who accept all matters pertaining to church order and practice.

(F) A Bible college or seminary graduate should spend at least one year after graduation engaged exclusively in preaching and pastoral work before being considered for ordination. Exceptions to this rule will be made when the candidate has had adequate pastoral experience before and during his formal biblical education, or when he/she must seek early ordination to satisfy requirements for pastoral service of a mission church, missionary service or chaplaincy.

***SECTION 1.02 – ORDINATION PROCEDURES***

(A) Upon a majority vote at a duly noticed church administration meeting, the church may call an ordination council for the purpose of considering the qualifications for the ordination candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited by the pastor(s) to participate in the examination of the candidate.

(B) After organizing itself, the council will examine the candidate with respect to his/her spiritual experience, call to the ministry, and view of Christian doctrine. The council should take its responsibility seriously and examine the candidate carefully. The outcome of the examination will be a recommendation to the church whether or not to ordain. If the council recommends ordination, the church shall vote to adopt or reject the council’s recommendation at a duly noticed church administration meeting.

(C) If the candidate is recommended for ordination by the council and the church adopts the recommendation, the pastor(s) and the chairperson of the board shall arrange for the ordination service. The following parts are usually included in the ordination service: Introduction consisting of the reading of Scripture relating to the qualifications for ordination, prayer, special music, and reading of the determination of the examining council; Ordination charge to the church; Ordination prayer accompanied by laying on of hands by the council; Charge to the candidate; Benediction by the newly ordained minister.

***SECTION 1.03 REVOCATION OF ORDINATION***

(A) Should a minister ordained by the church be found living a life unbecoming a servant of the Lord or preaching and teaching contrary to the Word of God, the pastor(s) may call a council to hear the charges and the minister’s defense.

(B) The reviewing council shall consist of the church board and ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the hearing of the charges and the minister’s defense.

(C) Upon a recommendation by a majority vote of the council, the church will then revoke the minister’s ordination certificate.

***SECTION 1.04 LICENSE***

(A) Those who desire to prepare for the gospel ministry may be issued a license to preach by this church after the pastor(s) and church board have examined the candidate’s divine call and qualifications.

(B) The pastor(s) and the church board may license an associate or assistant pastor(s) as a preliminary step to ordination at a later date.

(C) A license to the ministry shall be considered the equivalent to ordination, but shall be considered probationary in nature. It is expected that the licensed minister will be considered for ordination within four years of being licensed.

### **Section 2 – Designated Giving/Contributions:**

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. All contributions to these funds shall be deemed ***advisory*** rather than mandatory in nature and shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor(s) and the church board. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of its tax-exempt purposes.

Contributions/tithes that are designated by the contributor for a specific purpose impose a “trust” obligation upon the recipient church to use the designated funds for that purpose only. For example, if a designation is made for the building fund, the amount designated must be used solely for the purpose of that building fund. Once a building fund is established, ideally through a separate account, the amount(s) designated will be used solely for the purpose of that building fund. Using separate bank account(s) will help keep track of various types of designated funds. The separation of accounts is not legally necessary, but if the treasurer of OCC is not comfortable with setting up subsidiary ledgers for each type of fund (general, missions, building, etc.), separate bank accounts is certainly, legally acceptable.

It should be noted that when OCC receives designated contributions, there are only three (3) things the church may legally do with the money: use it for the purpose designated, return the gift to the donor, or have the donor change or remove the designation. To avoid being required to ask the donor for permission to use the funds for a purpose other than the designated purpose, the OCC bylaws – as stated above, contain a specific provision making gift designation ***advisory*** only.

### **Section 3 – Morality Clause:**

The membership of OCC, in accordance with its governing bylaws, resolves to protect the Bible-based moral values of this ministry. The following amendments are made to governing ministry bylaws.

***Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith***

*Whereas,* the ministry is committed to preserve Scriptural morals in the face of outside societal influences seeking to degrade the Biblical family, pervert the moral values of our nation, and intimidate God’s people from speaking God’s truth in love, the following paragraphs shall be added to the ministry’s Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith:

 **Sexual Immorality**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
2. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

 **Lawsuits between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian’s insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 18:15-17).

***Membership***

*Whereas,* membership in this body is a privilege and not a right and carries with it specific responsibilities and moral obligations, the following provision shall be added to Article 6, Membership:

The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in “Sexual Immorality” and/or files a lawsuit in violation of “Lawsuits between Believers.”

***Resolution***

The church board of OCC, resolves to protect the Bible-based moral values of this ministry. The following policies represent the ministry’s commitment to preserve Scriptural morals in the face of outside societal influences seeking to degrade the Biblical family, pervert the moral values of our nation, and intimidate God’s people from speaking God’s truth in love.

THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that the following policies be communicated to each staff member and ministry volunteer and enforced as the guiding policies of this ministry:

***Staff Training***

All volunteers or staff that have contact with the general public on behalf of the ministry are perceived to be speaking on behalf of the ministry. These positions include, but are not limited to, receptionists, ushers, greeters, and anyone else who has contact with the general public as a representative of the ministry. All staff with contact with the general public are required to exhibit the utmost display of Christian character. Use of abusive or pejorative language of any kind is strictly prohibitive and shall be grounds for discipline. No staff member shall ever be disrespectful to any person for any reason.

**Ushers**

Ushers are required to conduct their activities with decorum and respect. Any conduct that an usher observes that may be distracting to the activities of the ministry should be brought to the attention of the pastor(s) immediately. An usher should never touch any person in an effort to remove that individual from the premises except when absolutely necessary to prevent the individual from injuring himself or others. If directed by the pastor(s), an usher may contact the authorities to respond to the scene in an effort to remove the individual(s) causing the disturbance and restore order.

**Receptionists**

Receptionists are responsible for greeting anyone who contacts the ministry by telephone or visits the ministry. Receptionists are not official spokespersons for the ministry. As such, any questions regarding the Scriptural position or activities of the ministry should be directed to the pastor(s) for further handling. Prospective participants in the ministry should be mailed an information packet. Receptionists shall not answer questions regarding the position of the church in matters of faith, practice, or policy over the phone or to persons unknown to the ministry. Answering such questions shall be grounds for immediate removal from the position including termination of employment.

***Church Attendance/Services***

Attendance in the general worship services of this church shall be open to the general public subject to the standards and expectations contained in this resolution and other applicable ministry policies.

***Behavior Standards***

In all services and programs of this ministry, reasonable standards of decorum and order shall be maintained at all times. As such, no one shall, by appearance or behavior, be permitted to draw attention to themselves in contravention to the ministry’s purposes. Any individual who, in the sole discretion of the pastor(s) or ministry leadership, is found to be in violation of this policy shall be removed from the ministry premises immediately.

***Special Class Designations***

Where appropriate, the pastor(s), in their sole discretion, shall designate specific assignments and qualifications for various special classes or group activities. Such assignments and qualifications shall be enforced for all individuals who wish to attend the ministry function. Individuals who do not meet the qualifications for a specific class or activity, in the sole discretion of the pastor(s), shall not be allowed to participate in the designated activity.

### **Section 4 – Dissolution Clause:**

Upon the dissolution of the non-profit corporation, after paying or making provision for payment of all its liabilities, the non-profit corporation shall dispose of all of its remaining assets to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Any action to dissolve the church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the church present at a meeting called to specifically consider such action, for which meeting written notice has been issued to all members in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. Assets may be distributed only to organizations that agree with OCC Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith.

### **Section 5 – Exempt Activities Clause:**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the non-profit corporations shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## ***Article 10. Indemnification:***

In order to secure against hurt, loss, or damage and/or to make compensation to for incurred hurt, loss or damage, the following clauses have been included in the OCC bylaws.

### **Section 1 – Actions Subject to Indemnification:**

 **(A)** The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, church board member, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys’ fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him/her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his/her conduct was unlawful.

 **(B)** The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent (also known as a no contest plea, not admitting whether guilty or not and is usually used to avoid being sued civilly for essentially confessing to a crime, which is the basis of a guilty plea), shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he/she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

### **Section 2 – Expenses Subject to Indemnification:**

To the extent that a pastor, church board, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys’ fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

### **Section 3 – Limitations of Indemnification:**

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor(s), church board, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he/she has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Article 10, Section 1. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor(s) and church board who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested church board members so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

### **Section 4 – Timing of Indemnification:**

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the church board in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor(s), church board, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

### **Section 5 – Extent of Indemnification:**

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, church board member, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

### **Section 6 – Insurance:**

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, church board member, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him/her and incurred by him/her in that capacity, or arising out of his/her status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him/her against liability under the provisions of this Article.

## ***Article 11. Binding Arbitration Procedures:***

By definition, arbitration is the settlement of a dispute (whether of fact, law, or procedure) between parties to a contract by a neutral third party (the Arbitrator) without resorting to court action. Arbitration is usually voluntary, but sometimes it is required by law. If both sides agree to be bound by the arbitrator’s decision (the ‘award’) it becomes a binding arbitration. The exact procedure to be followed (if not included in the contract under dispute) is governed usually by a country’s arbitration laws, or by the arbitration rules prescribed by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The following clauses relevant to arbitration, have been included in the OCC bylaws.

### **Section 1 – Submission to Arbitration:**

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

### **Section 2 – Notice of Arbitration:**

1. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians and in accord with Matthew 5:15-17.
2. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution.
3. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 1, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 4, below.

### **Section 3 – Limitations on Arbitration Decisions:**

1. Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Article 6, Section 5 – Discipline of Church Members, were followed.
2. Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor(s) or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determing whether the procedures set forth in Article 1, Officers, Section 4 – Term of Officers or Article 2, Duties and Powers of Officers, Section 6 – Associate Pastors.

### **Section 4 – Arbitration Procedures:**

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor(s) and the church board.

## ***Article 12. Conflicts of Interest:***

A ***conflict of interest*** is a situation in which an individual has competing interests or loyalties. A conflict of interest can exist in several kinds of situations:

* With a public official whose personal interests conflict with his/her professional position
* With an employee who works for one company but who may have personal interests that compete with his/her employment
* With a person who has a position of authority in one organization that conflicts with his or her interests in another organization
* With a person who has conflicting responsibilities.

### **Section 1 – Purpose:**

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect the Church’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might either benefit the private interest of an officer or trustee of the Church or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state or federal laws governing conflicts of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

### **Section 2 – Definitions:**

1. **Interested Person:** Any trustee or officer who has a direct or indirect financial interest.
2. **Financial interest:** A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

**1.** An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which OCC has a transaction or arrangement,

**2.** A compensation arrangement with OCC or with any entity or individual with which OCC has a transaction or arrangement, or

**3.** A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which OCC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

**4.** A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the church board decides that a conflict of interest exists.

1. **Compensation:** Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

### **Section 3 – Procedures:**

1. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the trustees considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.
2. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the board meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.
3. An interested person may make a presentation at the board meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

**(1)** The chairperson of the board shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

**(2)** After exercising due diligence, the church board shall determine whether OCC can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

**(3)** If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the church board shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested trustees whether the transaction or arrangement is in the best interests of OCC, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

1. If the church board has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

1. If after hearing the member’s response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the church board determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### **Section 4 – Records of Proceedings:**

1. The minutes of the church board shall contain the names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the church board’s decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
2. The minutes of the church board also shall contain the names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

### **Section 5 – Compensation:**

A voting member of the church board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the church for services rendered may not vote on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

## ***Article 13. Facility Usage Policy:***

 Detailed below is the Facility Usage Policy for One Community Church.

**INTRODUCTION:**

ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH (OCC) makes its facility available for activities in furtherance of the purposes Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith of OCC and for members of the church. Use of the facilities must be in compliance with the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith of OCC and this Policy. Further, it should be remembered that the facilities discussed herein are the House of the Lord and should be treated in a manner that demonstrates due reverence.

**PRIORITIES OF USE:**

Church-sponsored events take precedence over all other events. Active OCC members’ personal events (such as weddings, parties, anniversaries, etc.) have second priority. Any other use which is deemed in furtherance of the Church’s purposes and Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith may be permitted as stated hereinafter.

While no rental fee is assessed, those using the facilities are asked to pay costs to help defray the custodial expenses, depreciation, and utility fees.

Should a conflict arise after a schedule for an event has been set, the Church Board Team may reschedule a lower priority event only in the case of an emergency. Solutions acceptable to all parties will be sought in all cases.

**APPLICATION AND SCHEDULING:**

Before the facility may be used, a thorough understanding of responsibilities of all parties involved shall be determined and acknowledged by signatures on the *Facility Usage Application* form. Outside groups wishing to use the facility will furnish a certificate of insurance for liability and property damage naming and protecting the interests of the church.

All applications shall be received by the Church office and will be approved as soon as it can be reviewed by the Church Board. The decision of the Church Board regarding all facility use shall be final.

All fees are to be paid to OCC. The security deposit is due when the application is submitted. Once an event is approved, a copy of the *Facility Usage Application* form will be sent to the requestor. If an application is denied, the deposit will be returned within 2 weeks. The balance of the fees will be due two weeks prior to the event. In the event of a cancellation, please let a member of the Pastoral Team know as soon as possible. To receive a refund, notice of your cancellation should be received 48 hours in advance.

A facility key will be issued to members of the church upon request.

Each year by October 1, each Church Committee and Team leaders will fill out a *Facility Usage Application* form, and return it to a member of the Pastoral Team in order to reserve rooms for their meetings and events. Usage is reserved on a space available basis thereafter. All groups using the facilities on a regular basis must fill out an application and have it reviewed for approval annually for continuing use.

**RULES:**

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES WILL CAUSE YOU TO FORFEIT YOUR DEPOSIT OR LOSE RENTAL PRIVILEGES.

* 1. Permission to use the facilities does not constitute endorsement of a group’s policies or beliefs by ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH.
	2. ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH has a no smoking, no alcohol, no gambling, no weapons and no pets (other than service dogs) policy.
	3. There must be a supervising adult 21 years or older from the user group present at all times.
	4. Use of the kitchen facility requires a complete clean-up. All food items must be removed and the trash taken out to the trash area.
	5. No furnishings may be moved from other parts of the facility. If you need additional items, put them on your application and it will be discussed with a member of the Pastoral Team.
	6. Due to wear and tear from transportation and use, tables, chairs and other equipment may not be borrowed by members or friends for use outside of the facility.
	7. No nails, tacks or tape are to be used on any wall or furnishing.
	8. The group may adjust the thermostat for the area being used, but must change it back to the original temperature at the event’s conclusion.
	9. The facility must be left in an orderly condition. This includes cleaning up the restrooms and removing the trash.
	10. Upon leaving, all tables and chairs must be returned to their proper location, all lights must be turned off, and the doors secured.
	11. All groups must vacate the building by 9 p.m. unless prior approval has been applied for and granted.
	12. All incidents of damage must be reported to a member of the Pastoral Team. The group using the facility is responsible and will be charged for damage to any property or furnishings. Payment is expected within 30 days.
	13. If using the organ, piano, or keyboard, you must have prior approval.
	14. In NO CASE shall the sound and lighting systems be operated by anyone other than AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL.
	15. Use of the facilities for a wedding is covered in the Wedding Policy.
	16. No profit making businesses or enterprises are allowed.

## ***Article 14. Education Ministries:***

### **Section 1 – Purpose:**

The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To help fulfill this responsibility of imparting biblical truth and furthering the Great Commission, OCC shall establish and maintain an educational program (or Sunday School program) for the purpose of winning souls to Christ, and teaching Bible doctrine, godly worship, and biblical Christian living. To this end, the church shall engage in educational ministries in keeping with the following dictates.

### **Section 2 – Church Participation:**

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by OCC shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor(s) may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he/she/they deems it in the best interest of the church.

### **Section 3 – Staff Membership:**

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of OCC. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

### **Section 4 – Agreement with Statement of Faith:**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full agreement with the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith of OCC. OCC shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith or who adopts or lives a lifestyle inconsistent with the beliefs and practices of the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith of OCC, whether in or out of the classroom.

### **Section 5 – Unity:**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of OCC.

### **Section 6 – Teaching:**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief that conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

## ***Article 15. Amendment / Adoption of Amendments:***

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

## ***Article 16. Adoption:***

I, the undersigned officer of the church, certify that these bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These bylaws supersede any and all previous bylaws of ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH.

Date Church Clerk

## ***Leadership Requirements***

## ***Preamble:***

### At One Community Church (OCC), we believe there is no greater privilege than to be called to be a leader in the Church of Jesus Christ. The Church is His Body, His Bride, The Temple of His Spirit, His Flock, His Army, and His Family! This is why God’s Word has laid before us such challenging requirements for Christian Leadership. The standards are rightly high, not only for the sake of the Church’s vitality but also for the sake of the leader’s vitality.

### The importance and urgency of the church’s evangelistic mission requires that its leaders be of the highest caliber as clearly defined in the scriptures of **1 Timothy Chapters 2 and 3, Romans 12:38, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 4:11, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 3:5**. They must be leaders whose management skills and purity of lifestyle instill confidence in Christians and elicit respect from outsiders to the Faith. Irreproachable Leaders are not “perfect”, but they are continually developing toward maturity, with a goal of having a blameless reputation (**1 Timothy 3:8-13**).

### Leaders are to keep hold of the deep truths of the Faith with a clear conscience. They must prove themselves to be unconnected with the false teachers.

## ***Article 1. Leadership Qualifications:***

The chief biblical texts that develop the requirements of leaders are: [1 Timothy 3:1-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy+3%3A1-13), [2 Timothy 2:1-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy+2%3A1-13), [Titus 1:5-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A5-9), [Acts 6:1-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6%3A1-6), and [Exodus 18:21-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18%3A21-22). The qualifications spelled out in these passages can be summarized in four words: commitment, conviction, competency, and character. The greatest of these four is the leader’s individual character.

###

### **Section 1 – Four (4) Primary Qualifications**

The qualifications spelled out in these passages can be summarized in four words: commitment, conviction, competency, and character as detailed below:

* **Commitment.** As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, commitment is a promise to do or give something; a promise to be loyal to someone or something; the attitude of someone who works very hard to do or support something. Accordingly, the following questions/concerns should be determined for everyone in leadership in the Church body:
	1. Are the would-be leaders clearly committed to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?
	2. Is there a passion to know him in all his fullness?
	3. While different personality types express passion differently, there must be evidence of a fire inside to know and obey the Crucified and Risen One.
* **Conviction.** As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, conviction (law) is the act of proving that a person is guilty of a crime in a court of law; a strong belief or opinion; the feeling of being sure that what you believe or say is true. Accordingly, the following questions/concerns should be used to evaluate anyone requesting to become a leader in the Church body:
	1. Do the would-be leaders have biblically informed convictions about who God is, who humans are, the meaning of history, the nature of the church, and especially the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection?
	2. Are they learning what it means to be transformed by the renewal of the mind ([Rom. 12:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A2)), to "think Christianly" about every dimension of their lives, money, time, sex, family, recreation?
	3. For this reason, Paul warns against being too quick to call recent converts to leadership; commitment and conviction take time to deepen.
* **Competency.** As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, competency is an ability or skill. Accordingly, the following questions/concerns should be used to ensure the individual is competent to perform the duties of the leadership position in the Church body:
	1. Do the would-be leaders know how to make their way through the Scriptures?
	2. Can they help others find their way around the sacred pages ([2 Tim. 2:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy+2%3A15))?

Have the would-be leaders been entrusted with appropriate gifts of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Cor. 12:12-31, Rom. 12:3-8)?

* 1. Do they have a working understanding of the gifts, and can they help others discern and deploy those entrusted to them?
	2. Do they have the necessary relational skills for this position?
	3. Do their relationships manifest the integrity and love of Jesus, especially in their marriage and with their children ([2 Tim. 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy+3%3A5))? The Kingdom of God, after all, is about righteousness; that is, right relationship.
* **Character.** As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, character is the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves; someone’s personality; a set of qualities that are shared by many people in a group, country, etc.; a set of qualities that make a place or thing different from other places or things. Accordingly, the following questions/concerns should be “tested” out both internally and externally to ensure the individual’s character is above reproach:
	1. Are the would-be leaders taking on the character of Jesus?
	2. Someone has astutely observed, "It is not a matter of perfection, but direction." Are the potential leaders moving toward greater and greater Christ-likeness?
	3. The lists of leadership requirements are finally about character. Do they exhibit:
		1. Humility
		2. Self-control
		3. Hospitality
		4. Gentleness (control of anger)
		5. A quest for Holiness, temperance?
	4. Is there evidence of dying to the love of money, to manipulation, to always having it one’s own way?
	5. Are they faithful to their spouse (husband of one wife/wife to one husband)?
	6. Are they faithful in their tithes and offerings to the church?

### **Section 2 – Clarification of “Demands of Perfection”:**

It should be noted that the injunction in [1 Timothy 3:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy+3%3A4) that requires a leader to "see that his children obey him with proper respect" is not a demand for perfection. Even the best parents can have children that choose to disobey them (see [Luke 15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+15)). Paul's concern is that those in leadership give their best energies and time to training their children according to Biblical principles.

### **Section 3 – Amplified Explanation of “Above Reproach”:**

The standard “above reproach”, or blameless, is extremely high, but not out of proportion to the importance of the church’s mission in the world, which always hangs in the balance. As leaders we should seek to be all that the Master calls us to be. It means being above condemnation as we confess and repent of our sins and failures and seek, by grace, to grow. The focal point should be the candidate’s reputation among both believers and non-believers, which is to be computed on the basis of proven moral character and maturity. Candidates should possess the following qualities:

* **Temperate** – Or better “sober,” which taken figuratively, means to be clear-headed or vigilant. Vigilance is the opposite of drunkenness or fuzzy thinking. Christians are to guard against spiritual laziness and avoid habits that lull one to sleep (things and activities that draw us away from God).
* **Self-Controlled –** As a fundamental aspect of the new existence in Christ (Titus 2:12), it is the ability to take charge of the mind, and Christians have this possibility opened to them. This allows control over impulses (to overindulge the physical appetites, to think wrong thoughts about others and ourselves) which without control would drive us to excessive behavior.
* **Respectable *–*** Observable behavior that corresponds to inner self-control. It is behavior of all kinds marked by self-discipline, order and balance.
* **Hospitable *–*** The practice of hospitality is imperative. The New Testament enjoins all believers to practice hospitality (Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9), specifically those who serve in their local Churches as leaders.
* **Ability to Teach *–*** All candidates for Church leadership positions should possess the ability to teach/mentor others so the Church will continue for future generations.

## ***Article 2. Prohibited Leadership Behaviors:***

As our list continues to probe the background of the candidate for leadership, it prohibits four (4) characteristics of behavior. Candidates should NOT possess the following characteristics:

* **Drunkenness and Violence**– Tendencies toward drunkenness and violence (Titus 1:7) are clearly reasons for rejection. The Church cannot afford to be led by those who allow themselves to be controlled by intoxicating substances (which enslave the user and inhibit decisive thinking) or emotions. Maturity and strength are to exhibit themselves instead in gentleness, as they did in Christ (2 Cor. 10:1).
* **Quarrelsome**– This tendency betrays an inability to get along with and accept the views of others, and perhaps deeper personality flaws as well. The false teachers in Ephesus were known for their quarrels (1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Tim. 6:4-5). A leader prone to this weakness will produce discord instead of harmony. But a leader, or any Christian for that matter, who promotes peace among people will create and preserve the relationships necessary for building a unified church.
* **Lover of Money** - This means the candidate’s attitude toward material wealth ought to be one of healthy detachment, but certainly not irresponsibility. Such a leader can be a model of generosity and simplicity of lifestyle because of the knowledge that whatever one’s economic status might be, all that one has belongs to God and so must be looked after faithfully before Him (1 Tim. 6:17-19). The candidate’s attitude and motivation where money and acquiring things are concerned must be brought before God for evaluation. God’s Word and not the values of the society in which we live must be allowed to shape and correct our thinking and behavior in this area (Mt. 6:19-24; 2 Cor. 8—9; 1 Tim. 6:5-10, 17-19).

## ***Article 3. Candidate Conditions:***

The profile of the ideal candidate concludes with three (3) conditions, each accompanied by a statement of rationale as detailed below. The scripture verses referenced are primarily from ***1 Timothy 3:1-13***. Prerequisites of Church leadership include the following conditions:

* **Proficient Management of the Household**– Indeed, if one’s marriage hints at fitness for leading a church (1 Tim. 3:2), then the effectiveness of one’s attempts to lead and provide order in a home speaks volumes (1 Tim. 3:4-5). Paul has in mind the typical householder of Greco-Roman society, who ordinarily would have been a citizen. Besides the male head of the house, household members included the wife, children and, depending on the economic status of the householder, slaves (1 Tim. 6:2). The dwellings ranged from the spacious houses of the upper-class householder to the apartments (which varied in size) of middle- and lower-income households. Normally the authority structure of the household was strictly patriarchal, and at each level subordination to the householder was expected. Anything less than this kind of obedience to the householder was taken as a sign of disorder and even political subversion, for the stability of the household was regarded as fundamental to the well-being of society as a whole. Given these values, it would have been unthinkable for Paul to sanction as church leaders those whose households belied their leadership skills. Society expected the householder to command the respect of his wife, children and slaves. To expect less from church leaders would have been to risk associating the church with charges of social disruption and political subversion. However, this particular condition was not meant to exclude the unmarried from holding positions of leadership in the church; in that day marriage was the almost universal rule.
* **Must NOT be a New Believer**– The reason is not lack of leadership potential but lack of spiritual maturity. The new believer is more likely to see such a position of leadership as an opportunity for personal advancement and to fail to understand the gravity of the task. The sense in this condition is well illustrated in the modern Church, which has seen many recent converts who, because of influential position or fame in the world, are thrust into positions of church leadership that they are hardly ready to fill.

* **Must NOT be Conceited** - The danger, as Paul describes it simply, is becoming filled with pride and falling under the devil’s judgement (1 Tim. 3:6). The latter may mean fall under the same judgment as the devil (NIV) or, as seems more in keeping with the next verse, “be condemned by the devil.” The point is that conceit, especially among church leaders, is just the kind of chink in the spiritual armor that the enemy often exploits. In Ephesus conceit was the bane of the false teachers (1 Tim. 6:4; 2 Tim 3:4), who may well have been immature overseers. Their quick rise to this level of authority could easily have led them to think more highly of themselves (compare 1 Tim. 12:3) and their teaching than they ought, hardened them in stubbornness and caused no end of arguments in the Church. Conceit and cooperation have nothing in common. Unfortunately, when the enemy discovers this breach in defense and a church leader falls into sin, the testimony of the church falls as well.
* **Must Have a Good Testimony before Outsiders –** The final condition states clearly what has already been implied: the candidate must have a good testimony before outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7). Here the list of requirement concludes by returning to the general thought of “irreproachability” (1 Tim. 3:2), but now with a particular audience, unbelievers, in mind. The good testimony is to be measured according to the preceding kinds of qualities. Deficiencies in the candidate’s reputation or behavior that damage the testimony open the leader up to disgrace from outsiders – that is, the devil’s trap. Perhaps in Paul’s mind the greater danger lies in the fact that a fallen leader brings disgrace on the Church and its message from those it is meant to reach (1 Tim. 3:15).

## ***Church Officers:***

## ***Preamble:***

The chief biblical texts that develop the requirements of church officers are the same as previously defined for church leadership. The scriptures are: [1 Timothy 3:1-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy+3%3A1-13), [2 Timothy 2:1-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy+2%3A1-13), [Titus 1:5-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A5-9), [Acts 6:1-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6%3A1-6), and [Exodus 18:21-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+18%3A21-22).

## ***Article 1. Officers:***

### **Section 1 – Church Officers:**

The church officers are pastor, church board, church clerk, financial secretary, and church treasurer. One person may hold two or more offices, with some exceptions. The church treasurer and financial secretary may not be the same person, and the pastor(s) may not hold any other offices. Officers of the church must be elected by a majority of the present, voting membership at a regular church administration meeting. The pastor(s), from time to time as they deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a majority confirmation vote by present, voting church members at any regular or special church administrative meeting.

### **Section 2 – Designation of Legal Officers:**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor(s) shall serve as presidents of the church; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the church; the church treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the church; and the chairperson of the board shall serve as vice president of the church. The pastor(s) and the church board shall constitute the board of directors of the church.

### **Section 3 – General Eligibility for All Officers:**

 **(A)** The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the pastor(s), shall affirm their agreement with the Foundational Beliefs/ Statement of Faith.

1. All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the pastor(s) in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
2. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position. Affiliated co-laborers with this ministry are not eligible for such election or appointment.
3. Upon termination of membership any officer of the church shall immediately forfeit his/her position and return any church property.

### **Section 4 – Terms of Office:**

1. The relationship between the pastor(s) and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month’s notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a pastor or to sever the relationship between the pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his/her membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 1(D).

 **(B)** The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the pastor(s), shall be one year, at the expiration of which the officers may be re-elected or re-appointed.

 **(C)** A vacancy occurring in any office or the church board, except in the case of the pastor(s), may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.

 **(D)** All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

 **(E)** Members of the church board may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the church board.

### **Section 5 – Call A Pastor:**

Upon the resignation, death or dismissal of the Pastor, the church shall seek a candidate who subscribes to the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith, the Covenant and bylaw provisions of OCC, and whose life aligns with the qualifications of a pastor as described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The church shall abide by the following guidelines for calling a pastor:

 **(A)** The church board shall select a pulpit committee to consist of all church board members and up to five other members elected by a simple majority of the church board members. The pulpit committee shall interview potential candidates and will only consider individuals who completely subscribe to the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith and Covenant contained herein;

 **(B)** Prior to being announced to the congregation as a formal candidate, any individual being considered for pastoral candidate must preach at least one Sunday service. Thereafter, upon a majority vote of the church board, the pulpit committee may formally announce the candidate to the church, after which the candidate must preach at least two regularly scheduled services and be available for a church-wide question/answer time prior to being voted upon by the congregation;

 **(C)** Notice from the pulpit must be given 2 consecutive Sundays prior to a formal candidate’s preaching services, and 2 consecutive Sundays prior to the church congregational vote;

 **(D)** The candidate must be elected as Pastor by a majority vote of qualified, present voting members. The pulpit committee will only present for consideration to the church one candidate at a time, and an up or down vote must be cast prior to consideration of other potential candidates.

### **Section 6 – Election of Officers:**

The annual election of officers by the church membership shall occur during the month of June at the annual church administration meeting.

### **Section 7 – Pastoral Oversight of Officers and Staff:**

 **(A)** Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor(s) may hire associates and assistants to assist them in carrying out their God-given responsibilities.

 **(B)** All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor(s) who have the sole authority to dismiss the same. No employee or volunteer shall be hired, appointed, or retained who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith.

## ***Article 2. Duties and Powers of Officers:***

### **Section 1 – The Pastor(s):**

 **(A)** The pastor(s) shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He/she/they shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

 **(B)** The pastor(s) shall appoint the members of the various committees at the annual church administration meeting. He/she/they shall serve as the presidents of the church and publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He/she/they shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor(s) shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he/she/they exercises the ministry that God has given them.

 **(C)** All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the pastor(s), who shall be able to determine the appropriateness of practices as well as persons permitted to use the church property.

 **(D)** The pastor(s) shall be responsible to fill the pulpit for each regularly scheduled church service as well as any special services. In the event of their absence, he/she (or the chairperson of the board in the case of a vacancy in the office of pastor or where the pastor is ill and unable to perform his/her duties) shall be responsible to invite speakers from within the membership or outside the church to preach in a manner consistent with the beliefs articulated in the Foundational Beliefs / Statement of Faith.

1. The pastor(s) shall be responsible, in coordination with the church board, to establish mandatory safety and security procedures for all ministries and programs involving minors.

### **Section 2 – The Church Board:**

 **(A)** The church board shall assist the pastor(s), in such manner as he/she/they shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor(s), consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor(s), disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor(s) in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The church board shall assist the pastor(s) in caring for the administrative needs of the church’s various ministries as requested by the pastor(s). They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor(s) are unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor(s), the church board may appoint a pulpit committee.

 **(B)** Immediately following the annual church administration meeting, the church board shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairperson who shall be vice president of the church, a vice chairperson, and a secretary.

 **(C)** The pastor(s) and the church board shall constitute the board of trustees of the church.

 **(D)** The board of trustees shall exercise the following specific powers only upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called church administration meeting:

**1.** To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;

**2.** To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and

**3.** To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church.

### **Section 3 – The Church Clerk:**

The church clerk shall:

 **(A)** Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws, minutes of meetings, the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination and license; and deliver such documents to successor upon leaving office.

 **(B)** Keep minutes of all church administration and church board meetings (unless a separate secretary of the church board has been elected or appointed), including the time and place of holding, the notice given, and the names of those present (unless a church-wide meeting), and an accurate record of all church business approved at each meeting. A copy of these minutes shall be kept as a permanent record of the church and shall be made available at all reasonable times to any proper person on terms provided by law and pursuant to these bylaws.

 **(C)** Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law; see that reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed.

 **(D)** See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor(s) or by the chairperson of the board).

 **(E)** Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year.

 **(F)** Serve as the secretary of the church.

### **Section 4 – The Financial Secretary:**

The financial secretary shall:

1. Count, along with one other person so appointed, and record in a permanent record all the monies received in offerings for the church. This shall be done following each service or day of services of the church.
2. Convey in a timely manner all funds received to the treasurer for verification and deposit in the bank, including moneys received from outside sources, and shall provide the treasurer with a record of all monies received, specifying the distribution into various funds as designated. A copy shall be provided to the pastor(s) each week or upon request.
3. Maintain a permanent weekly record of individual giving for all donations, offerings, contributions and gifts, and shall guard said records confidentially as a sacred trust.
4. The chairperson of the board may assume the duties of the financial secretary in the absence of a financial secretary, unless already serving in the capacity of the treasurer.

### **Section 5 – The Treasurer:**

The treasurer shall:

* 1. Keep in the church office an accurate and permanent record of all financial transactions of church funds. Make reports of itemized disbursements and the financial condition of the church as requested by pastor(s) and church board, and for annual, quarterly or otherwise special or regular administration meetings; deliver such records to successor upon leaving office.
	2. Receive and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church.

**(C)** Verify all funds received from the church financial secretary, and deposit these and all other funds received in appropriate amounts at an approved banking facility or trust company as shall be selected by the pastor(s) or church board.

**(D)** Write, sign, record, and mail checks in payment of church bills and routine expenses approved by the pastor(s) and/or church board as well as disburse funds and salaries as directed by the church.

**(E)** At least two directors of this corporation shall be authorized to sign church checks in the treasurer’s absence. The chairperson of the board shall not perform this duty if functioning as the financial secretary. No persons shall be permitted to sign checks written to themselves, and no expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) shall be made by cash.

**(F)** Serve as treasurer of the church.

### **Section 6 – Associate Pastor(s):**

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor(s), the associate pastor(s) of the church shall assist the pastor(s) in carrying out the ministries of the church.

### **Section 7 – Duties of All Officers:**

 **(A)** All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church administration meeting and shall surrender all records in their possession to the church clerk at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.

 **(B)** Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from his office, at the discretion of the pastor(s), and another may be appointed by the pastor(s) to serve the un-expired term.

### **Section 8 – Installation of Officers:**

A public installation service in which all newly elected officers of the church are to be dedicated to their respective offices shall be held at a public church service following their election at the annual church administration meeting.

## **OCC Organization Chart**

**DATE: April 25, 2015**



**Facility Usage Application Form**

**ONE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

104 Fairway Shopping Center, Hudson, NC 28638

Pastor Tommy Booth – 828-381-0708 / Pastor Jeremy Greer – 828-291-8711

Today’s Date:

Name of Organization:

Requester’s Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

[OCC] Member? YES □ NO □

[OCC] Member/Sponsor:

Purpose of Meeting/Event:

Is this organization non-profit? YES □ NO □

Will a fee be charged to attend? YES □ NO □

Date requested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time:

Number of attendees expected: Adult: Child:

Facilities/Rooms requested:

Is use of Kitchen requested? YES □ NO □

Will food and/or beverages be served? YES □ NO □

Is MPC Audio/Visual Equipment requested? YES □ NO □

A/V Equipment requested:

**By signing this request, I hereby agree to the terms and conditions as stated in the attached Facility Usage Policy.**

Requestor:

Sponsor (if requestor is not a member):

Approved: YES □ NO □

[OCC] Representative:

Amount Received:

Comments:

**OCC WEDDING APPLICATION FORM**

This application is to be completed and presented to the church receptionist. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (date) reservation fee is requested for nonmembers. After the pastor(s) have reviewed your, application you will be contacted concerning the availability of the requested date for your wedding and the date of your first counseling session. Your wedding date will not be confirmed until the Wedding Application Form, Evaluation and Preparation for Marriage Form and required fees have been received and counseling requirements have been scheduled.

**BRIDE:** Phone:

Address:

Parent/Guardian: Phone:

Church Membership: Age:

**GROOM:** Phone:

Address:

Parent/Guardian: Phone:

Church Membership: Age:

**Post Wedding Address:**

**Wedding Date:** **Time:**

**Rehearsal Date:** **Time:**

**Officiating Minister(s):**

**Organist:**   **Pianist:**

**Soloist(s) and/or Other Musician(s):**

**Song Selections:**

**Photographer:**  Phone:

**Florist/Decorator:**  Phone:

*Do you plan to leave flowers for the Sunday service?* ❑ Yes ❑ No

**We have read and we accept the Wedding Policy of ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Bride’s Signature Date**

**Groom’s Signature Date**

## **56 Bible Verses about**

## **Church Leadership**

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## Please note that all scriptures listed below are from the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible and a count of how many viewers of this document, found it to be helpful or not helpful. The English Standard Version (ESV) is an English translation of the Christian Bible. It is a revision of the 1971 edition of the Revised Standard Version.

## [1 Timothy 3:1-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A1-7&version=ESV) **ESV / 149 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ...

### [Hebrews 13:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+13%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 111 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

### [Acts 20:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+20%3A28&version=ESV) **ESV / 102 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

### [Ephesians 4:11-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-16&version=ESV) **ESV / 71 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ...

### [1 Peter 5:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 63 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

### [Colossians 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 60 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### [1 Peter 5:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 56 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;

### [1 Timothy 3:8-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A8-13&version=ESV) **ESV / 50 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Church board members likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted too much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as church board members if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let church board members each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ...

### [Hebrews 13:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+13%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 40 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

### [Titus 1:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 35 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

### [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+5%3A12-13&version=ESV) **ESV / 35 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

### [1 Timothy 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+5%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 29 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

### [2 Timothy 2:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 28 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

### [Acts 6:1-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6%3A1-15&version=ESV) **ESV / 28 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ...

### [Acts 14:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+14%3A23&version=ESV) **ESV / 27 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

### [1 Timothy 3:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 25 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

### [Matthew 20:25-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A25-27&version=ESV) **ESV / 24 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,

### [Matthew 28:18-20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A18-20&version=ESV) **ESV / 23 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### [2 Timothy 3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A16&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

### [1 Timothy 3:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

### [James 5:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+5%3A14&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

### [1 Timothy 3:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 15 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

### [Titus 1:1-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A1-16&version=ESV) **ESV / 13 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ...

### [Acts 15:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15%3A4&version=ESV) **ESV / 12 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

### [James 3:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

### [Titus 1:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+1%3A5&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

### [John 3:8-12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A8-12&version=ESV) **ESV / 10 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

### [Colossians 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+4%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 9 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

### [Ephesians 5:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A23&version=ESV) **ESV / 9 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

### [1 Peter 5:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

### [Philippians 1:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+1%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and church board memberss:

### [Ephesians 5:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A25&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

### [Acts 15:22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15%3A22&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,

### [Acts 11:30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+11%3A30&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

### [Acts 6:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+6%3A5&version=ESV) **ESV / 8 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

### [1 Peter 2:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+2%3A25&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### [James 1:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

### [Ephesians 5:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+5%3A28&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

### [1 Corinthians 7:32-34](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+7%3A32-34&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

### [1 Corinthians 7:7-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+7%3A7-8&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am.

### [1 Corinthians 3:1-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+3%3A1-23&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ...

### [Acts 20:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+20%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

### [Acts 15:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 7 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

### [1 Corinthians 11:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+11%3A26&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### [Acts 16:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+16%3A4&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

### [Acts 15:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+15%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

### [John 20:19-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A19-23&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

### [Luke 5:5-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+5%3A5-9&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

### [Luke 1:33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1%3A33&version=ESV) **ESV / 6 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

### [1 Corinthians 12:1-31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A1-31&version=ESV) **ESV / 5 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ...

### [Acts 17:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+17%3A24&version=ESV) **ESV / 5 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

### [John 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A5&version=ESV) **ESV / 5 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

### [Matthew 16:15-19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16%3A15-19&version=ESV) **ESV / 5 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

### [Ephesians 4:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A12&version=ESV) **ESV / 4 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

### [Acts 17:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+17%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 3 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

### [John 5:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 3 helpful votes** Helpful Not Helpful

In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.