

Cottonwood Creek Community Church

Statement of Church Governance

This document is not a higher authority than the Word of God. Neither is it a higher authority than the authority that God Himself has invested in those believers He has appointed to lead in this local church (Hebrews 13:17). It must be remembered that the local church itself is a living, growing, and flexible body subject ultimately to the authority of Jesus Christ alone as it is declared in the Word of God (Ephesians 1:22, 4:12-16). As we grow in the Word, this document is therefore subject to amendment by the Elders but shall be followed in all its parts as a protection to all until amended according to its provisions.

PURPOSE:

Our purpose as a Church is to exalt Jesus Christ by fulfilling both His Great Commandments and His Great Commission. Our mission is to passionately love God and genuinely love others (Matthew 22:37-39). We take seriously His call to reach the lost and make disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19-20).

ORGANIZATION:

We believe there are two offices in the New Testament instituted by the Holy Spirit to govern His Church: Elders and Deacons. We are an Elder-led Church seeking to honor the Lord through a biblical model of leadership. Elders and Deacons are appointed to their positions based on biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3.

ELDERS:

Elders are appointed by those presently serving as an Elder. The appointment of an Elder is in response to both biblical qualifications and an individual's aspiration or calling (1 Timothy 3:1) to the Eldership and is therefore a lifetime appointment. An Elder will serve until he either senses the Lord leading him to step down or his life displays un-Christlike characteristics. In the event his life is not in line with the leadership qualifications found in Scripture he will be removed from his position by the Elders.

The Elders have the following responsibilities: shepherd the flock, protect from false teachings and teachers; exercise church discipline when necessary; have authority over, and be responsible for, the church property; be custodians of the records (all deeds, property records, contracts, and other records and papers of the organization); be charged with the selection of the pastor; arrange the budget and determine the amounts to be spent for various ministries.

In light of this, the responsibility of the Elders is to do everything possible to seek the Lord for direction, keep a clear focus on God's call to the Church, and maintain unity in the Body so that we can effectively minister within our Church and to our community. It is important that leaders be well-informed of the needs of the congregation and that they hear

their thoughts and opinions (i.e., their heart). God works through a Spirit-led consensus of these leaders.

PASTOR:

The Pastor serves as one of the Elders whose primary role is to shepherd the flock by directing the affairs of the Church (1 Timothy 5:17) and serving as the primary teaching Elder. The Pastor, as an Elder, is accountable to the Elders and will serve until he either senses the Holy Spirit leading him to move on or his life displays un-Christlike characteristics. In the event his life is not in line with the leadership qualifications found in Scripture he will be removed from his position by the Elders.

DEACONS:

Those who desire to serve as a Deacon and meet the biblical requirements (1 Timothy 3:8-13) are appointed by the Elders. Deacons will serve until they no longer feel led by the Holy Spirit to serve in this role or their lifestyle conflicts with the biblical characteristics they are called to display in their lives. An unfit Deacon will be removed by the Elders. The Deacon ministry is a serving ministry and exists to serve the Church Body in practical ways as seen in Acts 6:1-7.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is based on the biblical concept that all believers are members of the Body of Christ through faith in Him (Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 6:15, Ephesians 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:30, Colossians 3:15). All who profess Christ as their Savior, live a life consistent with Scripture, are willing to discover and use their gift to serve the Body, and are willing to commit to faithful participation *in* the Church, prayer *for* the Church, and giving *to* the Church will be considered members at Cottonwood Creek Community Church.

TREASURER:

The treasurer will have the responsibility of managing all financial duties related to the business of the Church. All financial decisions will be agreed upon by the Elders. This position will be appointed by the Elders and may be filled from the membership of the Church Body.

TITLE TO PROPERTY:

All property of the organization will be, and remain the property of, Cottonwood Creek Community Church and shall be held in the custody by the Elders or their duly appointed successors.

DISSOLUTION:

Upon dissolution of Cottonwood Creek Community Church, all assets would be vested in the ministry organization(s) of the Elders' discretion.