

Redemption Hill Church Newcomers Class

Week 3 – Church Polity & Philosophy of Ministry

Church Polity

- Biblical Support for Elder Led & Congregationally Involved
 - Acts – Establishment of the Church
 - Epistles – Pattern continued
 - Three groups, two offices
 - Pastor/Elder, Deacon, and Congregation/Members
 - Deacon
 - Solve problems and serve people – Acts 6
 - Biblically qualified – 1 Tim. 3
 - Pastor/Elder
 - Three job descriptions of one office
 - Pastor – shepherd the flock
 - Elder – rule, lead, govern
 - Overseer – administrate and provide direction
 - 1 Pet. 5:1-3 & Acts 20:17, 28
 - Congregation
 - Responsible to
 - Do the work of the ministry – Eph 4:11-16
 - Select Deacons – Acts 6:1-6
 - Remove disqualified Elders – 1 Tim. 5:19-20
 - Responsible for their Pastor/Elders
 - Value them – 1 Thess. 5:12
 - Follow them – Heb. 13:7
 - Provide for them – 1 Tim. 5:17-18
- Summary
 - Christ is the Head of the Church
 - Pastor/Elders are to shepherd, lead, oversee
 - Deacons are to solve problems and serve people
 - The Congregation is to support, follow, engage, and do

- Polity in Practice at RHC
 - o Deacons
 - Nominated by the body, interviewed by pastors, approved by congregational vote, and serve for a three-year term.
 - Serve by managing finances, logistics, building, body needs, and other various ministry needs.
 - Men who meet the biblical qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Women serve in many ways, but men were to be chosen to fill this role in the NT.
 - o Pastors
 - Varied employment structures
 - Consistent qualifications, authority, and responsibility before God
 - Pursue plurality of elders to shepherd and send
 - o Congregation
 - Votes on new deacons, new elders, the adoption of budgets and any budget changes.
 - Responsible to hold the church's leadership accountable to God's word.
 - Responsible to hold church's members accountable to God's word.

Philosophy of Ministry

- Commitments
 - o Centrality of the Gospel
 - o Expository Preaching
 - o God-centered Worship
 - o Christ-centered Relationships
- Goals
 - o Ministry of Multiplication – 2 Tim. 2:2
 - Disciples, Leaders, & Churches
 - o Meaningfully involved in Missions – Acts
 - Not impersonal support
 - Responsible to send/go
 - Responsible to see gospel-centered establishment of churches
 - o Every Member Ministry – Eph. 4:11-12
 - Serving, Discipleship, & Evangelism Ministries
 - “Rather than use *people* to get *things* done, we want to use *things* to get *people* “done”