

NEWCOMERS CLASS

Church Polity

&

Philosophy of Ministry

CHURCH POLITY

- **How is the church to be governed?**
 - ❑ **Elder Rule**
 - ❑ **Congregational Rule**
 - ❑ **Elder Led & Congregationally Involved**

Acts: Establishing the Church

- Ch 1-5: purely apostolic leadership
- Ch 6: establishment of the office of deacon
- Ch 11: elders are functioning in a leadership role
- Ch 14: Paul & Barnabas return to establish elders
- Ch 15: apostles & elders share responsibility/authority
- Ch 20: elders function as leadership in local church

Three Categories with Two Offices

Philippians 1:1-2

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

Deacons

- Perform a serving role, not spiritual oversight.
- Solve problems and serve people (Acts 6)
- Must meet biblical qualifications, having a proven testimony and godly character (1 Tim. 3)

Pastor/Elder

One office, three descriptions:

- **Pastor = feeding, guiding, protecting the flock**
- **Elder = rule, lead, govern the church**
- **Overseer = administrate and provide direction**

Pastor/Elder

1 Peter 5:1-3

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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Pastor/Elder

Acts 20:17, 28

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

Congregation

1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...

A Body of Priests! The congregation has the responsibility to...

- **Do the work of ministry (Eph 4:11-16)**
- **Select Deacons for service (Acts 6:1-6)**
- **Remove Elders who fall in sin (1 Tim 5:19-20)**

Congregation

The church is accountable to God's established leaders and responsible for them.

- Value the work of those who are over them (1 Thess. 5:12)
- Follow the faith of those who are over them. (Heb. 13:7)
- Provide for those who are over them. (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

Summary

- Christ is the Head of the Church
- Pastor/Elders are to shepherd, lead, oversee
- Deacons are to serve
- The Congregation is to support, follow, engage, and do

Polity Practice at RHC - 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.

Polity Practice at RHC - Pastors

- Varied employment structures
- Consistent qualifications, authority, and responsibility before God
- Pursue plurality of elders to shepherd and send

Polity Practice at RHC - 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

We are committed to

- ***Centrality of the Gospel***
- ***Expository Preaching***
- ***God-centered Worship***
- ***Christ-centered Relationships***

MINISTRY OF MULTIPLICATION

- **Disciples who make disciples**
- **Leaders who raise up leaders**
- **Church that invests in planting churches**

MEANINGFULLY INVOLVED IN MISSIONS

- **More than sending money**
- **More than impersonal, distant support**
- **Responsible to send/go**
- **Gospel ministry that sees churches established**

EVERY MEMBER MINISTRY

- **Serving ministries**
- **Discipleship ministries**
- **Evangelism ministries**

Rather than use *people* to get *things* done,
we want to use *things* to get *people* “done”

QUESTIONS

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of teal and blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a layered, modern aesthetic. The colors range from light, airy blues to deep, saturated teals. The overall composition is clean and professional, typical of a corporate or academic presentation.