

Good News Fellowship

Elder Team Model of Leadership

A church should be known and defined by its impact as a community of believers. An important part of this community is an Elder Team of spiritually qualified men, including a Lead Pastor, who are selected by the congregation to provide leadership for the church. It is our conviction, both biblically and as a strong part of our Mennonite Brethren tradition, that the Elder Team Model of Leadership best serves the interests of the church in its discipleship mandate.

The Elder Team Model emphasizes shared servant leadership in the local church. It involves a team of committed, godly men who work together to seek and discern the Lord's direction for His church. The Elder Team's most visible member is the Lead Pastor who serves in a full-time capacity, while the rest of the Elders serve the church as their schedules and responsibilities allow. Any Elder may be assigned a lead role in a given area of responsibility based on his areas of greatest gifting, experience, and time availability.

The Lead Pastor and Elder Team will use their leadership gifts to train and to equip the saints for works of service (Eph 4:12). The Lead Pastor will be the primary preaching/teaching Elder, but will encourage other Elders and members of the body to share their gifts in this area as well.

The Lead Pastor is part of the Elder Team whose members exercise mutual support and accountability. Together, this team exercises discernment for the direction of church, both spiritually and administratively. Discernment for decision making occurs through prayer, through discussion, and through seeking biblical wisdom. This team provides general leadership, gives oversight to ministry teams, and evaluates the church's ministries. Elder involvement in ministry team activities primarily involves encouraging and equipping Ministry Team Leaders. Ministry Team Leaders, in turn, are delegated administration and leadership responsibilities for program areas.

The Elder Team delegates administrative and supervisory responsibilities to the Lead Pastor for day-to-day operational procedures. All pastoral and ministry staff members must meet the Biblical requirements for elders and/or deacons and adhere to our community covenant. They respond directly to the Lead Pastor in their duties and may also relate to a designated Elder who oversees their Ministry Team.

The Elder Team members, serving in their roles as called by the Lord, use their gifts to lead, shepherd and equip the body in fulfilling the ministry of Good News Fellowship.

*"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."
Ephesians 4:11-12*

*"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be: not greedy for money, but eager to serve: not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."
1 Peter 5:1-3*