"Biblical Patterns for Church Leadership"

New Hope Community Church October 9th, 2022 / Various Scripture

Intro Three models of church leadership - • Episcopal — authority rests in leader • Congregational — authority rests in the • Presbyterian — authority rests in	by vote
A. Leadership In the Early Church (Eph 2: 1. The Apostle Paul summarizes exactly I Jesus Christ is the The apostles and prophets are the 2. Luke records how leadership expanded	how the Church formed —
 Deacons were commissioned to atte Apostles were to focus on prayer and In this decision we see both leadersh 	nd to needs d
B. Leadership In the Growing Church (Ac	14)
1. The apostles appointed in ev	
2. The generation of leaders ap	opointed elders (Titus 1:6)
3. The early churches were led by a	
4. There is a case to be made for	
■ We know of no hierarchical structure	5 0
We do not read of a hierarchy existir	ng among church elders
C. Leadership In the Ongoing Church (Ex	oh 4)
1. Jesus gave leaders to His Chu	•
■ These gifts intended to advance, est	
2. These leaders were identified by names	s describing their
■ Elder — Act as a wise man,	
■ Shepherd — Act as a guardian,	
 Overseer — Act as a superintendent, 	
3. These terms are used	
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■ Overseers / elders / shepherds (1 Tim ■ Deacons / Deaconesses (1 Tim 3)	3 / Titus 1 / 1 Pt 5)
• Qualifications focus on the	of a prospective leader
5. The norm seemed to be — raising lead	
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D. Leadership In New Hope Community C	
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D.

- mutual submission to one another
- 2. We seek consensus from the congregation on key decisions
- 3. Our supported elders work as equals in mutual submission and under the authority of the Elder Team, sharing responsibilities according to giftings.
- 4. Deacons & deaconesses attending to specific needs & ministries

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A. Leadership In the Early Church (Eph 2:19-22)

- 1. The Apostle Paul summarizes exactly how the Church formed
 - Jesus Christ is the cornerstone
 - The apostles and prophets are the foundation
- 2. Luke records how leadership expanded
 - Deacons were commissioned to attend to specific needs
 - Apostles were to focus on prayer and teaching
 - In this decision we see both leadership and consensus

B. Leadership In the Growing Church (Ac 14)

- 1. The apostles appointed **elders** in every church (Ac 14:23 / 20:17)
- 2. The **second** generation of leaders appointed elders (Titus 1:6)
- 3. The early churches were led by a **plurality** of elders
- 4. There is a case to be made for **equal** authority among elders
 - We know of no hierarchical structure among the apostles
 - We do not read of a hierarchy existing among church elders

C. Leadership In the Ongoing Church (Eph 4)

- 1. Jesus gave **gifted** leaders to His Church (Eph 4:11,12)
 - These gifts intended to advance, establish, mature the Church
- These leaders were identified by names describing their function
 - Elder Act as a wise man, guiding the church
 - Shepherd Act as a guardian, caring for the church
 - Overseer Act as a superintendent, leading the church
- 3. These terms are used **interchangeably** in the New Testament
- 4. Qualifications for two offices appear in apostolic instruction
- - Overseers / elders / shepherds (1 Tim 3 / Titus 1 / I Pt 5)
 - Deacons / Deaconesses (I Tim 3)
 - Qualifications focus on the character of a prospective leader
- 5. The norm seemed to be raising leadership up from within
- 6. Financial support is sanctioned in the NT as an option for elders

D. Leadership In New Hope Community Church

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