

“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 _____ by vote
- **Presbyterian** — authority rests in _____

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

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

B. Leadership In the Growing Church (Ac 14)

1. The apostles appointed _____ in every church (Ac 14:23 / 20:17)
2. The _____ generation of leaders appointed elders (Titus 1:6)
3. The early churches were led by a _____ of elders
4. There is a case to be made for _____ 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 _____ leaders to His Church (Eph 4:11,12)
 - **These gifts intended to advance, establish, _____ the Church**
2. These leaders were identified by names describing their _____
 - **Elder — Act as a wise man, _____ the church**
 - **Shepherd — Act as a guardian, _____ for the church**
 - **Overseer — Act as a superintendent, _____ the church**
3. These terms are used _____ in the New Testament
4. Qualifications for _____ offices appear in apostolic instruction
 - **Overseers / elders / shepherds** (1 Tim 3 / Titus 1 / 1 Pt 5)
 - **Deacons / Deaconesses** (1 Tim 3)
 - **Qualifications focus on the _____ of a prospective leader**
5. The norm seemed to be — raising leadership up from _____
6. _____ support is sanctioned in the NT as an option for elders

D. Leadership In New Hope Community Church

1. We are led by a plurality of elders, equal in authority, working in 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**
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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**
2. 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 / 1 Pt 5)
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5. The norm seemed to be — raising leadership up from **within**
6. **Financial** support is sanctioned in the NT as an option for elders

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