

anthem

CHURCH

"Give yourself to the Church. You that are members of the Church have not found it perfect and I hope that you feel almost glad that you have not. If I had never joined a Church till I had found one that was perfect, I would never have joined one at all! And the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect Church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us.

– Charles Spurgeon

At Anthem Church, our formal leadership structure, under Jesus, involves *elders, staff, and members*

**Jesus is the Head**

*Ephesians 1:22–23*

*[22] And he put all things under his feet and gave **him as head over all things to the church**, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

*Ephesians 4:15*

*[15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him **who is the head, into Christ**.*

*Ephesians 5:23*

*[23] For the husband is the head of the wife even as **Christ is the head of the church**, his body, and is himself its Savior.*

**Members**

*1 Corinthians 12:27*

*[27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Why Membership?

Who is a member?

## *1 Peter 5:1–2*

*[1] 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: [2] **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*

*Hebrews 13:17*

*[17] Obey your leaders and submit to them, for **they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.** Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Biblical Membership is a formal relationship between a local church and a Christian; where the local church takes specific responsibility for the Christian, and the Christian takes specific responsibility for their local church.

A healthy relationship with the local church is like a healthy marriage: it only works when grounded in selfless commitment and nonconsummeristic covenant.

– Brett McCracken

Our real choice is this: do you want to be *plugged into* the life-blood and energy of the body, or do you want to cut ourselves off from this body, lying inert somewhere as a severed finger or an amputated leg? The upside of being a severed finger is, you don't have to bother with cooperating with other fingers, annoying as they are. The downside is, you can't really do anything, and you have no biological connection to the neuron signals coming from the head.

– Brett McCracken

**Deacons**

*diakonis/diakonos* → servant, helper, one who ministers  
alongside

## *Acts 6:1–7*

*[1] Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. [2] And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. [3] Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. [4] But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*

## *Acts 6:1–7*

*[5] And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. [6] These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them [7] And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*

**Elders**

*Gospel Eldership* - Robert Thune

*Biblical Eldership* - Alexander Strauch

*Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons* - Thabiti M. Anyabwile

***Presbuteros → Elder***

*Executes God's justice and government and administrates the affairs of the church (Acts 20:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-2)*

***Episcopos → Overseer / Bishop***

*Oversees, a guardian, gatekeeper or watchman (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1-2)*

***Poimain → Shepherd or pastor***

*Shepherd the flock, nurture, and care for the flock, feed the flock (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1-2)*

## *Acts 20:17–33*

*[17] Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. [18] And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, [19] serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;*

## *Acts 20:17–33*

*[20] how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, [21] testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. [22] And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,*

## *Acts 20:17–33*

*[23] except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. [24] But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. [25] And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.*

## *Acts 20:17–33*

*[26] Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, [27] for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. [28] 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. [29] I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;*

## *Acts 20:17–33*

*[30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. [32] And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

*Titus 1:5*

*[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you*

***#1 This is why I left you in Crete, so that... → It's someone's job (the missionary, apostles, or existing elder(s)) to appoint other elders.***

***#2 put what remained into order → There is something inherently out of order in the church without elders.***

***#3 appoint elders in every town → Each church needs elders.***

***#4 as I directed you → There's a certain way this is to be done. Look back to 1 Tim 3, Titus 1, 1 Peter 5...***

## *Titus 1:5–9*

*[5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—[6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach.*

## *Titus 1:5–9*

*He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. [9] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

## *1 Timothy 3:1–7*

*[1] The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. [2] Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, [3] not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.*

## *1 Timothy 3:1–7*

*[4] He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, [5] for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? [6] He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. [7] Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

## *1 Peter 5:1–5*

*[1] 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: [2] 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;*

## *1 Peter 5:1–5*

*[3] not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. [5] Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

# Membership Affirmation

# Elders-In-Training Presentation

#1 To honor and celebrate these families who are saying *yes* to this call and burden.

#2 To allow the body to examine these families.

#3 To allow the body to bring any questions, comments, or concerns to Bert & Sherry about these families.

