

Life at the Father's House

OUR GOVERNMENT

(HOW WE GOVERN OUR CHURCH)

The Father's House believes in the **New Testament example of eldership** and as a result, we believe that God has ordained spiritual headship (or authority) in the body of elders. This body of elders provides spiritual guidance and shepherding for the church in the best interests of God's flock (Acts 15). We believe that the role of deacons is in the serving ministry, meeting the physical needs of the congregation (1Peter 4:11). This allows the body of elders to meet the spiritual needs of the body.

We believe in plurality (group) of elders working as a team with the headship of the elders being the senior elder (or Lead Pastor). Decisions of spiritual importance are made after careful prayer and meditation and with the FULL agreement of all elders. There is no rank within the eldership, except for the recognized headship of the Lead elder/pastor.

The qualifications of elder are based of Biblical commands as dictated in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Eldership is not granted based on an individual's age, importance, or giving ability, but on Biblical examples of:

- Control
- Maturity
- Faithfulness to the Word
- Ability to teach

God has ordained eldership. The individuals that hold this position will be of the utmost Biblical integrity and character. The body of elders grants the position of elder, and the same body can remove elders that fail to maintain the Biblical qualifications. The body of elders will shepherd (oversee) the flock and will not lord over the flock, realizing that they are accountable to God (1 Peter 5:1-4).

SPIRITUAL COVERING

(BEING CONNECTED)

Although The Father's House is not affiliated with a denomination, we believe strongly in the Biblical principles of spiritual covering and accountability. Pastor Dave and Donna are members of M.F.I. (*Ministers Fellowship International*). Bob MacGregor is the acting Chairman. Wendell Smith is the Co-Vice Chairman and pastor of The City Church in Seattle Washington. Frank Damazio is the Co-Vice Chairman and pastor of City Bible Church in Portland Oregon. Pastor Dave serves on the MFI Apostolic Leadership team and is the Regional Director for Northern California.

These leaders, as well as a team of Ephesians 4:11 ministers, provide leadership and ministry to hundreds of pastors in the United States and many other nations. M.F.I. provides an annual conference, regional seminars, Bible college, fellowship, encouragement and most importantly, counsel and leadership for pastors. If any matters arise within The Father's House that require discipline or evaluation, the Apostolic team of M.F.I will be available to intervene, at whatever level is requested by either (1) the Lead Pastor (2) eldership team or (3) a majority of the pastor's council. Our motto is: **"Everybody is accountable to somebody."**

ELDERS

Knowing the importance of a reliable system of church government, that is consistent with Biblical principle and precedent; several men have been appointed to serve as elders. The purpose of the Eldership is to provide the following:

1. Spiritual oversight of the body.
2. Accountability and input for all financial decisions.
3. Prayer covering for the church and Lead Pastor.
4. Prayerful direction and counsel in regards to all matters that concern the future of the church.
5. Accountability for the Lead Pastor on a personal level.
6. Watchmen who will remain aware of the spiritual state of the church through prayerful observation and contact with the people of God (Isaiah 62:6).

Those who have been appointed to serve, in this capacity, have qualified in these areas:

1. **Competent:** Grace and skills appropriate to their responsibility.
2. **Mature:** Adequate experience to draw from.
3. **Exemplary:** Conspicuous integrity and Christian character.
(1 Timothy 3:2-10)
4. **Willing:** Not serving under constraint or reluctantly.