

# ELDER STATEMENT ON MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ROLES

As shepherds of God's flock we want all of those in our care—men and women—to flourish in the use of their God-given gifts and abilities. Accordingly, we must not prohibit what God allows (or anything on which Scripture is silent) nor should we allow what God prohibits.

## Section 1:

We agree that Scripture sets forth the following principles relating to the role of men and women in ministry.

1. ***Men and women are equal co-heirs of salvation—equal in dignity; equal in worth.*** Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Peter 3:7
2. ***The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts without regard to gender for the building up of the body of Christ.*** 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 14:12
3. ***Women are observed praying, prophesying, evangelizing, teaching and ministering in a variety of ways in the New Testament.*** Acts 2:17-18; 18:2, 24-26; 21:9; Romans 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 11:5; 14:33-35; 16:19; Philippians 4:3
4. ***God has released and empowered women into countless ministry roles but also has revealed that some roles are restricted to men.*** 1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 14:33-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-12
5. ***From the creation of Adam and Eve through all of Scripture God has directed that men ought to sacrificially and lovingly lead in their homes and in the assembly of his people*** (see above Scriptures).

## Section 2:

In order to establish practical guidelines for these Scriptural principles we agree that men will fill the following roles in our church:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Elder                          | 5) Solo teaching of Scripture to mixed groups or men (ages 18 and above) |
| 2) Senior/Teaching Pastor         | 6) Primary church worship and music leader                               |
| 3) Those who lead communion       | 7) Some ministry team leader roles                                       |
| 4) Those who preside over baptism |  |

## Section 3:

We agree that these roles can be open to both men and women:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1) Co-teaching mixed adult groups along with male leader | 10) Church treasurer                |
| 2) Co-leading adult small groups along with husband      | 11) Church secretary                |
| 3) Substitute church worship and music leader            | 12) Counselor                       |
| 4) Teaching women or children                            | 13) Speaking in "business" meetings |
| 5) Assisting in communion and baptism                    | 14) Evangelism                      |
| 6) Giving testimonies                                    | 15) Reading Scripture               |
| 7) Public prayer   | 16) Giving announcements            |
| 8) Deacon(ess)   | 17) Greeting guests                 |
| 9) Special music   | 18) Certain paid staff positions    |
|  | 19) Some ministry team leader role  |

We recognize that in the creation of any list some items might be left out or not even anticipated. As roles emerge not envisioned by this policy they will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the spirit of this policy.

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