

**Governing Documents for the Local Church:
Underlying Principles and Concepts**
The Principles of Discipline and the Structure of Leadership

A. Article III of the Bylaws – Church Discipline

3.5.1 Church discipline is the ongoing practice of restorative love toward one another as described in Matthew 18:12-19 (cf. Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 5, etc.) and is applied when Members are ensnared in transgression or sin or in belief or behavior contrary to the gospel. The aim of discipline is restoration and, where needed, reconciliation and is to be done in a spirit of gentleness and humility. It is not vengeance or retribution.

1. The principles governing discipline at CBC.
 - a. Proper discipline is motivated by love (Matthew 18:12-14).
 - b. Proper discipline is aimed at restoration (Matthew 18:12-14 and Galatians 6:1).
 - c. Proper discipline is governed by gentleness and humility (Galatians 6:1).
 - d. Proper discipline addresses ensnarement (Galatians 6:1).
 - i. In *belief* contrary to the gospel.
 - ii. In *behavior* contrary to the gospel.
 - e. Proper discipline encompasses reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

2. The practice of discipline at CBC (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; cf. 1 Corinthians 5).
 - a. One-on-one restoration (v. 15).
 - b. One or two witnesses (v. 16).
 - c. Two or three voices (v. 17a).
 - d. Whole-body pursuit (v. 17).
 - e. Whole-body response (v. 17; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)
 - f. Whole-body reception (2 Corinthians 2:6-11).

B. Article V of the Bylaws –Leadership Structure

5.1.1 The leadership of the Church consists of two offices: Elders and Deacons (aka Ministry Directors). This two-office structure is taught by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and intimated in Acts 6:1-6 and in other passages (cf. Phil. 1:1).

1. The principles governing leadership structure at CBC.
 - a. The structure of two offices (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3; Philippians 1:1).
 - b. The purpose of two offices.
 - i. The purpose of elders (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3).
 - ii. The purpose of deacons (Acts 6:1-3).
 - c. The purpose of titles.
 - i. Elder (1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:5)
 - ii. Pastor (Ephesians 4:11)
 - iii. Ministry Director (Acts 6:3)
2. The practice of leadership at CBC.
 - a. What do elders do at CBC?
 - i. Individually
 - ii. As a Board
 - b. What do ministry directors do at CBC?
3. The appointment of leaders at CBC.
 - a. The appointment of elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11).
 - b. The appointment of pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
 - c. The appointment of Ministry Directors (1 Timothy 3:8-12; cf. Acts 6:1-3).
 - d. The appointment of staff (“oversight”).