



Introduction:

Church Practices Series

Why have Church Practices Documents?

As part of the establishment of this local church body it was clear that a foundation of church practices would be beneficial to its growth, conduct, and operations. These sections provide a solid foundation for the congregation to understand the out working of the Scriptures in the life of this church. They also provide a basis of understanding within the Eldership of this congregation in critical areas that they must oversee. Significant disagreement within the leadership on these topics would prove highly unprofitable to the congregation. They also provide a basis of documented standards that can be seen by all. They simultaneously provide unity in thought and direction and act as a guide to ensure fairness and equity are met out within the congregation. Finally, they act as a teaching tool on important issues for all believers.

What is in these Documents?

Contained in the following sections are a set of documents that provide an extensive (though not exhaustive) understanding of the views of the Elders of this congregation concerning a variety of topics that bear on the practices of this congregation (e.g. worship, leadership, roles and responsibilities of men and women, etc.). They are first, based on the Elders' best understanding of what Scripture teaches on these subjects and are thus subject to revision in light of a better understanding concerning various issues. The topics are not oriented toward political or cultural issues, but they are oriented on basic views that shape the practice of this church and the working of believers within this body. The content is subject to addition/update as the Elders feel necessary and have reached agreement on new topics. It is clear that the richness of the Scriptures can not be distilled into the limited space provided in these documents, therefore, if there are questions concerning the content (or lack of content) please contact the Elders for more insight.

How Do We Use these Documents?

Everyone is encouraged to read and understand these documents. If you have questions please contact the Elders. They are written in such a manner as to be used as notes in a teaching setting and therefore they should be read with that understanding related to the grammar. They will be used in our rotating Sunday morning Bible study classes for those new to the congregation. The second use of these documents is for "formal" church membership. They are included as part of the requirement for membership. Please enjoy, learn from, and apply these important lessons to your life. Be doers of the Word, not hearers only!