**CBC’s Position on Leadership in the Church**

The Bible teaches that the New Testament church consisted of two offices: elders and deacons. Both offices were to be filled by men (plural) who were spiritual; however, their ultimate responsibilities were different. The responsibility of the deacons is the everyday practical operation of the church, such as maintenance of the building, budget, etc. The role of the elders is to oversee the spiritual aspects of the church, but also to shepherd (pastor) the flock.

Numerous words are used to describe the work of the office of elder. In Titus 1:5, the Greek word *presbuteros* is translated as “elder.” In Titus 1:7, the Greek word *episkope* is translated as “bishop” or “overseer.” The nouns “elder,” “bishop,” and “overseer” are used interchangeably in this chapter. The word *episkope*, or “overseer,” describes the duties or responsibilities of the position, while the word *presbuteros*, or “elder,” describes the character of the person that holds the position—he is to be a spiritually mature man.

In Timothy 3:1, we again find listed the attributes that should characterize those who hold the office of *episkope* (bishop/overseer). The description is very similar to that given in Titus 1.

In 1 Peter 5:1-2, the work of the elder/bishop/overseer is described by the Greek word *poimaino*,which is translated “shepherd.” It is the same word used in the noun form in Ephesians 4:11, which is translated “pastor.” Peter is encouraging the elders to pastor, or shepherd, the local church.

Moreover, in Acts 20:17 and 28, we find all three words—*presbuteros*, *episkope*, *and poimaino—*being used to describe the leadership of the New Testament churches. In short, the local church is led by mature men, known as “elders,” who can also be called “bishops,” “overseers,” “pastors,” or “shepherds.”

Throughout the New Testament Scriptures, the concept of a plurality of leadership is taught. There is no teaching that a single elder/bishop/overseer/pastor should lead a church. At Cherrydale Bible Church, we believe in the plurality of church leadership. Cherrydale Bible Church currently has three men who pastor the church and hold the office of elder, overseeing the flock.