

Family Focus

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

GOD'S PLAN FOR CHURCH ORDER

Regardless of size, a small body of believers or a mega-size congregation, leadership and organizational structure are necessary to accomplish the Divine mission of spreading the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16), fellowship of the saints, (Acts 2:42-47), worship, edifying the membership, and the benevolent needs (Acts 6:1).

Speaking of the unity of the body (the church) of Christ, the Apostle Paul provides a list of several gifts or abilities which members may have (I Cor 12:27-3; Rom 12:5-8). The list in the Corinthian letter may be viewed as applying to a universal kingdom, but Paul's letter to the Romans contains abilities applicable to most congregations in today's society.

Paul's instructions to Timothy and Titus in their evangelistic work was to appoint elders and deacons in every congregation. He included, by inspiration, their qualifications. Assuming this to be the basic structure (Acts 6:1-7) for all churches of Christ, Fairview Road Church of Christ currently has 6 elders (defined as overseers functioning as shepherds). Small congregations (less than 50 members) may not have any due to the fact there are no qualified or willing men to accept the duties of an elder. Large congregations may have an elder for 50 or 60 members.

The number of deacons depends on the number of ministries of a congregation. A deacon has an assigned duty or duties. The organizational chart displayed in the foyer provided a list of the ministries for Fairview Road Church of Christ. The success of the ministry of any church depends on the unity of the body.

~The Elders

Shepherds' Vision Goals

Overall Goal:

To grow spiritually and numerically as "a family growing people to the glory of God".

Goals for the next 12 months:

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

Note: The elders will evaluate the giving trends between now and May 1:

13% increase – Will fully fund existing ministries.

28% increase – Will fund an additional minister and more ministries, which is what the elders would like to do.

Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: www.fairviewroad.org.

Shepherds (*Denotes quarterly Chairman):
Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby,
Don Osburn, James Treece, *Dee Vanderburg