

## Biblical Models of Church Leadership

(Diagram on page 2)

### Guiding Biblical Principles

Gifted leaders; Equipping people: "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastor-teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith...." Ephesians 4:11-12

Receiving counsel; Delegation; Shared Authority; First among equals: "Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone." Exodus 18:17-18

Ruling; Preaching; Teaching: "The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching." 1 Tim. 5:17

Appointed elders; Setting order: "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you...." Titus 1:5

Selecting Deacons; Congregational input; Elder Confirmation: "Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose ... 2 So *the twelve (elders)* summoned *the congregation of the disciples* and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put *in charge of this task (deacons)*. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:1-4

Shepherding; Oversight; Examples; Subjection; Humility: "Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder ... 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock... You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 1 Peter 3:1-3

One mind; All things in common; Unity: "And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common...Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple ...." Acts 2:44,46

### Selection Process for Elders and Deacons

#### The Process (Acts 6:2-6)

1. Nominations from the congregation to recommend eligible men from among themselves for the offices of elder and deacon.
2. Confirmation by current elders via questionnaires completed by the nominees and follow-up interviews as needed. (1 Tim. 3:10)
3. Affirmation by a church vote on a final list of candidates presented by the elders who selected them from among the nominees.
4. Ordination of those who have made it through all preceding steps and have agreed to serve in the new role. (1 Tim. 5:22)

#### The Elders (Acts 6 ; 1 Tim.3:2, 5:17 ; John 10; Matt.18) *Presbuteros = elder; Episkopos = overseer*

1. Biblical Function: Spiritual oversight/shepherding of the local church family
2. Biblical Duties: Prayer; Preaching; Teaching; Mobilizing; Confirming; Ordaining; Overseeing; Shepherding; Guarding; Feeding; Church discipline; Settling disputes; Disfellowshipping
3. Considerations: As an "elder," having teen age children or older; good track record in the church; identifiable ministry that is recognized by the church family; member of the church; here at least 2 yrs.

#### The Deacons ( *diakonos = deacon, servant or minister*; based on Acts 6 & 7)

1. Biblical Function: Task oriented service & role modeling for the local church family
2. Biblical Duties: Serving in the local church (committee work, teaching, service teams, ushering, all ministry areas) as needed under elder leadership.
3. Considerations: In this church, we look for men who are already serving actively in identifiable ministries, so that we can recognize/ordain them as official deacons & role models in our church.

## Pastoral Heart-wiring

A pastor's God-given heart-wiring will greatly impact how he fulfills his role in the 7 options for church structure/polity.

### Ephesians 4

God given roles as:

- Apostle: One sent with a mission; Entrepreneur.
- Prophet: One sent with a strong message to share.
- Evangelist: One sent to lead people to Christ.
- Pastor/Teacher: One sent to shepherd and equip.

### Romans 12

Motivational gifts:

AUTHORITATIVE TYPES (Pastor as "king")

Prophecy: Proclaiming the black and white heart-truths of God.

Teaching: Explaining the comprehensive insights of God from His Word.

Exhortation: Motivating the Body of Christ to do the things of God.

Administration: Organizing and mobilizing the Body of Christ in ministry.

FACILITATOR TYPES (Pastor as "priest")

Serving: Performing tasks back stage for the glory of God.

Giving: Distributing the tangible gifts of God in His name.

Mercy: Comforting and reassuring others of their high value in God's eyes.

# Jesus Rule...

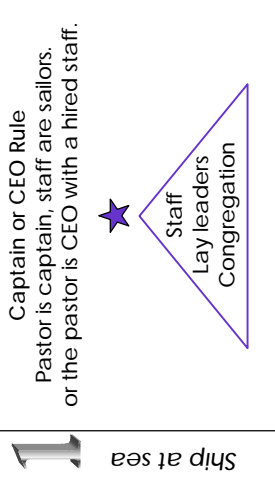
"Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body." Ephesians 5:23

Which earthly model below is most likely to discern His will and ways for a church?



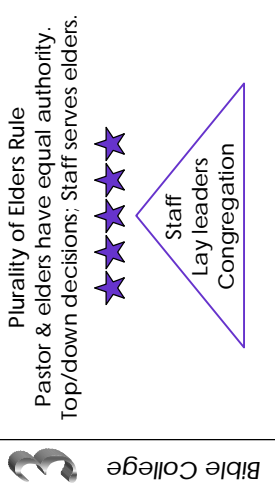
## Pastoral Rule options

The Moses motif: An anointed man raised up by God to lead the people of God.



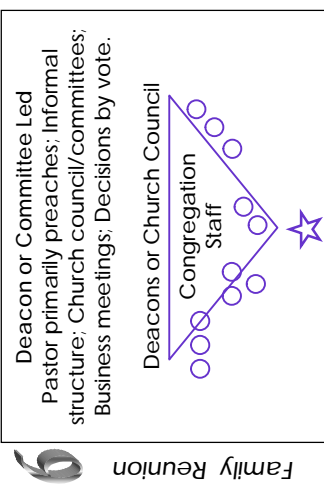
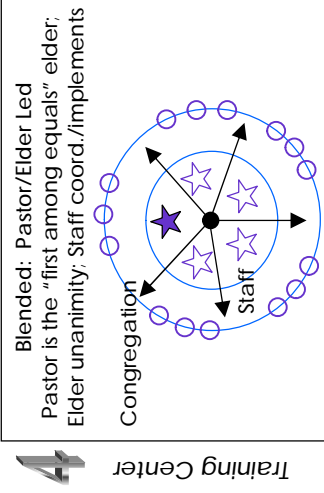
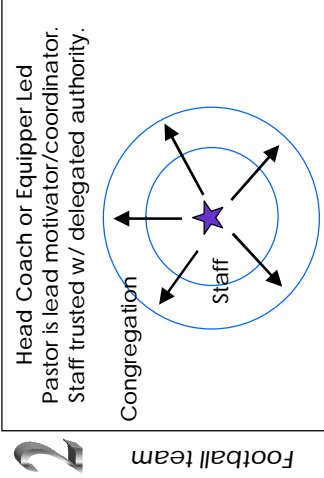
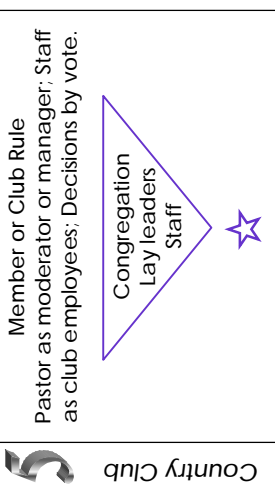
## Elder Rule options

Early church motif: Several anointed men raised up by God to lead His people.



## Congregational Rule options

Unity of mind motif: People of God coming together to discern His will among themselves.



## Blend of all 6

### Pastor/Elder Led — Congregationally Affirmed

(Discerning the heart of the Lord with checks and balances)

- A. Same diagram as model #4; Pastor serves as an elder and "first among equals" to chair meetings and cast/verify his vision.
- B. Elders function as overseers; Unanimous agreement among them and appropriate committees verify God's will/timing.
- C. On major issues, their combined unanimous proposals seek 90% congregational affirmation to further verify God's will/timing.
- D. Church staff is given delegated authority in their areas of ministry, but subject to the oversight and protection of the elders.