

# Church Vision and Organization

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## Name

The name of our church is Redeemer Bible Fellowship.

## Purpose

Redeemer Bible Fellowship exists to help God's people exalt Christ, edify & equip believers, and evangelize the world.

## Vision

This document represents a brief outline of the organization and emphasis of the church. The detailed vision of the church lies with its people and their relationship to God through Jesus Christ. He is the head of the church, the One who gives us purpose and direction. It is for His glory that we organize to worship and serve.

## Theological Position

Jesus Christ is the center of our theological perspective, and has put into effect the new and everlasting covenant between God and man. We agree with the historical Christian creeds and confessions, such as the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Council of Chalcedon, and the 1646 London Baptist Confession. Our Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Faith embrace the Biblical truths recovered by the Reformation as summarized in "the five solas":

- **Sola Scriptura** - it is *Scripture alone* that is our final authority for faith and practice.
- **Sola Gratia** - it is by *Grace alone* that God provides our salvation without human merit.
- **Sola Fide** - it is through *Faith alone* that we are declared righteous in God's sight.
- **Solus Christus** - it is in *Christ alone* that our salvation is secured.
- **Soli Deo Gloria** - it is for the *Glory of God alone* that all things were created.

## Government

1. The church is a family, where each member has a distinct role, yet is equal in his/her position before God.
2. The church is to be guided in all matters by a plurality of male Elders.
3. The qualifications of Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses are summarized in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9, and taught throughout Scripture.
4. The Elders are to be chosen and examined in doctrine and life by existing Elders and recognized before the whole assembly. Doctrinally, they are to adhere to our Theological Position. Personally, they are to demonstrate godly wisdom and character.
5. The Elders are to shepherd, teach, lead, exhort and give oversight to the church ministry. They seek not to be served, but to serve.
6. The Elders are to have the final say in church matters; though they will keep the church informed and will welcome input.
7. The term of an Elder is for life, unless he either steps down, or is removed by a majority of Elders.
8. The Deacons and Deaconesses are servants in the church appointed by and under the direction of the Elders to lead specific ministries.
9. The Deacons and Deaconesses are to serve for as long as the Elders deem necessary.
10. The formal teaching and prayer ministry of adults in the church is to be conducted by men and in accordance with our Theological Position.

## Membership

1. Christian unity can only take place within the body of Christ that has Christ in common. Therefore, members must be true believers in and worshippers of Christ.
2. Members are to demonstrate certain qualities such as but not limited to:
  - a. Having a genuine profession of faith, not merely an intellectual assent to Christian doctrine.
  - b. Repenting of past and present sin committed against God and others.
  - c. Expressing genuine faith through Baptism and the observance of the Lord's Table.
  - d. Demonstrating love for, and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ in everyday life.
  - e. Desiring to be involved in the lives of others in the church.
  - f. Submitting with the church to the Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Faith.

# Church Vision and Organization

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- g. Attending Redeemer Bible Fellowship regularly.
- 3. Each member is specially gifted of God and necessary. Members are to employ their gifts in serving one another in order to carry out the work of the ministry.
- 4. It is the role of the Elders to recognize and give ministry opportunities to members.
- 5. We welcome any non-members to attend our church functions with respect and orderliness.

## Marriage and Family

God's purpose in marriage is to reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church (Eph 5:25-30). God created man and woman in His image and likeness, and for His purposes, therefore our gender is not to be rejected or changed (Gen 1:26-28, Rom 1:22-32). Redeemer Bible Fellowship recognizes that God instituted and ordained marriage as a union between one man and one woman until death separates them (Gen 2:24-26, Matt 19:4-6). Sexual relations are to be exercised solely within marriage, and any deviation from this is defined in the Scriptures as immorality which must be repented of or become a matter for discipline within the church (1 Cor 6:9-10, 1 Thess 4:3-8, Heb 13:4). The roles of each member of the family are clearly stated in Scripture including principles of authority, instruction, discipline and correction (Eph 5:22-6:4, Col 3:18-21, 1 Pt 3:1-7). God gives parents authority and responsibility to love and raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Children are a blessing from God, including those yet in the womb, or born with a handicap or illness. Our elderly are to be respected and cared for until God calls them home (1 Tim 5:1-8). We must honor the Lawgiver to whom all must give account, God Himself, even when civil laws or social norms are in conflict with these biblical principles (Heb 4:12-13).

## Discipline

Biblical church discipline may be necessary to bring professing believers caught in sin to repentance and restoration, and to protect the purity of the Fellowship. Under the oversight of the Elders, this discipline must be administered in accordance with the Word of God which could result in removing a person from membership.

## Dissolution

At such time as our Lord has completed His purpose for Redeemer Bible Fellowship, the Elders shall distribute any remaining assets to organizations whose purpose is in alignment with the purpose of Redeemer Bible Fellowship.

## Amendment

Amendments to either the Church Vision and Organization or the Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian Faith shall require assent by greater than ¾ of all Elders.

  
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Dwight Wise

September 19, 2022

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Jeffrey Greiveldinget

September 19, 2022

date

  
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Kody Ashbeck

September 19, 2022

date