

**In our church there are three different terms that are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leader.**

1. "Poimen" "Pastor or Shepherd."
2. "Presbuteros" "Elder" in Greek. "Presbyterian"
3. "Episcopos" "Overseer" or "Bishop". "Episcopalian"

*"Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders [Presbuteros] of the church. When they arrived he said to them, 'Guard yourselves and all the flock of God which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers [Episcopos]. ... Be pastors [Poimen] of the church of God.'" Acts 20:17,18,28*

### **III. The church is a body.**

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*  
Ephesians 4:16

### **We function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not elected offices.**

*"Just as each of us have one body with many members and these members do not all have the same functions, so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others."*  
Romans 12:4-6

*"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..."*  
1Peter 4:10 (Ph)

### **The people are the ministers. The pastors are the equippers.**

*and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*  
Ephesians 4:11b,12

## **Church Covenant**

*Since* we have committed our lives to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and are joined together as His Body, we promise that with God's help:

1. We will seek to grow in personal discipleship by regular Bible reading, private and family prayer, personal and public testimony, winning of others to Christ, service through the ministry of this church, development of one's spiritual gifts, participation in church activities, and regular worship attendance.
2. We will make regular and sacrificial financial contributions to this church as God prospers us.
3. We will submit to and support the leadership of the Elders, unless it is clearly contrary to what is specified in God's Word.
4. We will prevent the spread of gossip and slander by addressing all complaints to the person(s) we deem responsible for the complaint.
5. We will pray for the ministry of the church, its missionaries, and its leaders.
6. We will oppose all conduct that compromises our Christian testimony. Instead, we will uphold high standards of Christian morality and godliness.
7. We will bear one and other's burdens and sorrows, showing love and forbearance. We will encourage one another to grow in grace and knowledge our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
8. We will be accountable in our Christian conduct to the other members of this body, and will, if necessary, submit to biblically mandated discipline imposed by it.
9. We understand that, as members, we cannot revoke our membership if we are under disciplinary review.

## **Our Current Series:**

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**Week 1:** "Sign Here"

**Week 2:** "Our Commitments"

**Week 3:** "Why we think the way we do at Sierra"

**Week 4:** "The Relational Church and why it works"

**Week 5:** "Where sound doctrine meets people's lifestyles"

**Week 6:** "The five things Christ asked"

**Week 7:** "To spank or not to spank? The purpose of Church discipline"

**Week 8:** "Two things Christ gave us to share as a community of faith - Baptism and Communion"



If you missed a week, CD's are available in the audio room or you can go on-line to [www.sierracommunitychurch.org](http://www.sierracommunitychurch.org) and listen to our past teachings.



### **How Should A Church Be Structured?**

*"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace. Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Cor.14:33,40*

#### **I. The Bible says the church is a fellowship.**

*"They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles and joined in the fellowship." Acts 2:42*

*Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. 4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. Ephesians 4:3,4*

*I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10*

#### **A good structure should promote unity and downplay differences.**

*"Often your meetings do more harm than good." 1 Corinthians 11:17*

#### **II. The church is a family.**

*8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. 1 Peter 3:8*

#### **We operate on the basis of relationships not rules.**

#### **Notice the character that's required of the pastor.**

*"A pastor must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family how can he take care of God's church?" 1 Timothy 3:4,5*