

What does it mean to build God's Church?

A. Jesus Christ leads His Church.

Head - Eph. 4:15 - "the head, even Christ"
Eph 5:23 - "Christ is the head of the Church"
Col. 1:18 - "He is the head of the Church"
Elder - I Pet. 2:25 - "Guardian of your souls"
Deacon - Matt. 20:28 - "Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"

B. Designated human leaders.

1. Apostles

"Greet Andronicus and Junia...who are outstanding among the apostles:
Romans 16:7

2. Elders - *presbuteros*.

Acts 14:23 - "they appointed elders in every church"
Acts 20:17 - Paul "called to him the elders of the church"
I Tim. 5:17 - "let the elders who rule well be considered worthy"
Titus 1:5 - "appoint elders in every city"
James 5:14 - "call for elders of the church"
I Pet. 5:1 - "exhort the elders"
I Pet. 5:5 - "be subject to your elders"

2. Overseers - *episkopos*.

Acts 20:28 - "the Holy Spirit has made you overseers"
I Tim. 3:2 - "an overseer"
Titus 1:7 - "the overseer must be above reproach...."

3. Shepherds - *poimen*.

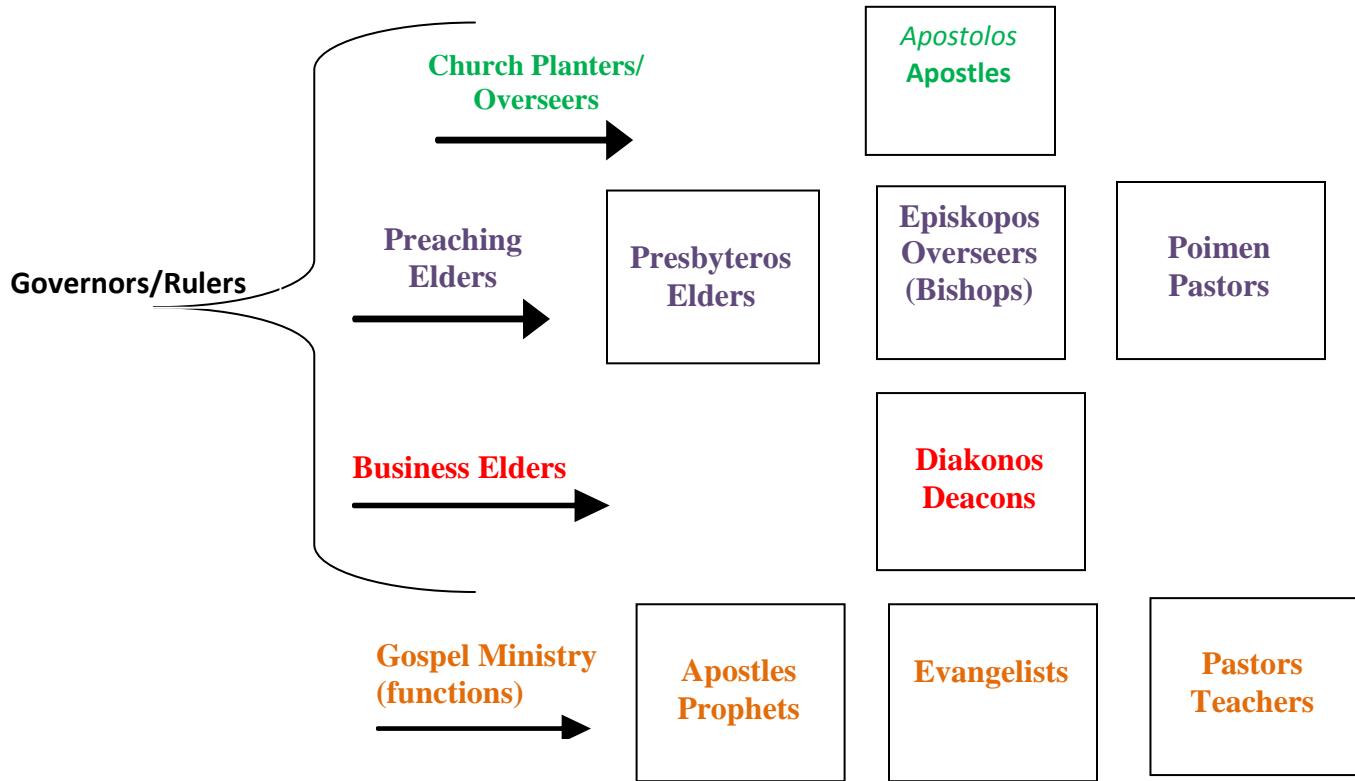
Acts 20:28 - "to shepherd the church of God"
Eph. 4:11 - "some as pastors and teachers"

4. Deacons - *diakonos*.

Acts 6:2 - "serve tables"
Phil. 1:1 - "overseers and deacons"
I Tim. 3:8 - "deacons must be men of dignity"
I Tim. 3:10 - "serve as deacons"
(Romans 16:1-2) 1I command unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

Direct intimate
oversight.

Diagram of Early Church Officers



- The church plants through the apostles.
- The apostles oversee the assembly until qualified pastors can be appointed as shepherding overseers. Pastors have direct intimate oversight.
- In Acts 13:1, "Now there were in the church at Antioch certain **prophets and teachers!**"
- The five fold gifts of the ministry are to enable God's people to do the work of the ministry. This is extremely important as we draw closer to the return of Jesus for His Bride the Church!
- Eph.4:13 gives us the operational time-frame (the following is paraphrased)
..until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

True Holiness Assemblies of Truth United International
Board of Bishops' Five Year Vision and Mission Statements

VISION STATEMENT

Within five years our leadership will exemplify a strong commitment to assist and achieve change in the Body of Christ, which will also result in increased local and national membership within THAT United International. (Ephesians 4:11,12)

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to help the United Congregations reach their maturity in faith in God and achieve the mastery of their vocation; so that they can execute with excellence the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:13-16)

A Resolution from the Board of Bishops
Leadership Succession Planning

“The Bible reveals God’s pattern of working through succeeding generations. God gave his people specific instructions concerning how they were to train and prepare the emerging generation of leaders (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 20- 25”). There are many leaders today who give little or no “thought to the ending of their leadership and so they do little to prepare for it. However, when suddenly faced with leaving their office, they realize that much of their work will have been in vain unless there is a capable successor.”

www.regent.edu/acad/sls/publications/journals/leadershipadvance/issue_7/succession_planning_henderson.htm

Succession planning or transition planning is a process for identifying and developing our elders and evangelists, who have leadership potential, to fill key or critical organizational positions. Succession planning ensures the availability of experienced and capable individuals that are prepared to assume higher leadership roles as they are needed. When training is started, early in ones ministry, the individual should be given many years to learn and demonstrate his or her capability, wisdom and dedication to the whole church.

While this group is in training, they will be given the opportunity to assist the Board of Bishops in their work, which will lighten their workloads. When they are needed to fill a vacant or newly formed position, the Holy Ghost will tell the Senior Overseers what to do at that time.

The Plan (Based on the Board's Five Year Mission Statement)

It is very important for our united church to plan for leadership continuity and leadership advancement at all levels. We need to have a continuous learning structure within THAT United to build a strong leadership core.

Primarily, the goal of this plan is to create a “seamless” transition in executive and pastoral leadership for THAT United, whenever a vacancy arises - planned or unplanned.

The Course of Action

1. Future Appointees (Successors) are Identified

Estimate that for those with little leadership experience in the church, succession planning could begin 10 or more years before a Board appointment and 5 or more years before a pastoral appointment. This timeframe gives the board sufficient time to oversee their program.

2. Develop a Formal Training Plan for Your Successor

This is conducted through the Leadership Development Institute.

Develop milestones to help gauge their progress.

3. Provide Opportunities to Develop Practical Leadership Skills

4. Provide Opportunities to Expand Spiritual Leadership Capacity.

5. Identify Leadership Opportunity.