

THE CHURCH PILOTS

Officers Serving Effectively in the Local Church
definitions and job descriptions



"Go Ye Therefore..."

PASTOR

The term “pastor” comes from the Latin word for “shepherd,” reflecting the role of a pastor in guiding and caring for the flock or congregation. The role varies across different denominations and traditions within Christianity, but the core idea remains centered around spiritual leadership and care for the community.

After God has called this individual to shepherd His flock, the primary roles of the pastor are listed below.

- **Spiritual Leadership:** A pastor assists the congregation on their spiritual journey by providing guidance and direction.
- **Discipleship and Mentoring:** A pastor’s role involves encouraging spiritual growth and maturity among church members through personal mentoring, discipleship programs, and small group leadership.
- **Preaching and Teaching:** A pastor regularly delivers sermons and teachings based on the Bible to educate and inspire the church members.
- **Mission and Evangelism:** One of the pastor’s primary roles is leading and organizing efforts for local and global missions, evangelistic outreach, and community service.
- **Pastoral Care:** A pastor offers support, counseling, and guidance to individuals within the congregation during times of need, such as illness, grief, or personal crises.
- **Prayer and Intercession:** A pastor engages in and leads prayer for the congregation, the community, and global issues.
- **Community Engagement:** A pastor represents the church in the broader community and participates in community events, services, and outreach.
- **Managing Sacraments:** A pastor leads religious services, including Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion.

- **Church Administration:** A pastor oversees the operational aspects of the church, including finances, staff management, and organizational strategy.
- **Teaching and Equipping:** A pastor provides educational resources and opportunities for the congregation to learn about Christian doctrine, Biblical studies, and ethical living.

Pastors must ensure that a structure is in place to accommodate the entire workings of the body of Christ. The people do not belong to the pastor, they belong to God, and the pastor is the under-shepherd. He works, lovingly, loyally and compassionately for the people. He serves them consistently and models the true life in Christ Jesus.

ELDER

An elder is a spiritual leader with authority in the church. The Hebrew word for elder means "beard," and literally speaks of an older person. In the Old Testament, elders were heads of households, prominent men of the tribes, and leaders or rulers in the community. In the New Testament, elders served as spiritual overseers of the church.

In the modern church, more and more younger men are being ordained to the office. However, the roles and responsibilities do not change. These biblical qualifications of an elder come from Titus 1:6–9 and 1 Timothy 3:1–7. In general, they describe a mature Christian with a good reputation, and gifts for teaching, oversight, and pastoral ministry.

- A person who is above reproach or blameless
- Has a good reputation
- Faithful to his wife
- Not given to heavy drinking

- Not violent, quarrelsome, or quick-tempered
- Gentle
- Loves people
- One who is able to teach others
- His children respect and obey him
- Not arrogant
- Not dishonest with money and does not love money
- One who exercises discipline and self-control

His duties mimic that of the Pastor. If the church already has a pastor, the elder works with the pastor to accomplish those tasks. The elder in this case should understand the pastor so that if he is required to fully assume that role. He is ready.

DEACON

The Deacon is a prominent member of the clergy who works along with the Pastor. The deacon's ministry may also mimic that of the Elder and they all work to support the delivery of the word, service to the community and performing sacraments.

Today, the deacon's position is to be on the financial team at most, or be responsible for opening doors and managing the property for the church. Again, depending on the denomination and the size of the church, though the roles and responsibilities vary. But we should not hold the Deacons in the predominant responsibility of collecting money and closing the church door. The Bible offers another responsibility and characteristics (1 Timothy 3:8–13; Acts 6:1–6) The deacon may also baptize, witness and bless marriage and serve communion, if the pastor nor the elder is not available. Deacons along with the other members of the clergy must be sensitive to all work in the church. Praying for the deliverance of the people and administer to others for their spiritual needs.

MISSIONARY

An ordained missionary is to be sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel.

The missionaries in our local assemblies are usually reserved to take care of the domestic activities and targeted to embark on multiple fund raising activities.

The word mission means “sent”

Missionaries do not exist on their own. They are the hands and feet of the church as it relates to advocating on behalf of the poor, indigent and cast out communities. Advocating indicates a spiritual intercession for their needs, both spiritual and physical. Therefore, the leaders of the church should help the missionary to identify a particular community that needs spiritual and physical benefits, families that needs support, children who are abused and need guidance ,and those who are wayward and stubborn and provide all things possible including counsel and prayer. The Church should provide training and development for the missionaries to be effective in this role. Many missionaries might be called to cultures or unfamiliar nations, where there are language barriers and other limitations to the mission. Training and orientation can break this barrier to obtain great results. The bible shows the Apostle Paul as a missionary as he journeys throughout provinces to spread the gospel. He was not responsible to bake and sell for the church.

As the call in Matthew 28, the Great Commission begs the church to go and make disciples of all nations, tribes, and tongues, “teaching them to obey” everything Jesus has taught them may we fall squarely behind those ordained to the task to do just that in the communities, neighborhoods, and churches to which God has called them.

In the local church the missionaries are the first ones to run to the altar when there is a cry for help. The missionary must understand that it is not a sit down and fast all day job, but when fasting is over the mission begins. Go ye therefore.! and have intentional conversations with those around them. Mature and intentional missionaries go deep with the people they serve and practice their faith in real, tangible ways, right in their own neighborhoods.

EVANGELIST

The role of the evangelist is to spread the gospel message of salvation to others, so that they can have a personal relationship with Christ Jesus.

An evangelist is usually known for powerful preaching and public speaking abilities. Evangelists preach in variety of settings such as revival meetings, local churches with, small or large congregations, and other community platforms. Discipleship and Outreach ministries are just a few strategies that will fully engage the Evangelist. This individual works closely with the missionary and they are sometimes called to the mission alongside them.

In the book of Acts, Philip is called an *evangelist* (Acts 21:8). Phillip's journey was directed by the Holy Spirit, and he performed baptism to the Ethiopian Eunuch after proclaiming salvation to Him. The Apostle Paul must have seen the need for the preached word when he said to his Protégé, Timothy "Preach the word" 2 Timothy 4:2 .

Evangelists are to stand up and preach the word of God and become identified with those who do not hide the truth from the people. That is the full purpose of the office. Preach the Word of God so that people can be led to Christ.

MINISTER

A minister in the local church describes someone who has multifaceted ability but may hold a specific portfolio. A minister is a spiritual leader. He/she can be a pastor, teacher, and a shepherd to the congregation. This individual can be credentialled as a minister to serve the broader community.

The story of Barnabas, Paul, and John Mark offers a fascinating glimpse into the process of raising up ministers within the early church. Paul, who was called by Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, exemplifies the calling to be a minister of the gospel (Acts 9:1-19). His journey highlights the dynamic nature of the ministerial role, which is distinct from the specific duties of an officiant.

Shortly after his conversion, Paul was mentored by Barnabas (Acts 9:26-27). Together, Paul and Barnabas ministered on missionary journeys, where they were recognized as early apostles (Acts 13:1-3). John Mark, identified as a minister in training, accompanied them on these mission trips (Acts 12:25; 13:5). However, John Mark faced challenges and abandoned them on their first missionary trip (Acts 13:13). When Paul and Barnabas planned another journey, Paul was hesitant to take John Mark along, doubting his readiness (Acts 15:36-38). Barnabas disagreed and decided to take John Mark with him, while Paul chose Silas as his ministry companion (Acts 15:39-40).

The work of the Minister, therefore, is not to be a grim supervisor over the local church congregation, to start service and wait on a ministerial call. “God qualifies the called” The church leaders should identify the specific gifting of this individual and repurposes him/her to benefit the needs of the church community. The minister must have a proper portfolio with which to work.

Consider these roles:

- a minister in educational endeavors
- a minister to pastoral care
- a minister to marriage counsel,
- youth minister - looking at the wellbeing of the youth. A shepherd over them.

Conclusively, the role of an officer provides the platform to an effective church. All the offices are hinged on those who faithfully follow Christ with a primary trust in the leading of the Holy Ghost. The collaborating wheel spins successfully to the tune of each Officer. A missing link may not stop the operation, but it will not provide the excellent outcome.

An officer is isolated and tasked to work for the Gospel. There should be a clear understand of the duties and responsibility unique to each church congregation. Notwithstanding the fundamental role is the share in process that reaches out to those who must be saved.

We are in the church era now when officers are happy to be ordained so that they can be included on event list. Officers are celebrities and feel comfortable to be dubbed delegates. But rightly so the offer is delegated a task and if he or she is serious about it the delegation will lead to a massive and powerful revival harvest time ministry.

The church has man officers, but little work is being done. More families are indigent, but more missionaries are ordained. The field are white and ready for reaping, officers need to pull out the sickle and work alongside their called partners to fulfill the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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