



Grace Community Church

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Policy for Bringing Matters to the Elders

The purpose of this policy is to offer guidance on when and how matters should be brought to the attention of the Elders.

This policy is based on biblical principles rather than attempting to anticipate every scenario. The general scope is intended to include situations where concerns arise between groups and individuals within the general congregation as well as conflicts between groups within the congregation and the Elders of the church.

The policy is intended to address the procedure for dealing with conflicts which are biblical in nature. Conflicts which are personal in nature (i.e. which have no sound basis in scripture) will not be entertained. Whether a conflict is personal or biblical in nature will be determined based on what scripture says and the subsequent judgment of the Elders.

Proliferators of personal conflicts will be biblically rebuked.¹

When a biblically based concern arises, it is imperative that it be addressed immediately.² Should a particular matter be considered serious enough in the judgment of the congregation partner, it should be addressed directly to the Elders, in writing, detailing the specific concerns of the individuals initiating the report.

Anonymous reports will be ignored. All matters will be addressed within a reasonable time frame by at least two members of the Elder team. Before a matter which involves a specific grievance regarding an Elder will be reviewed, the grievance must be substantiated by 2 or more witnesses.³

In order to ensure the relational integrity between congregation members and the Teaching Elder, the Teaching Elder will likely not be present during the review and settling of any given matter brought to the Elders. While being transparent to the entire church family in the review and settling of matters is always preferable, details divulged to the leadership team will be presumed to be made in confidence. Therefore, unless otherwise agreed upon, specific details of matters will remain confidential out of respect for the parties concerned.

References ¹ Titus 3:10 "As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him"

² Matthew 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."

³ 1 Timothy 5:19 "Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. "