

TGBC Document Conflict Review and Proposed Corrections 2026-10-14

Exclusive Office and Order of Succession

Conforming revision | October 17, 2026 | Prepared for authorized adoption

One Order

The Praeceptorium, The Order, and The Circle of the Elders are three names for the same internal teaching and oversight body within This Grace Bible Churches (TGBC).

Exclusive lifetime office

The office and titles of Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop belong exclusively to Wesley Scott Ray for his natural life. Wesley Scott Ray cannot be removed, dismissed, deposed, replaced, suspended from this exclusive office, or voted out of this office by the Praeceptorium, The Order, The Circle of the Elders, any assembly, committee, panel, member, or other person or body within TGBC.

No transfer or indirect removal

This office is personal and nontransferable. It cannot be assigned, inherited, passed on, duplicated, or conferred upon another man. No amendment, resolution, disciplinary decision, credential action, membership action, vote, or administrative measure may directly or indirectly remove Wesley Scott Ray from this exclusive office or transfer it to another man. No co-Praeceptorius or co-Founding Bishop may be created.

Death and historical recognition

Upon Wesley Scott Ray's death, the exclusive office ceases as an active office. It does not become a vacant office to be filled. His historical recognition as the sole Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop remains permanently.

Selection from among the Circle

Upon his death, the remaining admitted members of the Praeceptorium / The Order / The Circle of the Elders shall choose one qualified man from among themselves to serve as Overseeing Bishop of the Circle. The man chosen shall be skilled in the word of God, well taught by the word, faithful to sound doctrine, and able to teach others, holding firmly to the King James Bible rightly divided and TGBC's Pauline Dispensational Doctrine. His qualifications shall be examined under 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 KJB.

Successor responsibility and limits

The Overseeing Bishop of the Circle is the successor in responsibility for oversight after the Praeceptorius's death. He shall preserve the doctrine, teaching, records, and order of TGBC. He does not inherit, receive, or continue the exclusive office or titles of Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop. Temporary or acting service during incapacity does not create permanent succession or transfer that office.

Recorded procedure and an empty Circle

Selection requires at least 14 days' notice, a meeting with quorum, and approval by at least two-thirds of all eligible voting Circle members, rounded up. Record qualification, current Circle admission, the decision, written acceptance, and the effective date. If no admitted member remains, first reconstitute the Circle under the

applicable post-death procedure; only the restored Circle may then choose one of its admitted members. Custodians, relatives, deacons, and outside advisers gain no automatic seat or successor right.

Scripture, accountability, and scope

The King James Bible remains the final written ecclesiastical authority. Scriptural counsel, examination of conduct, independent financial review, and lawful protective measures do not confer authority to remove Wesley Scott Ray from or transfer his exclusive lifetime office. This provision does not create personal ownership of TGBC property or change applicable civil obligations.

Application to this instrument

These express provisions apply throughout this revised instrument and its included instruments, schedules, forms, credentials, and registers. They replace contrary wording only on the exclusive lifetime office, removal or transfer of that office, successor title, and successor eligibility and selection. Other provisions retain their stated scope. Preparation and publication do not certify execution or formal adoption.

TGBC Document Conflict Review

Prepared for Wesley Ray | 14 October 2026

Finding: the packet needs coordinated corrections before combined adoption

The October 13 compilation contains seventeen governing instruments, the new naming resolution, the October 11 identity statement, and Charter Version 7. It expressly preserves earlier source provisions and does not claim that compilation amends or adopts them. Its page 2 already flags incapacity and baptism differences. This review confirms those issues and identifies additional gaps.

The reported 2002 ordination and loss of its certificate in the 2006 fire do not, by themselves, create a conflict in the reviewed governing text. No reviewed governing clause requires production of that original certificate. However, the Credentialing Manual requires a distinct TGBC recognition decision for an outside ordination and prohibits a candidate approving his own qualification or certificate.

Scope and evidence

Reviewed: all 49 pages of TGBC_All_Founding_Documents_2026-10-13.pdf; October 11 Identity and Terminology text; available text of the separate Identity Updated Charter; and relevant recovered supporting forms, ordination records, and certificate templates from the October 13 package. Page references below mean physical pages of the 49-page compilation, not its inconsistent printed page numbers.

The separate Identity Updated Charter contains retained Version 6 source pages, while the compilation contains Version 7. The newer ZIP has no usable central directory; 71 complete entries were recovered and checked against their stored lengths and CRCs. Completeness of that ZIP cannot be certified. Supporting books survive, but some expected individual form files are absent from the recovered entries.

Status of this review

All wording below is proposed for review and authorized adoption. It is not an executed amendment, recognition decision, appointment, legal opinion, or independent verification of the 2002 ordination. Existing signed instruments and actual adoption records must determine current operative authority. No signatures or adoption dates have been supplied.

What remains consistent

The reviewed texts consistently distinguish assembly membership from Circle admission; restrict Circle admission to expressly admitted qualified bishops/elders; exclude automatic deacon admission; and prevent a successor from acquiring the Founding Bishop title. The newer naming resolution and Charter also reserve Praeceptorius personally to Wesley Ray and establish no third ordained office.

1. Names, titles, and document priority

Conflict: the body name is still PRAECEPTORIUS in older instruments

Pages 3, 6, and 19 name Circle of the Elders, The Order, and The Praeceptorium as one body and Praeceptorius as Wesley Ray's personal title. Constitution Articles I, IV, V and XI; Bylaws; Document 04; and supporting forms still use PRAECEPTORIUS as a body name (pages 7-17 and throughout). A front supplement proposes the change but does not execute a constitutional amendment.

Proposed common definition: Circle of the Elders, The Order, and The Praeceptorium name one and the same internal teaching and oversight body within This Grace Bible Churches. Praeceptorius is the exclusive personal ecclesiastical title of Wesley Ray, the original and sole Praeceptorius. Neither admission nor acting service nor succession confers that title. These designations create no third ordained office.

Apply the definition expressly to the Constitution, Bylaws, Statement of Faith, governing order, Charter, Succession Declaration, manuals, policies, forms, certificates, and registers. Replace body-name uses only; preserve personal-title uses. Preserve old signed editions as historical records.

Mismatch: the priority lists are not identical

Document 04, page 17, ranks Constitution, Bylaws, then Statement of Faith, followed by Charter/Succession. Charter Article XII, page 24, omits the Statement of Faith from its list. It also says doctrinal limits require express reconciliation with superior instruments. Use one priority rule throughout.

Proposed priority rule: The King James Bible remains the final written ecclesiastical authority. Among human instruments, the Constitution controls, followed by the Bylaws, then the Statement of Faith. The Charter and Succession Declaration implement those superior instruments. Manuals, policies, agreements, resolutions, forms, and credentials operate within their assigned authority. A later or more specific subordinate instrument does not silently amend a superior one.

Conforming wording and numbering

Rename Document 04 to Governing Document Order and replace the organizational term hierarchy where requested. Use GOVERNING-02 for Bylaws and FORM-02 for the Naming and Identity Resolution so two different documents are not recorded merely as Document 02. Refresh the master register and all tables of contents.

Title of Pastor: separate office versus any title

Older Constitution and Statement of Faith only exclude a separate Pastor office (pages 8 and 16); the identity statement and Version 7 exclude the office or title (pages 5 and 19). If the newer policy is intended to govern all TGBC, carry it through the superior instruments: TGBC recognizes bishop/elder oversight and deacon service; it does not establish an ecclesiastical office or title of Pastor. Use teaching and oversight for current assignments.

2. Incapacity and emergency continuity

Direct conflict: who can provide temporary oversight or admit members?

Bylaws VIII, page 12, allows remaining members to select temporary oversight without a prior delegation. Bylaws IX, page 13, permits emergency reconstitution during incapacity. Charter III, X and XI, pages 20, 23 and 24, allow only founder-approved named contingent admissions during life and reserve emergency reconstitution for after death.

Recommended model: use Version 7's advance appointments and preservation fallback. This protects your express admission approval while you are living. Its practical cost is that ecclesiastical decisions may remain suspended if qualified designees were never appointed.

Proposed replacement for Bylaws VIII: Temporary ecclesiastical service during the Founding Bishop's incapacity activates only under the accepted advance appointments, functional assessment, limits, review and restoration procedures of Charter Article X, as expressly coordinated with these Bylaws. No acting appointee gains a Circle seat or supplies reserved founder concurrence. Only a named contingent admission signed by the founder while capable may activate under Charter Article III. Unassigned ecclesiastical decisions remain suspended; separately authorized administrative preservation continues.

Proposed replacement for Bylaws IX: Emergency reconstitution applies only after the Founding Bishop's death and when the Circle is empty. Follow Charter Article XI's designated-panel procedure or its adult-membership fallback, including its 21-day notice, quorum, voting, qualification and acceptance requirements. It may not be used during the founder's lifetime.

Related conflict: 14-day versus 21-day emergency notice

Bylaws IX uses 14 days and has adults confirm examined candidates directly. Charter XI uses 21 days for adults to select a qualified reconstitution panel, which then admits members. Choose the latter consistently; do not combine pieces of the two procedures.

Related mismatch: succession notice can be shortened in one document

Succession Declaration, page 27, says 14 days where feasible; Charter IX requires at least 14 days. Replace the qualifier with at least 14 days. Preserve the Declaration's extra requirement for two independent examiners/advisors when a sole remaining member makes a succession decision.

Amend the Succession Declaration's temporary-oversight and empty-Circle references to the coordinated Bylaws/Charter procedures. Preserve: permanent succession only after death; no inheritance of either exclusive title; no automatic elevation of relatives or deacons; administrative custody grants no ecclesiastical vote.

3. Doctrine and reserved approvals

Difference in scope: baptism is not required versus prohibited practice

Constitution III, Statement of Faith, Bylaws membership wording and Paper 8 describe water baptism as not required (pages 8, 11, 15 and 40). Charter I-A prohibits practicing, administering, sponsoring or authorizing it for the Body of Christ (page 18). Not required is not the same rule as not permitted. The stronger Charter rule needs express conformity in the superior doctrinal text.

Proposed common provision: TGBC and its Circle of the Elders / Order / Praeceptorium shall not practice, administer, sponsor, require, or authorize water baptism for the Church, the Body of Christ. Water baptism is not a condition of salvation, fellowship membership, credentialing, or Circle admission. Teaching on the subject remains subject to the King James Bible rightly divided and TGBC's adopted Pauline Dispensational Doctrine.

Adopt the same rule in Constitution III, the Statement of Faith, Paper 8, applicable membership instructions, doctrinal affirmations and Charter I-A. Preserve the existing Lord's Supper provision unless separately directed; the reviewed text does not justify inventing a new prohibition there.

Study scope: historical English texts versus KJB-only studies

Paper 1 allows historical study of other English Bible texts (page 39). Charter I says no other translation is authorized for teaching or studies (page 19). Clarify the scope. To follow the newer KJB-only wording, remove the authorization to study other English translations from the official position paper and keep the KJB as the sole authorized study text. Do not claim these different drafts already say the same thing.

Founder concurrence versus independent decisions

Bylaws III/VII reserve broad founder concurrence for ordination and extraordinary financial commitments (pages 11-12). Charter VI/VII/VIII exempts the founder's own conflicted transaction and credential/participation review from his concurrence (pages 21-22). Financial policies forbid self-approval of benefits (pages 35-37). Make the exceptions explicit in the Bylaws, not only in subordinate policies.

Proposed Bylaws exception: Reserved founder concurrence shall not be required for the independent review of his own qualification or credential status, investigation of his conduct, or approval or rejection of a transaction in which he has a material conflict. Those matters require the separately authorized disinterested process. Neither recusal nor a restriction on active duties transfers or abolishes his historical Founding Bishop designation or exclusive personal title Praeceptorius. No one may approve his own qualification or private benefit.

Financial reviewers remain limited to financial authority. They cannot issue credentials, admit Circle members, amend doctrine or appoint an ecclesiastical successor.

4. Your ordination and independent review

Procedural gap: historical ordination versus TGBC recognition

Credentialing Manual, pages 29-30: an outside ordination requires examination and a distinct TGBC recognition decision; a candidate may not approve his own qualification or certificate. The Constitution names you founder and initial Circle member, but does not specify a complete independent founder-recognition process. This is a procedure to clarify, not evidence that your reported 2002 ordination never occurred.

Proposed founder-recognition procedure: For the Founding Bishop's initial TGBC recognition, a disinterested panel of at least two qualified male bishops or elders shall examine current qualification and doctrine under the Credentialing Manual. This specific authority must be established through the authorized founding/adoption process. The founder is the subject and shall not approve his own qualification. Panel appointment creates no Circle seat, personal title, or general governing authority. The panel records evidence, reservations, findings, recognition scope and effective date, without claiming that TGBC performed the earlier ordination.

Keep three separate records: (1) your account of the 2002 ordination by Dr. Peter S. Ruckman and certificate lost in 2006; (2) evidence received and any independent verification; (3) an actual TGBC recognition/appointment decision and its present date. Do not insert 2002 as a TGBC ordination date or fill a TGBC ordination-service form as though TGBC performed that act.

Proposed evidence rule: Loss of an original certificate does not alone establish either the occurrence or nonoccurrence of ordination. The record shall identify the subject's statement, available corroboration, evidence not obtainable, and the authorized recognition finding. An uncorroborated account remains identified as personal testimony. A current credential does not independently verify a historical ordination.

Procedural gap: independent discipline panel authority

Charter VIII, page 22, requires a qualified independent panel designated in advance and authorized in the Discipline Code when no disinterested Circle member remains. The Code, pages 31-32, provides independent advice and protective action but does not fully establish that panel's final decision authority. Similar authority is missing for independent qualification findings during empty-Circle reconstitution.

Proposed Discipline Code addition: An advance-designated panel of at least two disinterested qualified male bishops or elders, whose written acceptances and authority are recorded, may decide the specifically authorized credential and active-participation issues when no disinterested Circle voter can act. All panel members receive the evidence and the response; a final adverse finding requires unanimous written agreement. The panel follows the Code's notice, evidence, findings and reconsideration procedures. It receives no general Circle, amendment or succession power. Missing panel authority leaves final ecclesiastical decisions pending; lawful protective action remains available.

Add a corresponding Credentialing Manual exception authorizing the properly constituted Charter XI reconstitution panel to make independent qualification findings when there is no Circle or Overseeing Bishop. A candidate must not decide his own qualification. Keep this authority distinct from selecting the permanent successor.

5. Adoption, readiness, and next steps

Adoption is not established by the reviewed copies

The compilation and identity statement label their texts drafts or operative only upon authorized adoption. Adoption and appointment lines are blank. These copies do not prove which earlier editions were actually signed or adopted. Obtain the signed instruments and register before describing a version as controlling.

Prepare one conforming amendment schedule with exact replacement text, affected clauses, edition identifiers, notice requirements, actual authority, approval record and effective dates. Initial formation and amendment of an existing association are different actions; use the applicable documented route. Preserve earlier editions. Do not silently rewrite signed originals.

Actual appointments are still needed

Charter pages 25-26 contain blank schedules for an acting bishop, alternate, administrative custodian, administrative alternate, emergency reconstitution panel, contingent admissions and independent discipline panel. Blank fields appoint nobody. Obtain names, qualification references, written acceptances, scope, records access and separately authorized signing/payment limits. If no willing qualified person is available, record the unresolved item and the preservation-only consequence.

Personal preparation versus an existing assembly

The documents describe an assembly and separate consenting members; Constitution XIII and Bylaws II expressly require recording actual consent for their formation pathway. Your individual ordination statement does not establish those members or complete the association's adoption record. If you are presently preparing alone, describe the organizational instruments as proposed until the required actual action occurs. This review makes no independent legal determination about formation.

Repair the package and retire conflicting presentation copies

The October 13 ZIP is structurally incomplete despite containing recoverable files. Rebuild from verified complete sources, include all 37 forms and 12 ordination records, and test the final archive. Ensure the standalone Charter matches the intended governing edition. Give source copies an unmistakable historical/superseded label and supply one consolidated current reading copy after authorized adoption.

Recommended order

1. Identify signed operative instruments and current members. 2. Coordinate names and priority. 3. Resolve incapacity, emergency notice and succession references. 4. Align doctrinal scope and independent approval exceptions. 5. Establish independent recognition/review authority. 6. Complete real appointments and acceptances. 7. Adopt and register exact editions, then issue truthful current credentials and rebuild the complete package.

Source record

Principal source: TGBC_All_Founding_Documents_2026-10-13.pdf, 49 pages. Supporting source: TGBC_Complete_Founding_Documents_Package_2026-10-13.zip, recovered complete entries only. Cross-checks: TGBC_Identity_and_Terminology_2026-10-11.txt and 05_Charter_of_the_Circle_of_the_Elders_Identity_Updated.pdf. Ordination history comes from Wesley Ray's account in this conversation and is not independently verified by these files.