This Grace Bible Churches

Exclusive Office and Order of Succession

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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.