

TGBC Identity and Terminology 2026-10-11

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.

This Grace Bible Churches

Identity, Gatherings, and Terminology

Draft revision - 11 October 2026 | Operative only upon authorized adoption

Identity and foundation

This Grace Bible Churches is an assembly of saved believers in the Church, the Body of Christ, who hold to the Gospel of Christ, sound doctrine, Pauline Dispensational Doctrine, and the King James Bible rightly divided. Believers gather house to house for instruction, fellowship, prayer, and mutual edification. The Gospel of Christ that saves today is set forth in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 KJB. Right division of the word of truth is expressed in 2 Timothy 2:15 KJB.

Declared separation

This Grace Bible Churches, the Circle of the Elders (the Order, the Praeceptorium), and Church in Thy House do not identify as a denomination, part of a denomination, a religion, part of Christianity as a religious system, or a Jewish religious body. They do not participate in the corporate American Christian church setup. Their identity rests in Christ, His finished work, and the King James Bible rightly divided.

Church in Thy House and gatherings

Church in Thy House is the mode by which This Grace Bible Churches gathers together: believers meeting house to house. It is not a separate denomination or a separate governing Order. TGBC does not establish religious buildings, statues, baptistries, altars, a pastor office or title, or the religious trappings of institutional Christianity. Bishops/elders and deacons remain the recognized biblical offices. House gatherings serve the believers; the building does not constitute the church.

King James Bible

TGBC uses only the King James Bible: the Authorized Version of 1611, received in its standardized 1769 textual tradition and Pure Cambridge Edition text form. The King James Bible is the final written authority for faith, doctrine, conduct, and assembly order. TGBC will not turn to Greek or Hebrew to change or supposedly correct the King James Bible, and will not authorize corruption of the Word of God. Doctrinal instruction for the Church, the Body of Christ, is understood through Romans through Philemon, with all Scripture studied by right division.

The Circle of the Elders, the Order, the Praeceptorium

These names identify the same internal teaching and oversight Order within This Grace Bible Churches. The Praeceptorium is the name of the Order. Its first governing judgment is fidelity to the Gospel of Christ, sound doctrine, the King James Bible, and Pauline Dispensational Doctrine. Qualification as a bishop or elder does not automatically admit a person to the Circle; express admission is required. Deacons are not members of this Order by virtue of their office.

Founding Bishop and Praeceptorius

Within This Grace Bible Churches, Bishop Wesley Ray is known as the Founding Bishop. Within the Circle of the Elders, the Order, the Praeceptorium, Praeceptorius is his exclusive personal bishop title. Bishop Wesley Ray is the original and sole Praeceptorius. This title does not create a third ordained office and is not conferred by Circle membership, temporary appointment, incapacity, death, or succession. Praeceptorius names the title; Praeceptorium names the Order.

Continuity and document interpretation

The existing charter safeguards for temporary oversight, a named alternate, administrative fallback, incapacity, and succession remain in place. An acting or succeeding bishop does not receive the Founding Bishop title or the Praeceptorius title. The identity and terminology above are the proposed replacement wording wherever an earlier draft describes TGBC as a denomination, a Christian sect, a micro-denomination, a separate religious system, or a pastor-led institutional church. Earlier draft terminology must be read with this clarification. This revision concerns declared doctrinal identity and internal order; it does not amend provisions dealing with civil administration, property, banking, records, or applicable law.

Revision status

Identity and Terminology Revision - 11 October 2026. This is an unsigned draft supplement for authorized adoption through the existing governing process. Publication does not certify adoption, signatures, ordination, appointment, or execution. The pages that follow in supplemented documents are retained source provisions; their earlier edition labels identify the source copy. This supplement updates the stated identity and terminology without certifying that a prior source copy was adopted.