

16 Supplementary Ministry Administration Policies

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 and House to House Assembly

Statement dated October 11, 2026

Our identity

This Grace Bible Churches, the Circle of the Elders (the Order, the Praeceptorium), and Church in Thy House are not a denomination, are not part of a denomination, are not a religion, and are not part of Christianity. They are not Jewish and are not Catholic. They are not corruptors of the Word of God.

Our assembly and practice

We are not part of the "corporate" American Christian Church setup. We have no religious buildings, statues, baptistries, altars, or pastors, and none of the trappings of the religion known as Christianity.

Saved believers gathering house to house

This Grace Bible Churches consists of true saved believers who rightly divide the word of truth and meet house to house. Church in Thy House is the mode by which This Grace Bible Churches gathers together. The Gospel of Christ that saves today is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 KJB. Our standard for rightly dividing the word of truth is 2 Timothy 2:15 KJB.

King James Bible only

We use only King James Bibles: the 1769 edition of the 1611, Pure Cambridge Text. The King James Bible is our final written authority. We do not change, supposedly correct, or corrupt the Word of God.

The Order and the Bishop title

The Circle of the Elders, the Order, and the Praeceptorium name the same internal teaching and oversight body within This Grace Bible Churches. Praeceptorius is the Bishop title within that body. Bishop Wesley Ray is the original and sole Praeceptorius; admission to the Circle does not confer that title. Within This Grace Bible Churches, Bishop Wesley Ray is known as the Founding Bishop.

Document terminology

This statement supplies the identity, assembly practice, Bible standard, and title definitions for the accompanying documents. In earlier text, a collective reference to "Praeceptorius" means the Praeceptorium; a personal reference to Bishop Wesley Ray as Praeceptorius retains its personal meaning. These definitions do not create an additional ordained office or confer the founder's exclusive title upon another person. Governing amendments remain subject to the adoption procedures of each instrument.

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Records retention and control

Designate a custodian for executed instruments, notices, minutes, Circle and assembly membership, credentials, affiliations, any funds or property, and official teaching. Limit access by responsibility and provide approved public copies without sensitive attachments. Back up electronic records, test recovery, and protect signed originals.

Keep adopted governing instruments and amendments, significant decisions and minutes, final credential and disciplinary determinations, succession, affiliations, property title, and dissolution records permanently. Preserve superseded versions with effective dates.

Retain routine financial and compensation support for at least seven years after the relevant year closes and routine correspondence for three years as internal minimums. A longer applicable legal, insurer, contractual, tax, or safeguarding requirement controls. Keep safeguarding and minor-related records under a specifically reviewed retention arrangement; do not apply routine disposal periods blindly.

Immediately place a hold on records relevant to an actual or reasonably anticipated claim, investigation, audit, or dispute. No destruction occurs until the authorized custodian releases the hold after appropriate advice. Record permissible destruction by class, dates, authority, method, and responsible person.

Membership and fellowship administration

Local membership is voluntary and does not create salvation or membership in the spiritual Body of Christ. Receive a profession of faith in the Gospel, discuss the Statement of Faith, record acceptance, and maintain useful contact and care information. Neither giving nor water baptism is a membership condition.

Record transfers and withdrawals truthfully, with minimal private information. For minors, obtain appropriate guardian involvement. Assembly membership never automatically creates Circle membership; only qualified bishops and elders expressly admitted enter PRAECEPTORIUS. A deacon's service record is separate from the Circle roster.

Benevolence administration

Use assistance only for genuine needs consistent with mission and available resources. Record the request, urgency, amount, purpose, decision, restrictions, payee, and any relationship to a reviewer. Follow independent review for material conflicts and keep private details restricted.

Assistance is discretionary and is not exchanged for attendance, donations, membership, silence, or service. Where useful, pay a provider directly. Do not promise deductibility of a donor payment earmarked to a private individual or publish a recipient's circumstances without separate consent.

Child and vulnerable person safeguarding

Designate a safeguarding contact and an alternative contact. Before assigning access to children or vulnerable persons, screen workers according to the actual role, check relevant references, provide training, and obtain appropriate consent for any separate background check. No office or title exempts a person from safeguarding rules.

Use observable settings and two screened adults where feasible. Avoid isolated contact, secret communications, sexualized conduct, corporal punishment, unauthorized photography, or transport without permission. Maintain

appropriate activity consent, emergency contacts, attendance, and authorized pickup arrangements. If adequate supervision cannot be provided, change or postpone the activity.

Receive a disclosure calmly and record the person's words without conducting an amateur investigation. In immediate danger, contact emergency services. Make applicable civil reports directly and promptly; internal reporting does not replace a person's legal duty. Do not delay for a Circle vote or insist on internal evidentiary thresholds before reporting suspected abuse.

Protect persons and evidence, limit access where needed, and avoid retaliation. Restoration to fellowship does not automatically restore access to vulnerable persons. Record an appropriate independent review before changing safeguarding restrictions. Applicable civil orders and reporting obligations remain controlling.

Privacy prayer communications and media

Collect only information needed for legitimate ministry. Secure paper and electronic files and share sensitive care, medical, family, disciplinary, and financial details only with legitimate responsibility and applicable lawful authority.

Ask whether a prayer request is private, for designated care leaders, or for public sharing. Do not publish a minor's identifying details or sensitive allegations as ordinary announcements. Obtain separate optional consent for images, recordings, testimony, channels, and attribution; declining publicity does not prevent fellowship.

Honor withdrawal of consent prospectively and remove controlled online material where practical. Explain that distributed print copies and third-party copies may be unrecoverable. An official TGBC statement requires express authority. State adoption, credentials, affiliation, and tax status only when the actual records support them.

Facilities property and volunteers

Obtain the actual owner's permission before using a location. Address relevant occupancy, access, safety, transport, lease, and local requirements before committing to a facility. A mailing address is not proof that a location is a meeting facility or owned property.

Inventory any actual organizational property and distinguish ownership from loans or donated use. Record volunteer duties, supervisor, access, training, limits, and policy acceptance. A volunteer assignment does not establish employment, ordination, or Circle membership; any paid arrangement requires separate authorization and classification review.

Continuity and implementation

Keep responsible contacts, lawful recovery arrangements, authorized delegations, and the current roster accessible to those with a legitimate need. An administrative custodian or deacon may preserve records under an assigned mandate without becoming an elder or successor.

Review active policies annually and when actual activities change. Apply conditional policies only to the relevant activity; their presence does not require TGBC to begin banking, collecting donations, acquiring property, or hiring workers.

Policy adoption schedule

Policies adopted by this action _____

Approving authority _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Effective date _____ Custodian _____ Record reference _____