

17 Implementation and Formation Record Guide

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.

17 Implementation and Formation Record Guide

Edition 2026 10 03 R2 | Operative only upon authorized adoption

Confirm actual identity and consenting members

Use THIS GRACE BIBLE CHURCHES consistently in the adopted organizational instruments. PRAECEPTORIUS is its internal Circle, not a new civil organization. Record actual consent of at least three members when relying on Texas Chapter 252. Distinguish those members from the founder's initial sole Circle membership.

Identify any existing signed association instruments, prior legal names, identifiers, actual accounts, contracts, property, and affiliations before treating this edition as a new formation. Use an amendment of the existing association where appropriate rather than inventing a separate entity. The package does not itself make a name filing, incorporation, EIN application, exemption application, or government registration.

Adopt the coordinated instruments

Review the complete text, especially the lifetime founder provisions, bishops and elders only Circle, independent transaction review, notice and voting thresholds, and emergency reconstitution. Apply the current authorized adoption process, complete the General Adoption Resolution and schedule, and retain signed instruments, approvals, and minutes. Record actual dates in the register.

Establish the initial roster

Enter Bishop Wesley Ray as Founding Bishop and sole initial member of PRAECEPTORIUS. List other actual assembly members in a separate membership record. Do not list a deacon as a Circle member or describe an unrecorded elder ordination as complete. Record future qualification and Circle admission as distinct actions.

Operate the private fellowship

Arrange teaching, fellowship, care, and approved meeting locations with appropriate permission and safety. Keep sufficient private records for orderly government. Operating without state corporate formation does not eliminate the association's possible civil obligations. Do not describe TGBC as beyond government jurisdiction or free from every filing.

Use financial and civil forms only when needed

The existence of a banking, contribution, property, or compensation form does not initiate that activity. If a future activity is proposed, first obtain the separate recorded authority required by the Bylaws and review applicable obligations. Use only actual identifiers and institution requirements. Do not apply for an EIN, account, or state exemption merely because this guide includes a conditional pathway.

Review tax claims carefully

Federal churches and qualifying associations of churches meeting section 501(c)(3) requirements can qualify without an IRS determination application and are generally excepted from Form 990. This is not a universal exemption for every religious group or from every type of filing. Verify actual federal qualification and activity-specific requirements. State sales and property exemption processes are separate.

No issued tax determination, EIN, account, registration, or ordination is certified by this package. Authorized future acknowledgments must reflect actual contributions and goods or services provided, using current requirements.

Keep succession practical

Preserve the actual Circle and assembly rosters and qualified leadership records. Identify temporary administrative custodians separately from bishops or elders. If the founder dies with no other Circle member, use the specific emergency reconstitution procedure before selecting an Overseeing Bishop. Do not permit a deacon or family member to assume that role automatically.

Official legal and tax reference record

Reference review date: 3 October 2026. These sources explain the civil framework; they do not adopt TGBC doctrine or certify its status. Check current provisions for any actual civil transaction.

Texas Secretary of State, Nonprofit Organizations, unincorporated associations and Chapter 252:
https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/nonprofit_org.shtml

Texas Business Organizations Code Chapter 252, including membership definition, property and liability provisions: <https://tcss.legis.texas.gov/resources/BO/htm/BO.252.htm>

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code Chapter 110, religious-freedom protections and limitations:
<https://tcss.legis.texas.gov/resources/CP/htm/CP.110.htm>

United States Constitution Annotated, Free Exercise overview:
https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/essay/amdt1-4-1/ALDE_00013221/

IRS, Churches integrated auxiliaries and conventions or associations of churches: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/churches-integrated-auxiliaries-and-conventions-or-associations-of-churches>

IRS Publication 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations:
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1828.pdf>

Implementation record

Custodian _____ Actual adoption reference _____

Initial member consent record _____ Circle roster reference _____

Activities authorized separately _____

Review completed by _____ Signature _____ Date _____