This Grace Bible Churches

hierarchy

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.

04 Governing Document Hierarchy

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Purpose and supreme written authority

This hierarchy prevents a form, resolution, policy, or isolated sentence from silently changing TGBC's doctrine or government. The King James Bible remains the supreme written authority for ecclesiastical faith, doctrine, conduct, and order. Civil obligations are evaluated under applicable law; the internal hierarchy does not invalidate a civil duty.

Order of human instruments

The Constitution and Articles of Association are the principal human organizing instrument. Next are the Bylaws, followed by the Statement of Faith and Foundational Doctrine. The PRAECEPTORIUS Charter and Founding Bishop and Succession Declaration implement those instruments. The Credentialing Manual and Discipline Code follow. Local assembly agreements, financial and conflict policies, and supplementary ministry policies implement their assigned subjects. Doctrinal position papers explain adopted doctrine. Resolutions, forms, certificates, minutes, and registers document authorized actions at the administrative level.

A doctrinal question must be examined by Scripture and the adopted confession, not resolved merely by ranking documents. An administrative policy cannot redefine foundational doctrine because it appears newer or more specific.

Conflicts and amendments

Read related instruments together where possible. If a lower instrument conflicts with a higher one, the higher one controls and the incompatible lower provision must be corrected through its proper amendment procedure. An amendment resolution changes a higher document only if it expressly identifies that document and satisfies its own amendment requirements.

Every adopted instrument shall have its title, edition, adoption and effective dates, approving authority, and register entry. Preserve superseded versions. Templates remain templates until an actual action is completed and signed; a printed certificate does not establish ordination or membership.

Titles and consistent interpretation

PRAECEPTORIUS means the internal Circle of bishops and elders. The Founding Bishop is its sole initial member. A deacon does not enter the Circle through ordination, committee service, delegated administration, or a certificate heading identifying the issuing body.

Founding Bishop is a lifetime unique historical office. Acting Ecclesiastical Overseer is temporary. Overseeing Bishop is the successor oversight title after the founder's death. No administrative record shall blur these distinctions.

Adoption

Approved by _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Effective date _____ Register reference _____ Custodian _____