

knowing

A M E M B E R S H I P C L A S S

engage | develop | deploy

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Getting to Know HighView

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Welcome

Welcome to **HighView Church** and *Knowing HighView: The Membership Class!* We are thankful and excited about your interest in learning more about **HighView Church** and we pray that this curriculum will help you get to know who we are as a church and what being a member of HighView Church is all about.

We believe that every single follower of Jesus is called to “make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). But how do we do this? We summed it up with 3 words: Engage. Develop. Deploy.

Our vision and mission as a church is summarized in three words: **Engage. Develop. Deploy.** We desire to *engage* the world around us with the Gospel, *develop* deep disciples of Jesus and *deploy* those disciples to reach their circles of influence for the sake of Kingdom mission.

We are a **Gospel-centered** church. This means that everything we do as a church is directly informed by the Gospel. We are a church of repenting sinners saved *by grace alone*, through *faith alone*, in *Christ alone* for *the glory of God alone* and we are committed to the authority of *Scripture alone* as the inerrant, infallible Word of God.

The information found in this book is designed to explain both our commitment to one another in covenant community and our passion to see this church be a Christ-centered, Gospel-saturated, disciple-making, disciple-sending church here in West Georgia.

For His Glory,

Chad Williams: *Lead Pastor*

Our Story

A Brief History of HighView

The story of HighView is a story about the faithfulness of God. HighView's beginnings can be traced back to the Summer of 2012 when Chad Williams (Current Lead Pastor) and Josh Hildebrandt (Current Pastor of Worship and Gospel Community) began discussing plans to plant a Gospel-centered church in the West GA area. That summer, a core team of 5 people met and committed themselves to forming HighView Church. From this small team of people, HighView began.

(2012) Beginnings: Preview Services and Meeting in Homes

In September and October of 2012, HighView Church held two preview services in a small community center in Villa Rica Georgia and plans for the launch of weekly gatherings began. In the Fall and Winter months of 2012 HighView met 2 Sundays each month for a worship service in Josh and Bethany Hildebrandt's living room and approximately 20 people attended, with some of them expressing interest in being a part of HighView Church.

(2013) Constituting: The Chapel Era

In January of 2013 HighView Church began meeting weekly on Sunday evenings in a small chapel in downtown Villa Rica. The Chapel, had been built in 2005 by Chad Williams' grandfather, the late Dr. Gene Rainwater, a pastor and church planter who served in pastoral ministry for over 50 years. In March of 2013, HighView Church formally constituted as a church and began accepting members. Later that spring, HighView became a sponsored church plant of the North American Mission Board and established a new relationship with Mt Vernon Baptist Church as a primary supporting church partner. As the summer months began, HighView Church began experiencing rapid growth and quickly outgrew the small chapel, with overflow crowds each week. In June, as growth continued HighView leased a new storefront and began the build out process to facilitate the growing attendance and provide room for future growth. On Sunday December 1st, HighView met for the last time at the Chapel.

(2014) Expansion: The Edge Road Era

On Sunday December 8th 2013, HighView Church held it's first service at the newly completed storefront facility on 165 Edge Road in Villa Rica. In January of 2014, HighView began meeting on Sunday mornings and the church continued its numeric growth, quickly outgrowing the store front facility. New leaders emerged and new members joined as HighView launched new small groups and ministries through 2014. As the growth continued, HighView began looking at possible expansion plans, when a dialogue began with Cornerstone Baptist Church about working together for the good of the Kingdom in West GA...

(2015-2016) A Turning Point: HighView and Cornerstone

2015 began with a truly momentous event, as after months of conversations Cornerstone Baptist Church, a local church planted in 1985 in the West GA area, dissolved and donated it's building and 19 acres of land (Current campus) to HighView Church. The majority of Cornerstone's remaining members went through HighView's membership process and became a part of the HighView family. This generous, Kingdom-focused act enabled HighView to continue its rapid growth and provided much needed children's educational space. In 2016, HighView Church created a new Students ministry and completed a sanctuary expansion project that enabled an additional 30% more in attendance during Sunday morning services.

(2017 and Beyond) Stepping into the Future

In March of 2017, HighView launched a new 2 service format on Sunday mornings. This allowed the church to continue it's evangelistic growth as more and more members became a part of the HighView family. In October of 2017, the formation of an expansion and development plan was created and in December this plan was shared with the congregation. The future of HighView is bright, with the church positioned strategically to reach West GA and beyond with the Gospel!

12 Month Strategic Goals

In concert with our 5 year anniversary, 2018 represents the beginning of a new era for HighView Church as we begin our transition from a church plant to an established, multiplying church.

- HighView Kids: Launch of NEW HighView Kids Ministry: Feb 2018
- Sending Pipeline: Launch NEW Sending Pipeline to train future church leaders and pastors for future planting work: Feb 2018
- Begin Pre-planning for Future Church Plant: Summer 2018
- Begin Phase 1 of Campus Expansion Plan

36 Month Strategic Goals

In 3 years, our desire is for HighView Church to begin multiplying Gospel-centered local churches while growing deeper into Gospel-community and expanding our evangelistic impact in the West Metro Atlanta area.

- Multiplication: New HighView Church Plant is sent out and begins meeting regularly Fall of 2020 (Goal: Autonomy by 2022)
- Sending Center: Phase 1 COMPLETED and OPEN! (Goal: Open 2019)
- 90% and 90% Initiative: See 90% of our members engaged in Gospel-community and 90% engaging 1 Non-Christian with the Gospel regularly.

Our Vision and Mission

Engage. Develop. Deploy.

We believe that every follower of Jesus and every local church is called to make disciples who then make *more disciples*. But how? We summed it up with 3 words: Engage. Develop. Deploy.

Engage

We are called to engage the world with the Gospel message. At the “engage level”, non-Christians encounter the Gospel through interactions with Christ-followers. We believe that making disciples has always required other disciples who engage non-Christians relationally and evangelistically.

Develop

HighView is committed to developing spiritually mature disciples of Jesus who know Jesus, love Jesus and obey Jesus. This means we value theologically sound and highly applicable teaching. The church’s primary development “hub” is Sunday gatherings, where Christ is sung, seen in the Lord’s Table and Baptism and heard in the preached Gospel. Other development ministries include HV Kids, HV Students and HighView’s leadership development training.

Deploy

At the close of each Sunday service, every member of HighView is individually deployed into their circles of influence for the sake of Gospel-mission. Our church is committed to fostering a culture of sending by laboring to plant healthy local churches and spur on future Gospel multiplication.

NOTES:

4 Pillars

HighView Fundamentals

The 4 Pillars of HighView Church represent 4 critical components of our ministry focus as a church. Since HighView began in 2013, we have committed ourselves to keeping these 4 pillars central in the life of our church each week.

Expositional Preaching

The preaching ministry at HighView is committed to expositional preaching. Though we occasionally preach on given theme or topic that will benefit our church, the vast majority of our preaching here at HighView is expository in nature. What is expositional preaching? Expositional preaching is the explanation of a given verse or section of Scripture in its proper context. Put simply, we work our way through books of the Bible, carefully explaining the text as we go, and then we attempt to show how to apply those truths to our daily lives. Above all, we want to show how the Bible fits together as one story that points us to Jesus.

Christ-Centered Worship

Each week, we worship Jesus as a church, through son in our two identicle services (9:30am and 11:15am). All of the songs we sing are carefully selected with this over-arching criterion in mind: Does this song lyrically unpack the glorious truths of the Gospel that find their highest point in Christ? We want to make sure we are singing theologically rich truths about Jesus that ignite our affection for Him.

Discipleship

We believe that every local church has been commissioned by Jesus to make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Discipleship is the relational process of teaching and modelling what it means to know, love and obey Jesus in every area of life. As a church, we are committed to creating an environment where these kinds of relationships can thrive. Discipleship occurs at the congregational level as we gather weekly to worship and celebrate the Gospel. Discipleship occurs at the relational level in our Gospel Community Groups, Discipleship Cohorts and various Bible Studies offered throughout the year.

Missions

HighView is committed to mission-multiplication wherever God has placed us and wherever God may send us. This means, we believe that every single member of HighView Church is a missionary equipped by and sent with the life-giving message of the Gospel. To this end, we work together as members to reach our local communities and plant healthy local churches all over the world. Since we are convinced that the local church is God's Plan A for worldwide redemption, our local, regional, national and global mission efforts are focused primarily on planting and supporting other local churches in those contexts.

Core Convictions

HighView Fundamentals

These core convictions undergird everything we do as a church. These deep-rooted values shape and inform our disciple-making strategy and serve as guidelines that directly influence what we do and choose not to do as a church.

1. GOSPEL-CENTEREDNESS

The Gospel forms the local church and authoritatively informs what it does. This means that we understand the Gospel (and its power!) to be the central focus of the church's weekly gatherings, disciple-making communities, and mission. Everything begins and ends with the Good News of Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection. The Gospel is news we tell, not advice we give.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF WEEKLY GATHERINGS

We unapologetically promote the weekly gatherings of the local church and see these weekly assemblies as a primary disciple-making tool. At these gatherings, the Gospel is sung congregationally, preached faithfully and seen regularly in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

3. COVENANTAL MEMBERSHIP

We believe that all Christians should commit themselves to other Christians within the context of a healthy local church. Church Membership represents a covenant between a person and a people (a local church) and provides for mutual accountability. Since we believe that the congregation is the highest earthly authority in a local church (Matthew 18), we believe that church members should be baptized Christians who believe the Gospel.

4. MULTIPLICATION

We believe that local churches are called to plant other local churches. Therefore we labor to create a church culture that promotes multiplication through one-on-one discipleship and collective multiplication through training leaders and sending out healthy local churches. Our desire is to see HighView become a hub for sending out healthy, Gospel-centered church plants in the years ahead and we are already labroing towards that end.

5. WISE/RISKY STEWARDSHIP

We believe that each and every resource God provides should be stewarded in a wise/risky way. This means we encourage our members to give of their time, treasure and talents sacrificially for the sake of Kingdom mission.

6. CHURCH HEALTH, NOT SIZE, MATTERS THE MOST

We believe that Jesus cares more about the health of a church than the numeric size of a church. Church health can be determined by asking a number of questions: Is our theology correct? Are people growing spiritually? Are we sharing the Gospel individually? Are we engaging our community? Are people growing deeper into Gospel Community? While church health is more important to us than sheep numerical growth, healthy organisms *do grow*.

7. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AS MISSION

We believe that the local church should be ground zero for training and equipping Gospel-centered leaders. These leaders, serving in their various contexts and circles of influence every day, have a unique missional opportunity to display Christ' rule and reign in their own leadership while opening new avenues to share the Gospel. At HighView we develop leaders through our Equip Pipeline with the goal of deploying those leaders into the world for the sake of mission.

8. KNOW THE GOD YOU LOVE. LOVE THE GOD YOU KNOW

We desire to see each and every member of HighView go deeper into the Gospel while growing in their affections for Christ. We believe that as our theological knowledge of God grows, our hearts should grow in our love for Jesus and obedience to Jesus.

9. COMPASSION FOR THE POOR, WIDOWS, AND ORPHANS

We believe that a local church is called to be a compassionate body of believers who are concerned for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. This means we focus missional energy in this way through our HV Fosters ministry, our care for widows and our community engagement of the poor and marginalized in our city.

10. LOVE THEM. TELL THEM. BRING THEM

Jesus commands every follower to make disciples. Obeying this command requires individual followers engaging in personal evangelism. We believe personal evangelism consists of 3 components: Acts of love, Gospel explanation, and Gospel invitation. Acts of love and service help us establish relational credibility with those around us. These bridges provide new opportunities for Gospel-engagement. Tell them: Our goal is to equip each member of HighView to share the Gospel narrative with non-Christians in a relational environment where questions and can be asked and truth can be explained. Bring Them: The Gospel is sung, preached and seen in baptism and the Lord's Table. We unapologetically encourage HighView members to invite non-Christians and this dynamic Gospel-environment.

11. EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

We believe that the fundamental role of the pastor is a shepherding/ equipping role. A plurality of pastors is to provide spiritual care and oversight, preach, teach and defend sound doctrine and train the church to "do the work of the ministry". This means that pastors should focus on equipping the church to use its various gifts to minister to the body while engaging the world with the Gospel.

12. GOSPEL LEGACY

HighView Church feels called to leave a Gospel-legacy for the generations to come. This means, we live, serve and labor with the next generation in mind. What does a Gospel-legacy look like? It would look like a church that is a beacon of Gospel-light here in their community. It would look like a diverse church of people, gathered together to sing praises to Christ and to hear His Good News. Gospel-legacy would look like a campus that serves as a base for training and sending out hundreds of healthy local churches and thousands of Gospel-centered church leaders...Join us as we pray and strive to see this Gospel-legacy come to fruition.

Knowing Our Beliefs

Statement of Faith

THE TRINITY: God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Mark 1:9-11; Heb. 1:1-3; Acts 5:4)

GOD: There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. (Deut. 6:4-6)

JESUS CHRIST: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, born of a virgin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives forever to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, Priest, King of the church, and Sovereign of the Universe. (1 Tim 2:5; Matt 5:17; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 1:1-3)

HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead, convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement; He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 5:38)

THE SCRIPTURES: We teach that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, and that the 66 books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit represents the inspired, absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, sufficient, authoritative Word of God in all parts. (1st Corinthians 2:7-14, 2nd Timothy 3:16,17)

THE FALL OF MAN: God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity, i.e. descendants, inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors. (Gen. 6:5; Rom. 3:18)

ELECTION: Election is Gods eternal choice of many persons unto everlasting life-- not because of foreseen merit in them, but of his mere mercy in Christ. These persons are, therefore, called justified and glorified. (Eph. 1:4-8, 2:8-9; Romans 8:28-29)

REPENTANCE AND FAITH: Repentance is a gift of God, wherein the Holy Spirit makes a person aware of his sin, so that he/she humbles oneself with godly sorrow, detesting sin, with a purpose and endeavours to walk before God so as to please Him in everything. Saving faith is the belief, on Gods authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is granted to the believer by the Holy Spirit and, therefore, leads him/her in a lifestyle moving towards one of holiness and joy. (2 Cor. 7:10; Mark 1:10)

JUSTIFICATION: Justification is a legal declaration of God in which He freely chooses to acquit a sinner by faith in the atoning work of Christ; therefore, grace grants him/her Christ's righteousness. (Rom 4:25 5:16,18)

SANCTIFICATION: Those believers who have their faith in Christ have been & will be saved. Sanctification means that there will be a continued progression in holy living & character development by the Holy Spirit & will continue until we die or the Lord returns. (Rom. 8:13,28,29; John 16:1, 14:17, 17:17)

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS: Those whom Christ has saved and the Spirit indwells, though still sinful, will indeed continue in their sanctification (i.e. being made holy) and will never lose their salvation. (Heb. 12:2 Phil 1:6, John 17:12, Heb. 10:23)

THE CHURCH: The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves with particular churches; and to each of these churches Jesus has given authority for administering the order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are Elders and Deacons. (Col. 1:18, 2:10 Heb. 10:25 1, Tim. 3, Titus 1)

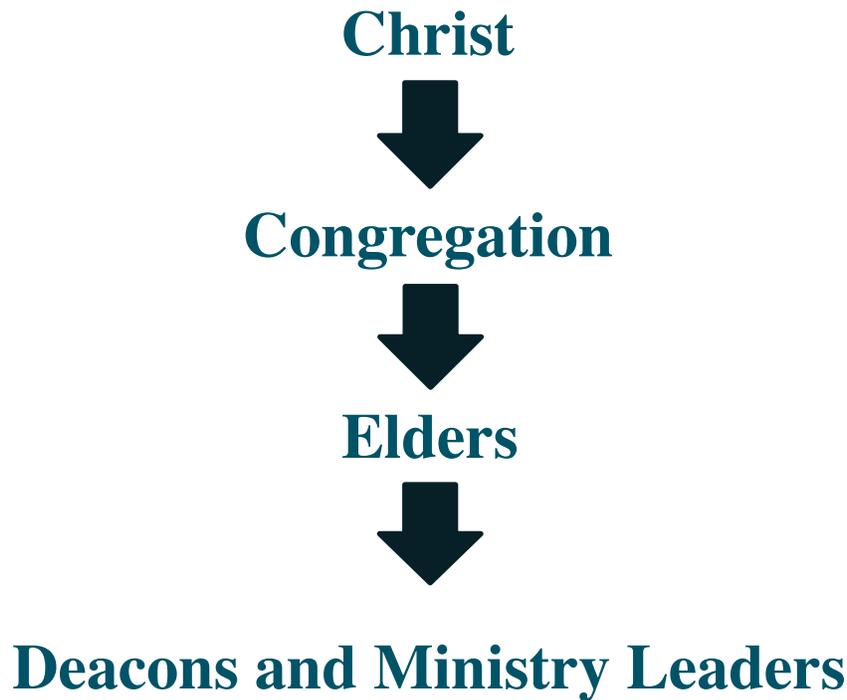
BAPTISM: Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:18;20)

The Lord's Supper: The Lords Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with bread and wine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with Him and of their church fellowship. (1 Cor. 11: 23-28)

THE JUDGMENT: God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds: the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life. (Matt. 7:21-23, 25:14-46; Phil. 2:5-11)

HighView Leadership

Understanding our Church Structure



1. Christ

- **Christ** has set the agenda for the church

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **Christ** paid the ultimate price for the church.

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- **Christ** is the head of the body, the church.

Colossians 1:17-18 ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

2. Congregation

- The last and final court of appeal on matters of life in the church is the congregation, which are primarily matters of doctrine, membership and discipline.

Matthew 18:15-17 ¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Other Scriptures to consider: 2 Corinthians 2:6-8; Acts 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 5:5-11

Active involvement in congregationalism is through the Church Conference (aka. Membership Meetings). These are like family gatherings where members talk about things personal to the family. These meetings are exclusively for church members

3. Elders

- **Elders are responsible to “shepherd the flock of God”**

Acts 20:26-28 ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- **Elders must meet the qualifications found in Scripture**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 he saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the

devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

- Elders must be *men* who exemplify *godly character* & are *able to teach*.

What you should expect from the elders:

- An example of godliness
- Teaching and Preaching of Scripture
- Spiritual Oversight of Congregation
- Pastoral Counsel
- Prayer
- Theologically Sound Corporate Worship
- Discipleship Training

What the elders expect of the congregation:

- Godly Submission and Trust (Hebrews 13:17)
- Prayer
- Financial Support (when applicable) (1 Corinthians 9:4-14)
- Be Available and Be Faithful

Plurality of Elders:

- According to Scripture (Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 1:5) our church is led by a plurality of elders. These elders may or may not lead or be responsible for specific area of ministry within the church (ex: worship, discipleship)
- This model of church leadership provides for mutual accountability amongst the elders and the congregation they shepherd.
- Lead Pastor: this position serves as an elder as a “first among equals” with the same voting authority as the other elders. This designated elder is recommended by the other elders and voted in by the congregation. The Lead Pastor is responsible for providing the vision and leadership of the congregation in conjunction with the other elders while serving as the primary preaching pastor.

4. Deacons and Ministry Leaders

- **The office of deacon is an office of service to practical needs that builds unity within the church**

Acts 6:1-4 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we

should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- **Deacons should have a track record of godly character and peacemaking.**

1 Timothy 3:8-13 ⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Ministry Leaders

- Ministry leaders are assigned by the elders to oversee certain areas of the church. These positions are created and appointed by the elders. Ministry leaders report directly to the elders.

What's the next step?:

Understanding the Pathway to Membership

Still interested in pursuing membership here at HighView Church? Here is a run down of the membership process and what's next.

There are three steps to becoming a covenant member of HighView Church:

1. Attend Knowing HighView Class

Membership Classes consist of two sessions. These sessions can be done with an individual or with a group and are scheduled on an 'as needed' basis. At these classes, you will learn about our doctrine, leadership structure, ministry focus, baptism and church covenant.

2. Attend Next Steps Class

The Next Steps Class is for those who have taken the "Knowing HighView Class" and desire to continue in the membership process. At "Next Steps" attendees learn about how to get connected into community at HighView Church and hear about opportunities to serve. At "Next Steps" attendees will have an opportunity to speak with HighView Leaders, share their personal story and ask any questions they may have about membership at HighView.

3. Congregational Affirmation

The final step for membership at HighView Church is congregational affirmation. This occurs at our membership meetings which we refer to as Church in Conference. At these meetings the elders recommend prospective members for membership and the current church members vote to affirm the new members. For prospective members attendance at this Church in Conference is not mandatory.