

## Church Distinctives

### Regenerate Church Membership:

While we welcome anyone to attend, only born again (regenerated) believers will be admitted into membership. OPBC requires members to be regenerate for the health of the body and for the integrity of Christ's name. Members participate in the church decision making process, and reflect who we are to the surrounding community as well as the world. Since we are Christ's bride, the decisions we make and manner in which we conduct ourselves represent Christ. Therefore, only those who have been renewed by the Holy Spirit thus enabling them to live lives pleasing to Christ may be admitted into membership. For further discussion concerning regeneration please see section IV subsection A in our Statement of Faith.

### Plurality of Elders:

OPBC is led by a plurality of elders (pastors). Biblically qualified men, see 1 Timothy 3:1-8 and Titus 1:5-16, are appointed to the office of elder by the congregation. While different elders fulfill different ministry roles within the church, e.g. Pastor-Teacher or Pastor of Worship and Community, the direction and leadership for OPBC comes from the elders as a united body.

### Intentionality in Pastoral Care:

At OPBC our pastors are committed to living in community with the body. While each pastor may not be able to maintain extensive knowledge of every member's life, our pastors do want each member to feel cared for and connected. Thus they are committed to living transparently before OPBC and remaining accessible to the entire congregation. To get in touch with a pastor please talk with them during one of our services or call the church office.

### Biblical Sexuality:

Section III of our Statement of Faith and our policy regarding marriage and human sexuality explains that OPBC believes that all humans are created in the image of God as either male or female. We believe that God gave gender distinction to humanity as a good gift. While men and women are equal in their dignity and worth, we believe that they are distinct in their roles as seen in passages such as Genesis 1:26-31; 2:1-24; Ephesians 5:22-33; and Colossians 3:18-19.

### Biblical Exposition:

As evidenced by our statement of faith, OPBC holds a high view of Scripture. Therefore, the Bible drives our preaching. The main point of our sermons come from the

main point of the biblical text. OPBC is dedicated to teaching through books of the Bible from the pulpit, and to remaining true to the text when specific topics are discussed.

#### Church Discipline:

Based on Matthew 7:7-6, Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1-4; and 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 and other like biblical texts OPBC practices church discipline. The goal of church discipline is three-fold: to be formative, corrective, and restorative. We desire to form a godly understanding of life, provide correction where necessary, and restore straying members back into a healthy relationship with other members and Christ. Church discipline also serves as a warning to others in the body that they might see sin taken seriously and avoid committing it themselves (1 Timothy 5:20). While we will not come knocking our membership's door each time a person sins, we are committed to the holiness and unity of the church. Thus, members found in unrepentant sin will be lovingly pursued following the process Jesus outlines in Matthew 18.