

## *Equipping Counselors for Your Church*

### **Appendix 12.1 Church Discipline Policy**

#### **Church Discipline Policy: Restoring the Purity of the Body of Christ**

- Officially adopted as part of the Church Constitution on \_\_\_\_\_.
- To be read, explained, and discussed at Membership Classes.
- To be signed and dated by every new member.
- To be read each year in the Annual Meeting.
- This is the Short Form. The Long Form (available to all members and prospective members) was officially adopted as part of the Church Constitution on \_\_\_\_\_.

We, the members of \_\_\_\_\_, believe that church discipline includes the loving, biblical corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer.

We further believe that the following biblical passages are the foundation for our church discipline policy: Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; 2 Corinthians 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:11-7:13; Galatians 1:6-8; Galatians 2:11-14; Galatians 6:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Philippians 3:18-4:2; Colossians 2:16-23; 1 Timothy 1:3-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:10-13; Titus 3:10-11; Hebrews 12:1-17; Hebrews 13:17; 2 John 7-11; Jude 1-20; Revelation 2:1-3:22.

We further believe that the purpose of church discipline includes: reconciliation, righteousness, repentance, return to God, restoration, peace, and purity.

We further believe that church discipline must be invoked when habitual unrepentant rebellion arises in the areas of unbiblical public teaching, and/or unreconciled personal relationships, and/or unrepentant practice of sin.

We further believe that those administering church discipline must demonstrate spiritual integrity, personal purity, loving motivation, gentle strength, humility, and the desire to be a burden bearer.

We further believe that the biblical procedure for church discipline involves the Spirit-led, situation-specific, flexible implementation of the following principles:

- Awareness and Identification of the Discipline Issue
- Personal Confrontation
- Private Conference

- Consultation with Church Leaders
- First Warning by Pastoral Representative
- Second Warning by Pastoral Representative
- Public Announcement to the Church
- Exclusion from Body-Life Relationships
- Expulsion from Church
- Re-admittance to Church upon Fruits of Repentance

We further believe that every person who unites with our church, therefore, vows to submit to the discipline of this church as describe both in this Short Form and in the Long Form. And we covenant as members of \_\_\_\_\_ not to pursue legal action or to sue the pastors, elders, deacons, or church staff in connection with the performance of their official duties relative to this church discipline policy.

We further believe that church membership and the related covenant agreements are both granted and removed only by the action and consent of the church leadership. Thus, all members agree that once the church discipline process has started, “resignation from church membership” does not void the church’s responsibility to carry on the church discipline process.

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