

**Excerpts from the Bylaws of the Wahiawa Church of Christ  
(Approved November 17, 2002) for Reading at Ordination**

The powers of the corporation shall be vested in its elders ([also known as] shepherds, overseers, pastors, presbyters . . . [or] bishops), two of which shall be the president and vice-president. [Art. II.B] In years with more than two available elders a third elder shall serve on the board as the Fifth Trustee. [Art. III.A.2.c.vii] The elders shall oversee the church, its other officers, and its secretary and treasurer who [also] shall be elected servants. . . . Elders must be male members of the congregation who have met the characteristics outlined in the pastoral epistles, scripture in general, and the congregation's applications of those characteristics. . . .

Other servants may be male or female members of the congregation who [also] possess the characteristics developed in the pastoral epistles, scripture in general and the congregation's application of those characteristics. . . . They are subordinate to the elders. [Art. II.C]

The church and its ministries are led by elders, other servants, ministerial staff, standing committees . . . and these church officers: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. All leaders come under the general oversight of the elders. [Art. III]

The elders shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church and its members, shall have the general oversight of all aspects of the church and its ministries, shall prayerfully seek, and help implement, God's will for the church, shall keep the church's vision before the congregation, and shall deal with such church business as cannot be delegated. [Art. III.A.1.a]

The elders are responsible to the congregation. As such, their decisions are subject to review and modification at a congregational business meeting. [Art. III.A.1.b]

The elders shall be responsible for the form of the worship services, shall assist the other ministers in conducting these services, shall assist in administering the Lord's Supper and baptism, shall be responsible for the collection of tithes and offerings, shall supervise the ushers, shall select guest preachers, shall be responsible for maintaining peace, for conflict prevention and for resolution of conflict. [Art. III.A.2.a]

The elders shall annually identify each of the ministries of the church. . . . Each ministry shall identify one to three . . . lay leaders to the elders. The elders shall confirm their qualifications, present them to the church, and confirm the leadership of these individuals by recognizing them as responsible for their ministries.[Art. III.A.2.b]

The elders shall organize themselves by assigning their members to oversee the several functions of the church such as Christian education, assimilation and care, conflict prevention and resolution, worship, missions and outreach, and administration and finance as well as overseeing the welfare of various ministries within the church. In exercising this oversight: They may convene councils consisting of ministerial staff and other servants. These councils may assist in planning, coordination of ministry activities, development of budget proposals and provide mutual support and encouragement.[Art. III.A.2.c.i]

[The elders] shall work to build one-to-one mentoring and support relationships with the ministerial staff and other servants for whom they are responsible. [Art. III.A.2.c.ii]

They shall annually review the service of all team-members including the senior minister. The elders shall assist the senior minister in the review of other members of the ministerial staff. Such reviews will be confidential to the elders. [Art. III.A.2.c.iii]

They may establish such ministries, councils and committees as they deem appropriate. . . . [Art. III.A.2.c.iv]

The elders [also] have the responsibility for the oversight and general management of all moneys belonging to the church, for assuring that these moneys are used for the purposes designated, and for the approval of all budgets.[Art. III.A.2.c.vi]

Elders shall be male members in good standing, [that is], they shall be characterized in the manner set forth by the congregation; their private and public lives shall conform to the principles set forth in such Scriptures as: Romans 12:1-2, I John 3:16-18, Psalms 15, II Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:13-16, Ephesians 4:22-32, 5:1-33, Philippians 2:1-8, Colossians 3:5-11, I Peter 3:8-12, 5:2-3, I Timothy 3:2-7, and Titus. And they shall be in full accord with the church's core beliefs as expressed in the new member seminar and other approved church literature. They must be willing to serve, and be able to commit themselves to the priority of service as elders of Christ's church. Each elder shall have demonstrated a consistent Christian witness in their previous service to the various ministries in the church, and in all areas of their lives. [Art. III.A.3]

The elders shall consist of at least two men, including the senior minister, one of whom shall serve as president, one as vice-president on the Board of Trustees. There shall be no maximum number of elders. [Art. III.A.4]

Term limits shall be required of elected elders when the number of qualified elders exceeds 4 and the number of other servants exceeds 8. [Art. III.A.5.a] No person shall be simultaneously an elder and [an elected] servant. [Art. IV.B.3]

Other Servants shall be responsible for leading the ministries of the church. They are responsible to the church, the ministries they lead, and to the elders. They are subordinate to the elders. [Art. III.B.1]

These servants provide personal support to an individual ministry of the church through leadership, through encouragement of those who participate in that ministry, and through prayer for the ministry. [Art. III.B.2.a]

Female servants may serve in any role (except public preaching and teaching of the entire congregation assembled or any role which does not honor male . . . headship [in the family]). . . . [Art. III.B.2.c]

These servants shall be members in good standing, viz., they shall possess such characteristics as set forth by the congregation; they shall in their private and public lives conform to the principles set forth in such Scriptures as: Acts 21:9, Romans 12:1-2, 16:1, I John 3:16-18, Psalms 15, II Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 5:13-16, Ephesians 4:22-32, 5:1-33, Philippians 2:1-8, Colossians 3:5-11, I Peter 3:8-12, 5:2-3, Acts 6:1-6, I Timothy 3: 8-13, and Titus; they shall be in full accord with the church's core beliefs as expressed in the new member seminar material and other approved church literature. Each servant shall have demonstrated leadership ability in this church. They shall also have demonstrated a consistent Christian witness in their previous service to the various ministries in the church, and in all areas of their lives. [Art. III.B.3]

The elders shall confirm their qualifications, present them to the church, and confirm the leadership of these individuals by recognizing them as servants responsible for their ministries. Persons designated as servants will serve for one year and are eligible to serve in consecutive years. [Art. III.B.4]

There shall be at least two (2) of these servants. One shall serve as secretary of the corporate Board of Trustees. One shall serve as treasurer for the same board. There shall be no limit to the number of these servants. [Art. III.B.5]