

CHURCH GOVERNMENT	NOTES:
We are an Elder-Led Church.	
What is an Elder?	
An Elder is the for a leader in the local church.	
In the New Testament the terms "elders", "pastors" and "overseers" were used synonymously. 1 Peter 5:1-2	
Why do we govern Stones Crossing Church this way?	
This is the for church leadership given in the New Testament.	
Nowhere do we see a church being led by a single elder/pastor. There is always a plurality of elders established to govern a local church body.	
- Paul commands it - Titus 1:5, James 5:14	
- Jerusalem church - Acts 11:30, Acts 15:4, Acts 21:18	
- Ephesus church - Acts 20:17, 1 Timothy 5:17	
- Other cities - Acts 14:23	
Elders are responsible for "the ends"	
Staff is responsible for "the means"	
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COMPLEMENTARIANISM

Complementary Roles of Men and Women in Ministry

"All women and men are image bearers of God and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value and have equal access to God through faith in Christ. Both men and women are recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond. Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry in service to the body of Christ and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God."

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 1) While the two genders are different, God created men and w Both bear the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) No class of people can claim special status or privilege in t 	
"Both husbands and wives are responsible to God for spiritual of primary responsibility to lead his wife and family in accordance Jesus Christ. This principle of male leadership should not be contist is to be a loving, tender, and nurturing care of a godly man who	with the servant leadership and sacrificial love characterized by nfused with, nor give any hint of, domineering control. Rather, it
2) God created men and women to have - Upon creation, God identifies woman to be the man's "eze - "Ezer" is used to describe God Himself 11 times! - Complementary roles reflect the glory of God.	
"The elders/pastors of each local church have been granted aut and to teach/preach in corporate assembly for the building up men."	
3) Stones Crossing Church recognizes that God has set apart the Titus 1:5-6 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7 - A pastor should be "the hus	·
The restriction that the Bible places on this office is two-fold:	NOTES:
1) Women are not to hold the biblical office of pastor/elder.	
2) Women are not to publicly preach God's Word over men, which includes the administration of the sacraments.	
See: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 1 Corinthians 14:33-35, Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, & 1 Peter 3:1-7.	



PROVIDENCE AND SALVATION	NOTES:
The Bible presents both realities of God's How these work together is a	
The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. - Deuteronomy 29:29	
WE JOYFULLY EMBRACE THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD. "God from all eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events for the purpose of the revealing of His glory, yet so as not in any way to be the author or approver of any sin, nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of human beings." (Hebrews 1:3, Matthew 10:31-33, and Proverbs 16:33)	
WE BOLDLY PROCLAIM SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. "Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. By that we mean there are no works of the flesh adequate to induce, require, or obligate God to save any particular person because salvation is definitively the work of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 2:47, Romans 5:6-8, and Romans 5:15-17)	
"We acknowledge Scripture does not fully explain the mystery that exists between God's providence (sovereignty) and human responsibility. We hold that the question of God's providence over salvation is a secondary matter and must be treated as such. We must allow for freedom for every person in our congregation to hold personal convictions on this matter within the bounds of Christian orthodoxy."	



CHURCH DISCIPLINE	NOTES:
Church Discipline is a Biblical practice, modeled after the relationship we have with God, and explicitly commanded in	
scripture. (See: Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13)	
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Purpose:	
To people back into right relationship with God and with other believers.	
The Process: Step 1	
Matthew 18:15 - "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." Who: The people involved alone.	
Step 2	
Matthew 18:16 - "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."	
Who: The people involved plus one or two others who can be biblically discerning and objective.	
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Step 3 Matthew 18:17a - "If he refuses to listen to then, tell it to the	
church."	
Who: The people involved plus church leadership.	
Step 4 Matthew 18:17b - "And if he refuses to listen even to the church,"	
let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."	
Who: The people involved, church leadership, and the church membership.	
Other pertinent passages:	
Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:1-4; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians	
6:1-2; Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Hebrews 13:17; James 5:19-20	



GOSPEL-CENTERED	NOTES:
Definition: The gospel is the power of God for salvation, the framework for the Christian worldview, and the catalyst for Christian spiritual growth.	
1) THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION We believe the gospel is the good news of what God has accomplished through the sinless life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, namely our forgiveness of sins and justification before God. (Romans 1:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24, and Romans 5:1-2)	
1 Corinthians 15:1-8 – comprehensive summary of the gospel.	
2) THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW We look outward with hope both to the present and future, believing that the justifying work of Jesus Christ serves as the foundation for a believer's confidence in the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom resulting in new heaven and new earth for the praise of God's glory. (2 Peter 3:12, Revelation 21:1-4, Isaiah 66:22, and Hebrews 12:28)	
2 Peter 3:4-9 – The gospel shapes our view of the world.	
3)THE CATALYST FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH We look inward with gospel hope at our ongoing struggle with sin and our continual need for grace as believers. Gospel-centeredness acknowledges that grace is what enables not only salvation for unbelievers but growth in Christ for believers. The gospel is not only the gateway into the Christian life, but also the pathway of the Christian life. (Titus 2:11-14, 1 Peter 2:24, and Romans 8:1-3)	
Galatians 2:11-14 – The gospel shapes our actions.	
1) God doesn't exist to help us achieve our goals, rather we exist to 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 11:36; Psalm 73:24-26; John 17:2	
2) The local church exists to to Ephesians 4:11-12	do the work of ministry.
3) is the centerpiece of every Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39, 46	message as they point to Jesus.



SACRAMENTS	NOTES:
Baptism	
What does baptism symbolize?	
1) Cleansing of sin as an act of God's mercy. Acts 22:16 - Paul uses the symbolism of washing away sins to describe baptism.	
2) Unification with Jesus Christ. Romans 6:3-11; Galatians 3:27	
3) Outward proclamation of faith.	
How should baptism be administered?	
1) Baptism should be done once. <i>Ephesians 4:5</i>	
2) Any baptized believer can baptize another under the administration of a pastor.	
3) Stones Crossing Church does baptism by immersion based on the biblical record.	
The Lord's Supper 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	
1) Remember Christ's Death We are proclaiming the Lord's death The Gospel. Jesus died in our place as our substitute, the innocent for the guilty. Isaiah 53:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18	
2) Remember We Live By Faith	
We depend on him for life. Colossians 1:16-17	
We depend on him for salvation. John 14:6, Acts 4:12	
We depend on him for power for living godly lives. 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9	
3) Remember The New Covenant The Lord's Supper ushers in the New Covenant by His blood. Jer 31:31-34, Ezk 36:26-27; Jn 1:16-17, Heb 8:6-13	



