

Church Discipline Policy

The church is the reflection of Jesus Christ and thus must promote unity, love and purity among its members. The Chapel, in a desire to glorify Christ, recognizes the role of self-discipline and church discipline as taught in the Scriptures. The following policy is designed to inform the congregation of the process the elders will follow in situations they deem necessary for church discipline.

The Chapel policy on church discipline recognizes that we all have a responsibility to judge ourselves and confess our sins as necessary in the privacy of our walk with Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:31-32) We also recognize that one of the ways we love each other is through gentle exhortation when we find a fellow believer walking in disobedience. (Galatians 6:1) If after private exhortation the disobedience continues, the concerned member should take one or two others along to confront the offender. (Matthew 18:6) If the offender continues in disobedience after this encounter the concerned member should bring the situation to a Chapel elder or pastoral staff member. At least two leaders will meet with the individual and seek through counsel, the Scriptures and prayer to restore the offender to fellowship through repentance. If the offender refuses the council of the "church" as represented by the leaders, the final step will be to disassociate with the individual. (Matthew 18:17b, 1 Corinthians 5:11-13) This will include the removal from the church membership, any positions of ministry within the church and the withholding of communion. The individual will still be encouraged to attend the public worship services of The Chapel. The notification of such action will be simply stated in a worship service. "John Doe has been removed from The Chapel membership in order to preserve the unity, love and purity of the church." The goal of this policy is to honor Christ's word, maintain His glory in the church and to motivate the restoration of the offender to the Lord and the Body.

Approved by the Board of Elders (June 6, 2006)