



ECWA Church Training

For
Fellowship Groups Leaders and Small
Group Leaders

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ECWA grew out of SIM's ministry (formally **Sudan Interior Mission**; Now: **Serving In Missions**). It began its work in Nigeria in December 1893 through the pioneering efforts of

Walter Gowans

Rowland Bingham

Thomas Kent



WALTER GOWANS (23) THOMAS KENT (25) ROWLAND BINGHAM (21)



The Church planted then was called **SIM** church but it was handed over to nationals in **1954**. ECWA was registered in Nigeria as **Evangelical Churches of West Africa** on June 11, 1956. Later the name was amended to be: **Evangelical Church of West Africa** and now: **Evangelical Church Winning All**.

Officially, ECWA formerly launched its foreign missions during the centennial celebrations in **December 1993 when its own 'three pioneer couples' were commissioned at the Jos township stadium.**

Simon & Ruth Yako - Togo

Joshua and Joanna Bogunjoko - Niger

Sunday & Grace Bwanhot - USA

**ECWA'S FIRST
OFFICIAL FOREIGN
MISSIONARIES
COMMISSIONED IN
DECEMBER 1993**

**SUNDAY & GRACE
BWANHOT**

SIMON & RUTH YAKO

**JOSHUA & JOANNA
BOGUNJOKO**



Current Countries where ECWA is Ministering

1. Nigeria
2. Benin Republic
3. Togo
4. Ghana
5. Guinea
6. Gambia
7. Senegal
8. Mali
9. Burkina Faso
10. Niger
11. Chad
12. Cameroon
13. Malawi
14. Zambia
15. Ivory Coast
16. Israel
17. Canada
18. United Kingdom
19. United States of America



Church Governments

There are three basic types of church government:

- ***Episcopal***
- ***Presbyterian***
- ***Congregational.***

These terms are not always synonymous with the denominations that use the same name. Other churches with different names also share the same type of government. Each type has its strengths and weaknesses.




Episcopal

Episcopal, means that the local church is governed by a bishop (*episkopas* in Greek). *The polity of the Eastern Orthodox, Coptic, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, and (some) Lutheran Episcopal Churches*, use this form of government. Basically, a bishop (the actual title may vary) oversees the churches, appoints pastors, sets policy, and guides the vision of the local congregations. This type of government can leave little freedom for the local pastor or congregation to be led by the Holy Spirit.



Presbyterian

- **Presbyterian** (from the Greek *presbuteros* for elder) means the local church is governed by a small group of elders (overseers) who are responsible for all decisions related to the functioning of the church. Presbyterian and Reformed churches use this form of government. All decisions regarding church policy are placed in the hands of select group of elders (the presbytery), who are appointed in various ways. The presbytery rules over the local pastor who in turn rules over the congregation. Sometimes this can place the God-appointed leader, the pastor, under the authority of those he is supposed to lead.
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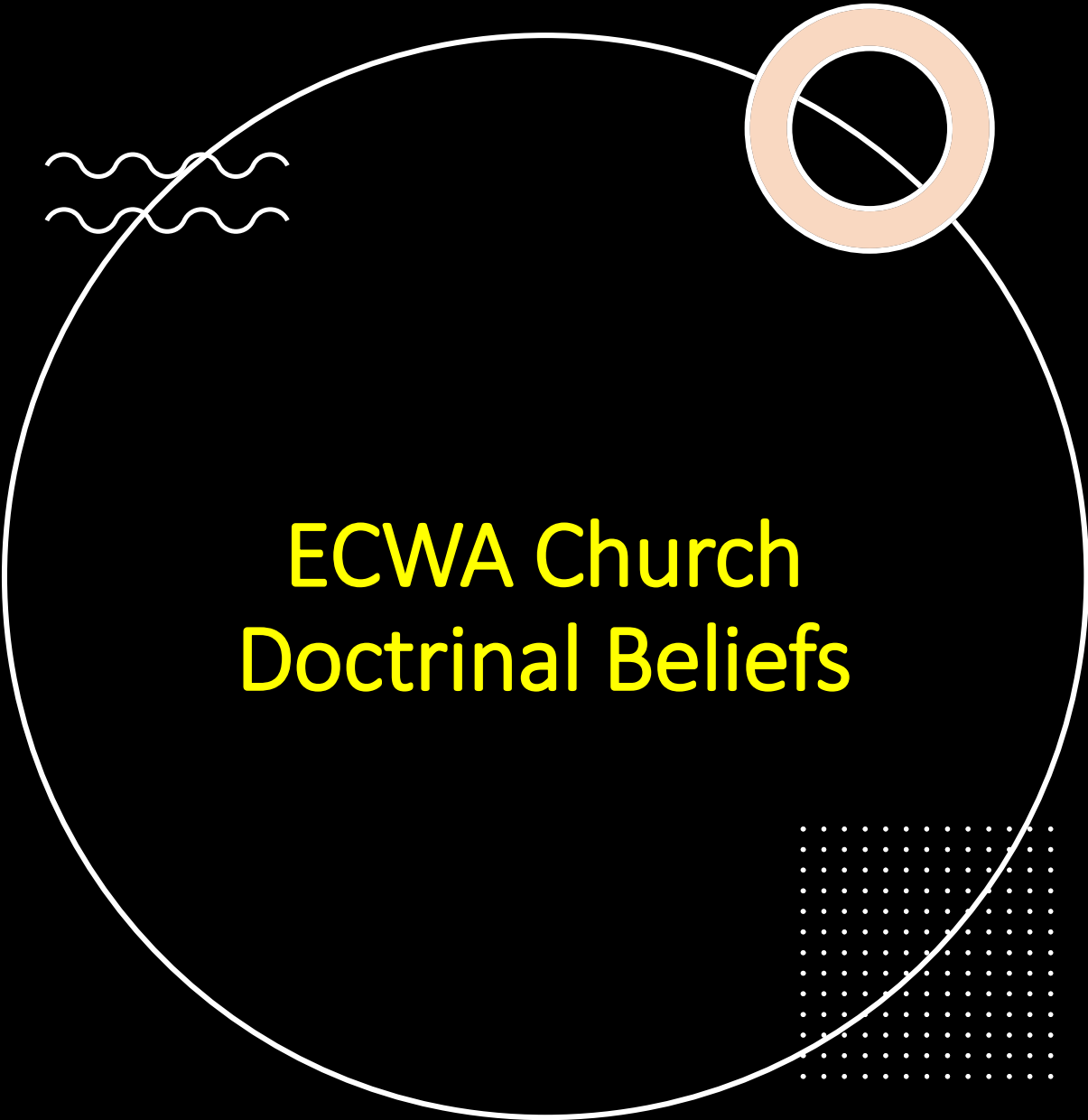


Congregational

Congregational: means that the body of believers constituting the local church (the congregation) govern themselves through some form of democratic process (Could be: *i. Single elder/pastor led. ii. Democratic congregational iii. Plural elder-led*). Congregational, Baptist, Pentecostal, Brethren, and non-denominational churches use this form of government. It appeals more to our sense of democracy. The congregation votes on matters of church policy, how to spend money, and hiring a pastor. Problems can occur when the pastor is not allowed to lead under the direction of the Holy Spirit and sometimes becomes nothing more than a hireling.

ECWA's Form of Government

- ▶ ECWA started as SIM Church composed of missionaries from different forms of Church Government.
- ▶ SIM formed a unique type of Church government incorporating different aspects from the three forms of government. This is what was passed on to ECWA.
- ▶ **Episcopal** – Where Bishops rule: ECWA DCC Chairmen are bishops
- ▶ **Presbyterian** – Where Elders rule: Elders have power in ECWA
- ▶ **Congregational** – Where the congregation rules. We have this democratic process at the GCC and at the LC level where Church family meetings are held and members vote on some issues.



ECWA Church Doctrinal Beliefs

- Key verse 1Timothy 3:16-17

Church doctrine - the written body of teachings of a religious group that are generally accepted by that group. Religious doctrine, creed, gospel etc.

The Scriptures

- The 66 books of the Bible are the inspired Word of God and final authority for faith and practice.
- 2Tim 3:16-17, 2Pt. 1:21.

Triune God

- There is one God existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Deut. 6:4 Mat. 28:19, Col 1:15; Heb. 1:1-13

Jesus Christ

- Very God and very Man. Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of virgin Mary.
- Phil 2:5-8; Heb. 1:3, 7:25; 1John 2:1-2

Holy Spirit

- The 3rd Person of the Godhead.
- Rom. 8: 9, 11, 15; John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8

Angels

- Created spirit-beings who are messengers of God.
- Is 14:12-17; Ps. 34:7; 91:11-12, Jude 6

Man

- Created in the image of God but sinned and without hope apart from the grace of God.
- Gen 1:26, 27; 2:17; Rom 3:12-19; Eph. 2:11-12

Salvation

- Received as a gift (grace) through faith in the atoning work of Christ.
- Ac. 4:12, Ro. 5:8, Ep 2:8-9

Assurance of Eternal Security

- Those who truly believe and receive Jesus Christ are assured of salvation forever.
- Ro. 8:31-39, 1Jhn 5:13, Heb 7:25

Sanctification

- Believers set apart unto God: Positional, Progressive, and Ultimate sanctification.
- John 17:17; Rom 8:29-30; 2Corth 3:18; 7:1; Ep 4:24, 5:25-27

The Church

- Embraces all true believers and is the Bride of Christ.
- Acts 2:41, 46-47; Eph 1:22-23

Ordinances

- The Lord's Supper and Water Baptism by immersion.
- Mt. 28:19; Acts 2: 42; 8:36-38

Christian Life and Service

- We are saved unto good works.
- Eph. 2:10; Tit. 3:8; James 2:17

Spiritual Gifts

- Bestowed by the Holy Spirit on all believers for the edification of the Body.
- Rom. 12:6-8; 1Corth 12:4-11; Eph 4:11

The Blessed Hope

- The pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ to rapture the believers.
- John 14:1; 1Corth 15:51-52; 1Thess 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14

The Tribulation

- A period of divine judgment upon the world after the rapture of the Church.
- Dan 9:27, Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 6:1-17, 19-21

The Resurrection:

- All the dead will be resurrected - believers to everlasting blessedness and joy with God and unbelievers to everlasting damnation. John 5:28-29; 2Thess 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15.



STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

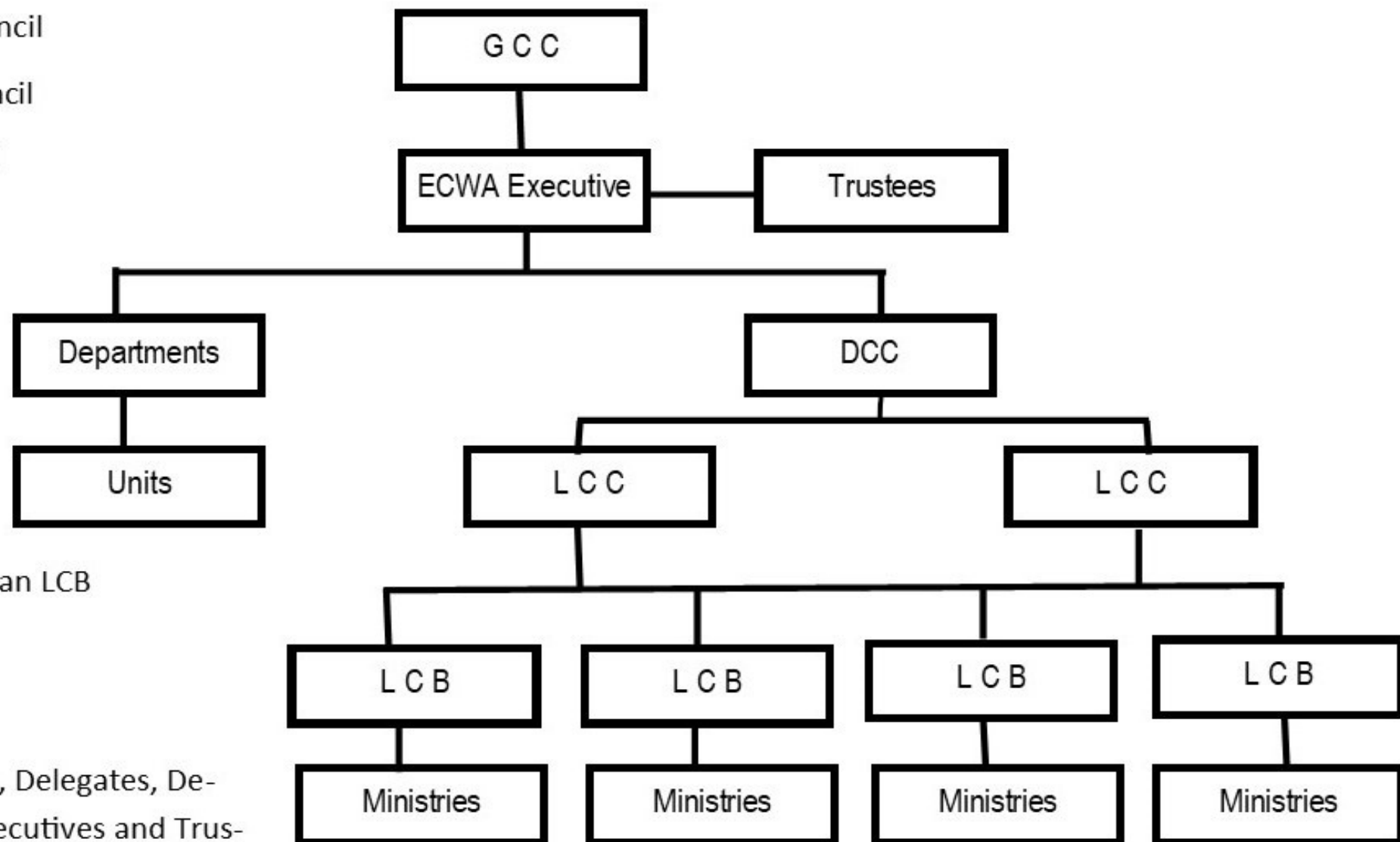
ECWA Structure

GCC = General Church Council

DCC = District Church Council

LCC = Local Church Council

LCB = Local Church Board



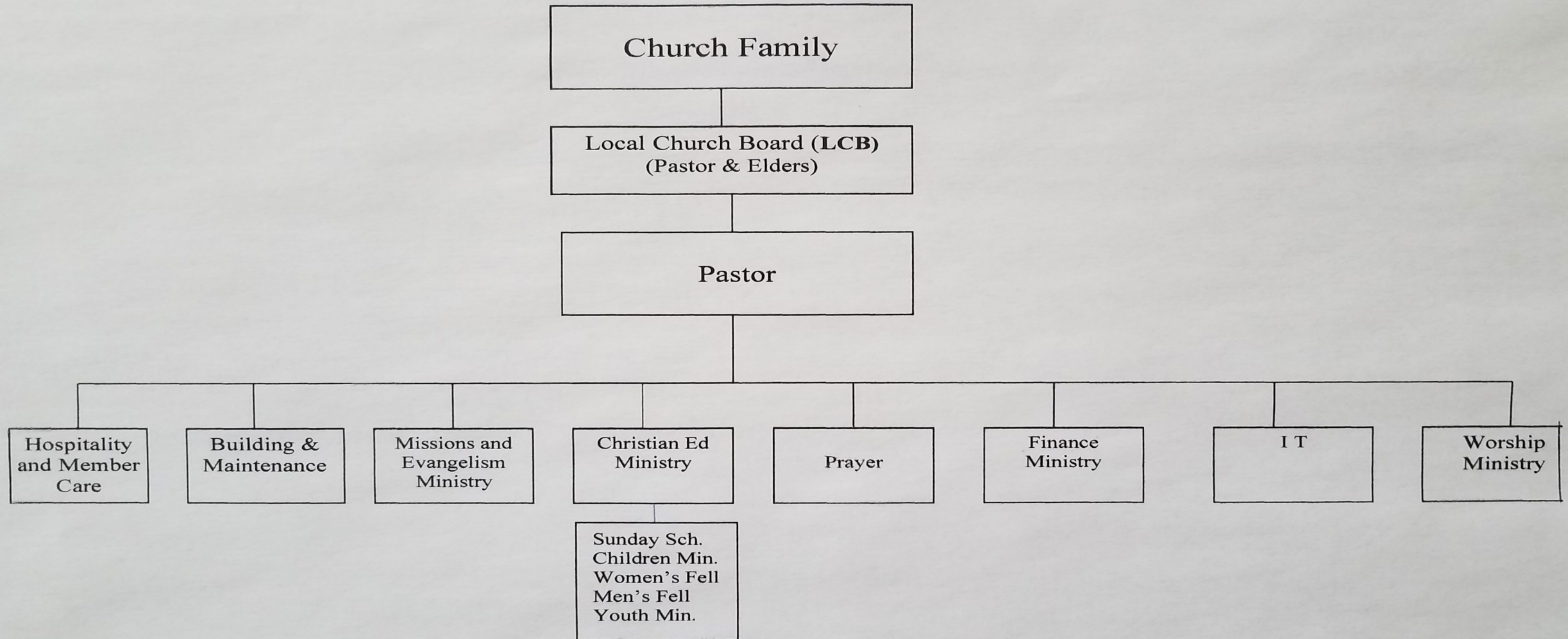
7 Baptized members form an LCB

7 LCBs make one LCC

7 LCCs make one DCC

DCC Chairmen, Secretaries, Delegates, Department heads, ECWA Executives and Trustees form the General Church Council.

ECWA Local Church (LC) Structure



LEADERS OF FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- Leader
- Assistant Leader
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Treasurer
- ETC.
- Job functions for each position are spelled out and we are to abide by them
- Normally each elected person serves for a term of 3 years and could be re-elected a second 3-year term. Thereafter, he/she must take a break for at least a term.
- Abide by the ECWA Constitution, By-Laws and Fellowship Guide.



BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP

Remarks about Leadership

It is necessary

There are leaders with titles
and positions assigned

There are leaders without titles
or positions assigned

Leadership in the church of
Christ is a spiritual engagement

We will go through several
areas in the brief time we have.

1. Church Leadership is a Calling

- **Key verse Acts 13:2, Rom. 1:1; Heb. 5:4**

If it is not God's call, then it is your call. In this case, you will be on your own and the most likely outcome is that you will be serving your own interests and not those of Christ.

- Be sure it is God's call

Check List: Check your motive for leadership: **1Pt. 5:1-4**

- Willing to be a shepherd?
- Willing to serve willingly?
- Not greedy for money?
- Not eager to exercise power and lord it over others?
- Willing to be an example?

Note: God's calls have thorns and not just roses.

**Share your call to church leadership*

2. Personal Spiritual Life of Leader

- *Key verse 1 Timothy 4:13, 16*
You cannot give what you do not have. You must first be what you want your people to be.
- Must have a personal relationship with Christ. [Rom. 10:9,10; 1Jh 5:11-13](#)
- Obedience to Christ in all aspects. [John 15:10](#)
- A growing Prayer life. [Col. 4:2](#)
- A student of the Bible [2Tim. 2:15, 2Tim. 3:16-17](#)
- Fellowship with other believers. [Heb. 10:25](#)
- Hate sin, love for righteousness. [Titus 2:11,12](#)
- Filled with and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit [Eph. 5:18, Gal. 5:22-26](#)
- Growing in Christ's likeness (Character) [2Cor. 3:18](#)
- Manage your own home well. [1Tim. 3:4-5](#)

Qualities of a Servant Leader

Key verse
Matthew 20:25-28

How you respond when
you are treated as a
servant is the real test
of who a true servant
leader is.

Servant of all.

Matt. 20:26-27

**Not lord it over
others.**

Matt. 20:25

Jesus' way.

Matt. 20:28

**Humble yourself
like a child.**

Matt. 18:1-4

**Be like the
youngest.**

Luke 22:26

Be the last.


Mark 9:35

Be the least.

Luke 9:48



Jesus' example. Phil. 2:1-11

- No force
 - No blind ambition
 - No reputation
 - Took on human form
 - Obedient
 - Died
- 



- **Key verse Phil. 1:27**

- **The necessity of Team work:**

- It recognizes and utilizes each other's gifts (1Corth. 12) Each one contributes according to their special God-given ability (Neh. 3; Rom. 12:3-8)
- It enhances the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-7)
- It encourages shared labor (Ex. 18:13-27; Num 11:24-30; Acts 6:1-4)
- It provides mutual support (Ecc. 4:9-12; Pro. 11:14)
- It is the result of a wholesome relationship (Amos 3:3)
- It is a divinely-sanctioned method of ministry (1Corth 1:10)
- It results in answered Prayers. Matt. 18:19



Facts about Teams

- Our differences build strong teams (Recognize, Realign, Respect and Relate trustingly)
- Commitment to common goals and each other essential (Concern for the team goals, goals of team members and your own goals)
- Build trust through genuine love for one another



Challenges are surmountable if:

All team members are genuinely born again

All team members are well informed & subscribe to the goals of the church or fellowship

All team members are encouraged to seek the greater good rather than personal good.

Through love, prayers & honesty, team challenges could be resolved, and the team becomes stronger.

Partnership with other Saints

3 John
5-8

Seek and partner with saints at individual and corporate levels.

Christian faith has no provision for independent or stand-alone members

Overview of Leadership Principles from the Bible

1. Divine
Appointment: Gen
12:1; Ex 3:9-10; Judg
6:14; Acts 13:2; 26:16

2. Delegation:
Ex. 18:17-23

3. Accountability:
Rom. 14:12

4. Preparation
(Apprenticeship)
Moses, Joshua,
Elisha, David,
Apostles; etc

5. Sensitivity to
spiritual things
1Sam. 16:7

6. Skill –
Organization &
Motivation:
Nehemiah, Daniel,
etc.

Overview of Leadership Principles from the Bible

7. Servanthood: Matt. 20:25-28

8. Stewardship: Related to tools: 1Peter 4:10

9. Ministry: Related to people: 2Corth 5:18

10. Modeling: 1Tim. 4:12, 2Tim. 2:2

11. Sacrifice: Ex. 32:32; John 10: 14-15

12. Lifelong

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

