



The Resolved Church

Leadership Development Process

Current state of The Resolved Church ecclesiology

- Our stated doctrine is a plural eldership model of church government.
- In many ways our actual church government appears and operates as a Episcopalian model of church government (see attached diagram) with Pastor Duane Smets as the sole Elder.

Plan for aligning the current state of The Resolved Church with its doctrinal convictions.

- Exposed virtual Elders. This means their names, pictures and credentials posted on the web. In addition, they will be available through Pastor Duane if necessary.
- Written and posted statements of Elder role, Deacon role, and Plural Elder government.
- The creation of a leadership process for Elders and Deacons.

Leadership process for Elder(s) and/or Deacons coming from within The Resolved Church

- Step 1. Regular Sunday attendance and mid-week involvement (minimum 1 month).
- Step 2. Participation in a Sunday service care team (minimum 2 months).
- Step 3. Express an interest and/or be invited to the Leadership Development Group.
- Step 4. After three months of involvement in Leadership Development Group, potential leader will be given "Biblical Eldership" and "The New Testament Deacon" by Alexander Strauch to read. A chapter from each book will be discussed at the Leadership Development Group meeting.
- Step 5. After the completion of "Biblical Eldership" and "The New Testament Deacon" an evaluation of calling to "Elder," "Deacon," or neither.
- Step 6. If calling to "Elder" then a 2 year process begins. At the end of the two year process the Elder candidate will be put before the congregation for a 1 year confirmation period. If calling to "Deacon" then the Deacon candidate will be put before the congregation on the next appropriate Sunday for a 1 year confirmation period.
- Step 7. At the end of the Elder or Deacon confirmation period the candidate will be given an oral examination by The Resolved Church Elders. This examination will address both life and doctrine.
- Step 8. If the first six steps are completed the current Elders will collectively take into consideration any congregational input and consider the candidacy. If there is unanimous agreement for approval, the Elder or Deacon will publicly be confirmed, enstated with all the rights and privileges thereof, including legal ordination for Elders.

Leadership process for Elder(s) and/or Deacon(s) coming from outside The Resolved Church

- Step 1. One who is called to be an Elder or Deacon and who served as such at a previous church must be sent and released with blessing from that church, unless the leaving was due to a doctrinal disagreement not in conflict with the stated doctrine of The Resolved Church. In either case, an Elder of the previous church must be contacted by an Elder of The Resolved Church.
- Step 2. Fill out and submit the Acts 29 Application Packet and submit it to The Resolved Church.
- Step 3. Must have read "Biblical Eldership" and "The New Testament Deacon" by Alexander Strauch and be well educated in the Plural Elder Government of The Resolved Church.
- Step 4. Must agree with the doctrinal statement of The Resolved Church.
- Step 5. Must assimilate into The Resolved Church for 4 months as a potential candidate for Elder or Deacon confirmation. This includes full participation in The Resolved Church leadership group, member meetings, Sunday service teams, and the completion of Theo 101 (The Resolved Church membership and gospel class).
- Step 6. Must be unanimously approved by the existing elders.
- Step 7. At the end of the Elder or Deacon confirmation period the candidate will be given an oral examination by The Resolved Church Elders. This examination will address both life and doctrine.

Step 8. If the first six steps are completed the current Elders will collectively take into consideration any congregational input and consider the candidacy. If there is unanimous agreement for approval, the Elder or Deacon will publicly be confirmed, enstated with all the rights and privileges thereof, including legal ordination for Elders.

The leadership process may be extended and/or terminated under the following circumstances occurring during the candidacy period:

1. The Elders of The Resolved Church perceive a failure to meet the biblical qualifications as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9.
2. Sexual activity with anyone who is not a spouse. This includes inappropriate sexual comments and touching, use of pornography, and lustful masturbation.
3. Drunkenness of any kind. This includes intentional, repeated, and incidental drunkenness.
4. Use of illegal narcotics or the abuse of prescribed medication.
5. Repeated negligence toward the leadership development process.
6. Repeated unnecessary conflict with members or Elders of The Resolved Church.

Diagram of 2008 Church Ministry Structure

