

Olive Drive Church

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January 31, 2010

Dear Olive Drive Church,

As a result of a year of study, the board of elders and the pastoral staff has discovered a rich understanding of what it means to lead and shepherd the church as Elders. Through this study, we have come to realize that, biblically speaking, the office of elder and the office of senior pastor are the same office. Our current system at Olive Drive Church differs from the system we see in the Scriptures in that the senior pastor serves as the spiritual leader of the church while the elders function essentially as a board of directors who offer counsel to him. We believe that this does not follow the Scriptures' outline for us on how to lead the church with wisdom, efficiency, excellence, and humility.

In essence, we believe the Scriptures teach that the spiritual leadership of the church is to be vested in a group of God ordained, God qualified, biblical Elders of which the senior pastor is one. In other words, we have come to believe that the function and roles that have historically been vested into the senior pastor at Olive Drive Church should be given to a group of men whom God calls, equips, and qualifies to lead our church as biblical Elders.

Over the next seven weeks, we will be teaching the church what we believe is a biblical view of church leadership and specifically clarify what the office of biblical Elder is. During those seven weeks, we will give you numerous chances to ask questions, share your feelings, and voice your concerns about the topic through a comprehensive teaching plan that will include a seven week sermon series on Sundays, as well as literature, podcasts, mid-week teaching, and various Q&A sessions.

At the end of those seven weeks, we will ask for permission from the church membership to begin the process of calling, equipping, and ultimately appointing a group of men into the office of biblical Elder. This change will come through a vote by the congregation endorsing the following resolution:

After seeking wisdom from God through prayer and the study of His Word, it is my desire to see ODC transition into a church led by biblical Elders. Therefore, I authorize the current board to call for, equip, and ultimately recommend for appointment by the congregation the men that God chooses for the office of biblical Elder. At that time, the current board, along with the office of senior pastor, will be exchanged for a group of biblical Elders (as defined in the document "What is a Biblical Elder?").

We understand that there are many questions that this brief letter does not cover, and our hope is over the next two months you will have your voices heard, all of your questions answered, and your concerns addressed so that you can vote with confidence on this resolution.

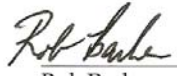
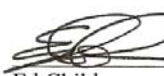
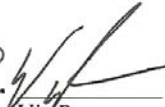
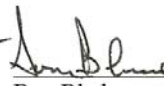


In the end, we feel our time in the Scriptures dealing with this issue has not only given us a deeper appreciation for God and His church, but has also in many ways challenged each of us to be more fully devoted followers of Christ who are loving others out of an overflow of hearts that are growing in community in our enjoyment of God. As you join us in the study of what church leadership is, we believe your time in the Scriptures will be just as rewarding as it has been for us.

We are excited to walk together with you as we seek God's will.

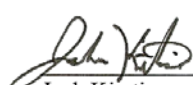



Sincerely,



Mike Popovich
Senior Pastor

 Rob Barber Elder	 Ed Childres Elder	 Vic Posey Elder	 Don Bledsoe Elder	 Manon Hockersmith Elder	 Peggy Naab Elder
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 Darren McKinsey Elder	 Steve Annis Elder	 Mark Nolan Elder
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 Josh Kirstine Lead Pastor Great Room Community	 Nathan Baldwin Worship Arts Pastor	 Bill Magsig Discipleship Pastor	 Mike Gleim Youth Pastor
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