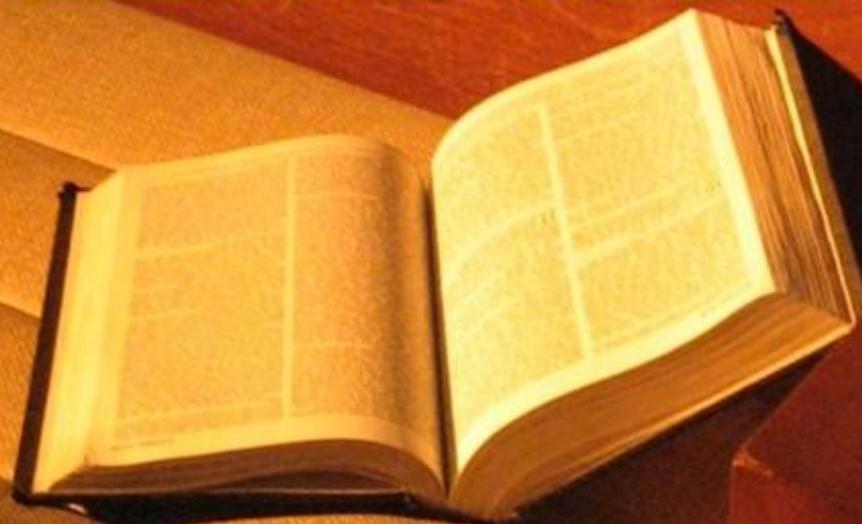


CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE



Special Sermon Series at Crosstown

Is the Preacher the Pastor?

- Nowhere in the NT is the preacher “in charge” of a church
- Elders are identified as overseeing a local congregation (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; James 5:1)

Getting the Terms Right

- “Pastors”

- Clearly distinguished from the role of an evangelist/preacher (Eph. 4:11)

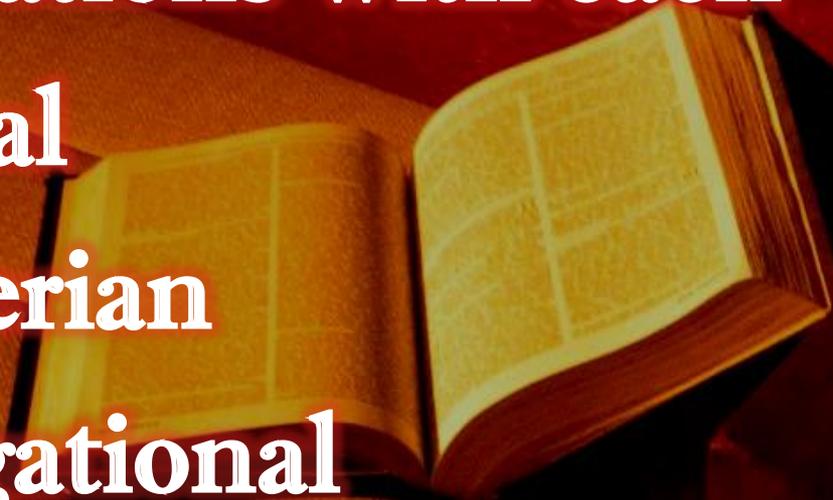
- Means “a shepherd”

- Another way of referring to elders

- Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2

Forms of Church Government

- There are only three forms, with many variations with each
 - Episcopal
 - Presbyterian
 - Congregational



Forms of Church Government

–Episcopal

- Comes from a Greek word usually translated “overseer” (Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; Titus 1:7)

Episcopal

Archbishop

Bishop

Priest

Forms of Church Government

–Presbyterian

- From a Greek word translated “elder”
(Act 20:17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet 5:1)

Presbyterian

**Synods/General
Assemblies**

Presbytery

Elders

Forms of Church Government

Congregational

- No level of authority above the local congregation
- Each church is completely autonomous

• In her book “The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church,” Carmen Renee Berry rightly says that churches of Christ

- “have no central headquarters with no overriding organizational structure at all.”

- “I respect the way they have translated their beliefs into action. They believe the original church was organized around local congregations. Other groups agree with this idea but go right ahead and organize denominations anyway.”

What about the Jerusalem Conference?

- Antioch sent a group of its members to the Jerusalem church to answer the question of Acts 15:1-2
 - Is this one church having authority over another?
 - Some kind of regional ruling body like a presbytery?

What about the Jerusalem Conference?

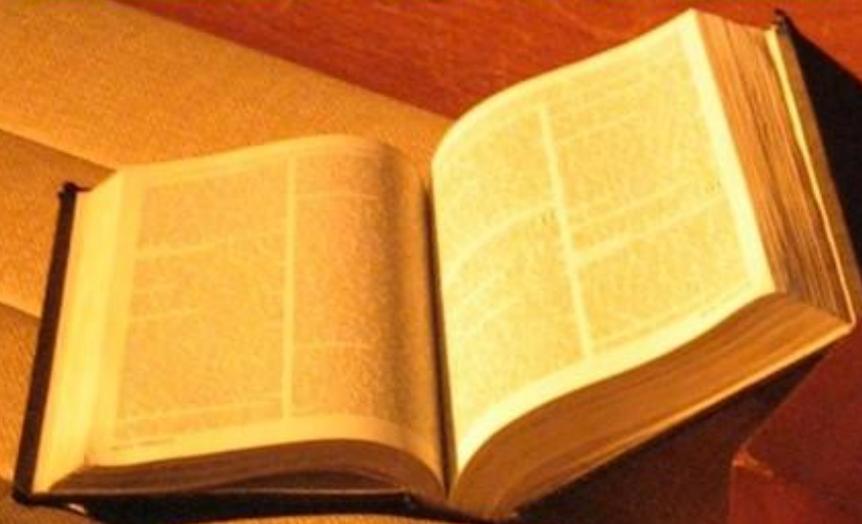
- That's where the apostles were (Acts 15:4-6)
 - Notice both the elders and apostles together (Acts 15:22-23; 16:4)
 - The apostles still have authority today (cf. Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:19-20)

Church Organization to be cont'd

- God placed two special offices in the local church – elders and deacons



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