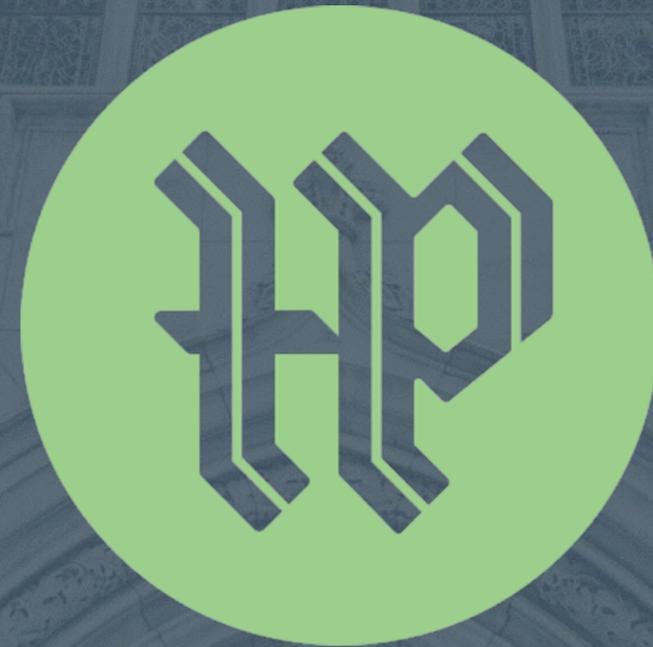




Essential Tenets



Elders and Church Membership



Elders and Church Membership

“receive and dismiss covenant partners”
(ECO Polity, Responsibilities of the Session, 1.0603c)

“those who wish to embrace the congregation’s
covenantal expectations **may become covenant
partners by action of the session**”
(ECO Polity, Entry into Covenant Partnership, 1.0303)



Elders and Church Membership

“The **congregation’s fellowship shall be open to all** who seek to explore spiritual life by participating in the fellowship of the risen Lord. The congregation shall be gracious in providing pastoral care to all who consider themselves a part of the congregation, in the hope that these spiritual friends might become members of Christ’s body.”

(ECO Polity, Openness to All, 1.0302)

“After completing a meaningful preparation process as determined by the session, **those who wish to embrace the congregation’s covenantal expectations may become covenant partners** by action of the session after hearing testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

(ECO Polity, Entry into Covenant Partnership, 1.0303)



Elders and Church Membership

“Each covenant partner shall strive to be faithful to Christ by **participating in the congregation’s worship, fellowship, and service on an ongoing basis.** Faithfulness in Christ as a covenant partner, involves **a commitment to growth into spiritual maturity** as a disciple of Christ and **dedication of time and talents to the congregation’s mission and ministry**, in accordance to the gifts that God has bestowed upon him or her. Faithfulness also involves the **stewardship of finances.**”

(ECO Polity, Expectations of Covenant Partnership, 1.0305)



Elders and Church Membership

In what ways should elders encourage and expect covenant partners to serve and grow within our body?

In what situations, if any, should someone be removed from covenant partnership at HP Pres?



Elders and Church Membership

“The **responsibility and authority for discipline in a particular church belongs to the session.**”

(ECO Rules of Discipline, 2.2)

“The **purpose of church discipline is redemptive: to correct and restrain sin; to help the spiritual growth of people;** to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved; to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring covenant partners to repentance and restoration; and to correct the weaknesses, mistakes and offenses of individuals and councils. **Appropriate reasons for discipline are actions contrary to the faith and practice to which, according to Scripture, all Christians are called,** or which are contrary to the Constitution of ECO.”

(ECO Rules of Discipline, 1.1)



Elders and Church Membership

In what moral situations, if any, do you think elders should engage in church discipline of covenant partners?