



## ELDER *Code of Conduct*

*[Document approved by the Board Jan 2014]*

As Elders of Harvest Bible Chapel, for the sake of Christ and His church, we covenant with each other to submit ourselves fully to this code of conduct regardless of personal cost and will not expect to continue in this privileged capacity of service should we fail to abide by the code:

1. I covenant to pray for our church, its staff, congregation and my fellow elders (1 Sam 12:22-24, Eph 1: 15-17).
2. I covenant to model a life consistent with being a mature follower of Christ pursuing personal disciplines of prayer, Bible-study, loving my wife and family, maintaining purity and placing myself in relationships of mutual accountability (1 Cor 6:19-20, 9:26-27, Heb 10:24-25, 1 Thess 4:3-5, 1 Peter 3:7)
3. I covenant to serve weekly in some church capacity outside my ministry as an Elder. I will shepherd the flock through personal ministry of prayer, teaching, disciplining and protecting the church and its mission to the best of my ability even at great personal cost (Acts 20:27-29, 1 Cor 9 23-25, Rom 12:1, 2 Tim 4:5-7, 1 Pet 5:1-3).
4. I covenant to give a tithe of my income at first opportunity to the ministry of this church (Mal 3:7-11, 2 Cor 9:6-8).
5. I covenant to make known any potential conflicts of interest to the Chairman of the Board, or to the Board as a whole, before making any decision or contributing to any discussion, and not use my position for personal gain in order to maintain a level of integrity expected as an Elder at Harvest Bible Chapel (1 Tim 3:2-4, Tit 1:7, 1 Pet 5:1-3).
6. I covenant to respect my fellow elders and will not speak against them publicly or privately, considering them partners in the work of God. With God's help I will believe the best of my elder peers, their expressed views and above all their motives, knowing that they are Godly men who earnestly desire the best for our church as I do (Eph 4:29, 1 Pet 2:1, 1 Pet 3:15).
7. I covenant that I will submit myself to the consensus of the Elder Board as captured by the Board Chairman and that I will prayerfully wait on God to change my heart or redirect the Elders regarding any dissonance I feel about a Board decision. The consensus of the Elder Board will supersede any personal agenda, viewpoint or preference I may have (Eph 5:15-21, Phil 2:3-7).
8. I covenant to hold in complete confidence all Elder discussions and will not disclose my remembrance of any conversation to any non-elder even after I leave the Board. I will make the confidential nature of our interactions for the sake of this church one of my highest priorities as an Elder (Matt 10:16-17, Prov 3:25-27, Ex 23:1)
9. I covenant to follow Board protocols as defined by the Bylaws as communicated from time to time, expecting to discuss items that are on the agenda. I will personally, in advance, ask the Chairman to add anything I wish discussed to the established meeting agenda (Rom 13:1-2, Eph 4:1-5).
10. I covenant to avoid generalizations and characterizations during Board discussion, communicating with specific examples regarding any concern or counsel I bring to the Board (Eph 4:25, 29).
11. I covenant not to garner any personal constituency aligned with my own preferences and apart from Board consensus (Prov 18:17-18, 1 Pet 3:8-9).
12. I covenant to respect the administrative boundaries of another elder's area of responsibility and to view his opinion and expertise more highly than my own. And I will respect the established boundaries between Board and staff and not use my position to access or influence staff in any way that undermines the established authority structure (Phil 2:3-4, 1 Pet 5:1-4).
13. I covenant to speak immediately and freely, but with respect in every meeting according to my own conscience to ensure my thoughts and questions are expressed and included in establishing Elder consensus (Prov 16:20-22, Col 4:5-6).
14. I covenant to speak respectfully of those not present in our meetings including men who have served to the best of their ability in the past regardless of the circumstances under which they no longer serve on our Elder Board (Rom 13:7-8, Eph 4:15-16).
15. I covenant to place the well-being of the church above my own participation and to welcome any decision to limit or end my participation on the Board that the chairman deems necessary (1 Cor 9:27, Heb 13:17).