



# THE **King's Church** Wisbech

## **Being An Overseer Of The King's Church**

**(Overseer's Role Description)**

### **Introductory statement**

In 1 Peter we read that the church exists to serve God, to praise and worship him, to tell the world about him and share the good news of salvation. God is the primary authority in the world. However, God has also appointed human government and we also have to answer to this authority as long as it does not contravene the law of God.

The leadership of the King's church has a 3-fold structure. The first a spiritual role to serve God and the second a secular role to comply with the rule of the government of Great Britain. The first role is undertaken by the Overseers (Spiritual) and the second role of is undertaken by the Trustees (Secular). The Deacons have the third role which helps and assists in both these aspects. The Deacons and Trustees are appointed by the Overseers and are to assist in the running of the church.

In all these roles having the right character is a key requirement for the role. The Character of an Overseer is set out in several passages. 1 Tim 3, Titus 1:6-10, 1 Peter 5:1-12. The character of Deacons or helpers is set out in 1 Tim 3:8-13.

Overseers can receive gifts and payments from the church, 1 Tim 5:17, but do not have to. However, all financial matters should be transparent to the local congregation.

### **Overseers are to:**

- Follow the governing of God the Father by living in step with the Holy Spirit. This means they need be filled with the Spirit. They need to be directed and led by Him, discerning the will of God the Father together as a team.
- Provide the spiritual and pastoral leadership of the church.
- Further the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Work in partnership with each other, the Deaconate and the Trustees.
- Work together with the Trustees and communicate regularly and clearly with them
- Appoint Overseers, Deacons, Trustees and other roles of responsibility within the church in collaboration and consultation with the existing Trustees and Deacons.
- Make decisions that actively promote healthy relationships within the congregation family, with a view to the church being a safe place for all people.
- Lead the church in serving the local community.
- Be accountable to the other Overseers and the church.

## **Spiritual Responsibilities:**

Overseers are sinners saved by grace like every other part of the body. All Overseers do not all have the same role or the same skills, but they do have the same general responsibilities.

- They should look after the congregation. 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- They should be Servant-hearted and place others needs first as exemplified by Jesus in John 13:1-17.
- As good shepherds, feed the congregation spiritually and to protect and care for them when hurt. To offer guidance and discipline where appropriate. 1 Tim 4 & 5
- To speak the truth in love.
- Help the congregation family to grow spiritually and move towards maturity in Christ.
- To help the weak both within and outside of the congregation.
- To oversee and manage those in leadership positions in various roles and ministries within the church

## **Spiritual Wisdom:**

Overseers should:

- Know the Bible and be able to explain to others what it teaches.
- Give guidance and practical wisdom to others based upon what the Bible teaches
- Accept guidance and practical wisdom based on what the Bible teaches from the body of Christ.
- As a body plan the Bible teaching, courses, groups and events within the church and ensure all teaching within the church complies with the teaching of the Bible.

## **What is not part of the role:**

Overseers can be Trustees however the 2 roles are separate. The Trustees have a range of responsibilities which is out lined in their RD. However, in general terms the Trustees have final responsibility for

- The finances for the church
- Health and Safety within the church
- Safeguarding
- Employment of staff