

Process for Appealing a Decision by the Elders

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Process for Appealing a Decision by the Elders Article 2 of the Lockwood Community Church Bylaws begins, “The Elders are called to oversee the Church of God and to protect it and provide spiritual guidance. ...” Article 2, Section 1 states in part, “The New Testament teaches that the church is to be led by a plurality of godly men called ‘Elders.’ They are called by God and affirmed by the Covenant Partners to shepherd, teach, pastor, and otherwise give leadership to the local church.” Article 2, Section 10 reads, “Any person may at any time show cause in writing why an Elder should be disqualified from service. The Elders will decide, after investigation, if sufficient evidence exists to disqualify the Elder in question.”

But what happens when a decision of the elders is not accepted by the person seeking their evaluation? If such cases arise, the elders in consultation with the deacons shall appoint a three-person panel. The members of the panel shall be selected from former elders who remain Covenant Partners and/or other pastors who are committed to Biblical authority.

The panel shall examine the written statements of both the elders and the person (or persons) making the appeal. At the discretion of the panel, in-person interviews may be included. The panel shall review the issue with respect to Biblical passages and principles. At the conclusion of the panel’s deliberations, it shall present a report and decision to the parties involved. At the discretion of the elders, the results may also be presented to the church family if that seems appropriate and/or necessary.