

Alfred Street Baptist Church Council

As those called by God and entrusted by our church family to faithfully and humbly fulfill our responsibilities, as prescribed within our Constitution and By-Laws, as a church council we commit ourselves to the following core principles to guide us in our deliberations and decisions making:

Transparency: We believe that everything should be done to the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31) with full transparency and accountability to our membership. Although some deliberations, of necessity, demand and require a sense of respectful candor, we commit ourselves to ensuring that all the affairs and decisions of this council be accessible to the congregation as we stand accountable to our church and our God for our oversight of church affairs.

Flexibility: We seek to find the appropriate balance between the necessary constraints of governance and the flexibility required to walk by faith. We hold ourselves in commitment to the expectations of our church, as outlined in our Constitution and By-Laws, while at the same time never limiting the hand of God to what has happened before us. We actively listen for the voice of God calling us into new spaces and new ways of doing things while maintaining the integrity of our inheritance. We grant each other, and ourselves as a whole, the space to try new things and correct those things which could have been done better while holding each other responsible for faithfulness and not perfection.

Respect: We respect the call, the intelligence, and the experience of all those who serve on our council, our committees, and other capacities of leadership within our church. We entrust those called and serving to faithfully fulfill their assignments, to be led by God's Spirit, and to make decisions without the need of undue interference or management. As a council we respect the independent voice of each council member, even when we may differ in opinion and perspective, believing that in communal council deliberations we hear and experience God. We also respect the independent working of our committees and strive to affirm their competence to due the work entrusted to them by our church family.

Courageous Conversations: We commit ourselves fully and unreservedly to the teachings of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17. We believe that courageous, honest, and truthful conversations are the only way God can be honored and present in our deliberation and interactions with one another. We commit ourselves to sharing our concerns openly with one another while at the same time actively listening to each other. We do not engage in gossip or rumoring, we speak for ourselves and not for others who refuse to be courageous in conversation. We encourage others, within our Council, Committees, and membership to abide by Jesus' teaching to speak to one another when there is an offense or misunderstanding. We refuse to allow tensions to be unresolved or unaddressed and never pass on anonymous criticism.

People Over Programs: We believe that at the heart of all we do are people who are valuable to God. We value the importance of each and every member and seek to balance their welfare and growth in partnership with the good of the whole. We will be bold in addressing concerns within our church and compassionate in our care for our members.