

## The Ministry; organization of the church

**Who are the ministers of the Church and how are their roles described:** *The ministers of the Church are the congregants (also known as the saints), bishops (also known as overseers), priests (also known as pastors/presbyters), elders and deacons. Their roles are described as such...*

- **these terms have a porous relationship: they are defined by function + biblical precedent + historical record**
- **Holy Orders: Bishop + Priest + Deacon for Holy Order: not using scripture as NT is permeated with it**
- **Bishop:** oversees multiple churches by way of ordinations/sacraments/doctrine and unity: **fills all roles**
- **Priest:** represents Christ's priestly ministry to the church: serves Bishop + intercessor + administrates sacraments
- **Deacon:** assists Bishops and Priests in service to the people; those in need; teaches/serves: **various callings**
- **Saints: Eph 4:11-14:** people of God, formed by ministry gifts within the church to be Christ for the world
  - **Elders:** can exist within the 3-fold ministry + also an authoritative service/protection within the local church
  - **5-Fold Ministry:** ministry gifts of saints; given authority by Bishops/Priests to equip the saints for ministry
  - **Spiritual Gifts:** gifts given to all the people of God, used under ecclesial authority, to witness and serve

**How does the church decide who its ministers will be:** *Ministers are called by God, sense that calling themselves, have that calling affirmed by others, receive the laying on of hands by the elders, the presbytery and or Bishops, and are anointed with oil and received by the local congregation.*

- **2 Tim 1:6-7:** Timothy knew, Paul knew, hands laid on him and called to walk in power + Love + Self-Control
- **Acts 6:1-7:** again, we see the process of mutual discernment and the laying on of hands
- **Purpose:** to be like Christ (all) / **Calling:** differentiated gifts and anointings to serve the church and the world

**Do all churches have a uniform structure:** *While many churches share the traditional structure of Bishop, Priest, Deacon, otherwise known as, The Episcopacy, there are various forms of this structure throughout Christianity and the prayer is that neither isolationism, nor institutionalism, disrupts the work of the ministry through the saints.*

- 3 main forms: Congregational / Presbyterian / Episcopal: most have various forms of these three
- Salem Tab: Overseers (Bishops) + Pastors/Elders (Priests) + Deacons (ordained/service)
- Convergence: the work needed to not fall into institutionalism or isolationism but remain "ancient/future"

**What is the duty of all Christians:** *The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.*

- **"When Christ calls a person, He bids them come and die." Bonhoeffer**
- We come together around the table to celebrate Holy week every week: our homes; "They are not here..."
- **Acts 1:6-8;** to witness with our gifts and callings to those at home, in cultural divide, and beyond the margin