

We will begin the third lecture on Church Order. /Today we will learn about deacons.

/First, let's review what we learned about elders. /There are **inactive elders** from among the elders. /When an elder leaves his current church, he will not have authority as an elder. /He is called an inactive elder when he leaves his local church as a result of unavoidable circumstances and hence leaves his position as an elder. /An elder without authority as an elder is called an inactive elder.

/Next, let's discuss **elders with a leave of absence**. /These are elders who are taking a break from their duties in the church. /They are elders who cannot carry out their duties as a result of sicknesses or personal circumstances. /One also becomes an elder with a leave of absence when the majority of the congregation does not want him in office. /When the congregation does not want him in office, he can petition to the session and will be granted a leave of absence upon the session's decision.

/Next, there are **suspended elders**. They are elders that are given time off from their office as elders for a certain time period. /When an elder has committed a wrongdoing, he is suspended from his office for a certain period of time.

/There are also **deposed elders**. /When an elder has been deposed from his office as an elder, he is no longer an elder. /The session deposes him from his office when he has committed a great sin.

/What must an elder with a leave of absence do in order to be reinstated? /An elder with a leave of absence can be an active elder upon the decision of the session. /Then how can a suspended elder's office be restored? /When a suspended elder repents of his wrongdoing, the session can declare a removal of censures.

/How can a deposed elder be reinstated? /When a deposed elder repents and the session declares a removal of censures, he can then take part in communion. /However, because a deposed elder is no longer an elder, he cannot be reinstated as an elder.

/He must receive two-thirds of the vote in the church. /If he receives more than two-thirds of the vote, he can then become an elder after he is once again ordained.

/Let's discuss the jurisdiction over elders. /When there is one elder and one pastor, what must happen when the elder does wrong? /When the elder does wrong and acknowledges his own sins, the session can govern over him.

/However, if the elder does not acknowledge his own sins, the pastor can report to the presbytery, and the presbytery will hold a ruling based on reference. /Elders are under the jurisdiction of sessions, and pastors are under the jurisdiction of presbyteries. /Elders are representatives of the congregation, and pastors are representatives of the church.

/In South Korea, pastors preach and govern. /In Korea, elders only govern. /If an elder wishes to be a pastor, he must graduate from seminary, pass the examination as a

licentiate, and be ordained as a pastor. /This was additional information about elders.  
/Now we will continue the lecture about deacons.

### **/Chapter 6, Deacons.**

#### **/Section I, Deacons.**

/A deacon must be a blameless male member of the church. /A deacon's office is a perpetual office. /Deacons refer to ordained deacons. /Acts 6:1-3.

#### **/Section II, Qualifications of Deacons.**

/A deacon must have good honor, sincere faith, wisdom and discernment. /A deacon must be respected by others, and his actions must agree with the gospel. /A deacon must also be chosen among those who would set an example for others to follow. /1 Timothy 3:8-13.

/"Deacon" is "diakonos" in Greek. /diakonos. /This means, "servant." /Deacons are those who serve.

#### **/Section III, Duties of Deacons.**

/Deacons work with pastors and elders to look after the deprived and impoverished.  
/Deacons must encourage those experiencing hardships, the widows and the orphaned.  
/Deacons must act under the supervision of the elders of the session, /and distribute among them the collections which may be raised for their use. /Acts 6:1-3.

### **/Chapter 7, Ordinances in a Particular Church.**

/The Church must observe the ordinances that were established by Christ the Head of the Church. /What are the elements of worship?

**/1. Prayer.** /There is representative prayer. /One giving the representative prayer must be well-prepared. /He must pray with all his heart as an individual, and he must do the same when he prays before the church.

**/2. Singing Praises.** /Believers sing praises to God when they worship. /We must sing praises to God with sincere hearts. /Even if pastors are not professional musicians, they must have some musical knowledge.

/Songs of praise must correspond to the main biblical passage that is preached about.  
/Instruments played must be respectful and traditional instruments. /For example, these would refer to the piano and the pipe organ.

/The tunes of the songs of praise must be reverent tunes. We must sing praises with reverent tunes. /The tunes must not include elements of popular songs or secular music. /The unbelieving world enjoys a music style known as rock-n-roll. /This type of music is not good for worship.

**/3. Reading of Scripture.** /We read the main biblical text and we read the main passage of the sermon. /There are also versicles. /Sometimes we read a specific biblical passage to

the congregation. /In the past, believers did not all own Bibles.

/The Gutenberg Bible of Germany was printed in 1450 using a movable metal type. /The Bible began to be wisely distributed thereafter. /We believers must all diligently read our Bibles in our homes. /The Bible was read in chapels in the past when there were no Bibles.

**/4. Exposition and Preaching of Scripture.** /A pastor interprets and preaches on a specific biblical passage. /We must properly interpret the Bible. /We must interpret the Bible with the Bible. /If we do not know the Bible too well, we must learn and then teach.

/We must teach so that believers can easily understand. /We must preach with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /In order to do so, a pastor must study the Bible and be well-prepared. /A pastor must study the Bible in depth and pray diligently as well. .

**/5. Baptism.**

**/6. Communion.** /Baptism and communion are performed more than twice annually in the Presbyterian Church. /It is not wrong to perform the holy sacraments often. /However, if they are performed often, it will easily become habitual sacraments in believers' hearts. /Therefore, it is good to perform baptism and communion two or three times a year. /We will discuss this further in the future.

**/7. Fasting and Thanksgiving.** /Moderate fasting and thanksgiving must be observed before God.

**/8. Scriptural Catechism.** /Those being baptized must be taught the Bible and must take an exam. /In worship today, we do not take time for separate fasting, thanksgiving, and scriptural catechism. /These are performed at special times.

**/9. Offering.** /It is right that believers give offerings to God during worship. /It is common for the Presbyterian Church to have a time of offering during Sunday morning services. /There are tithes and offerings of thanksgiving. /There are also seasonal offerings, such as offerings for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. /We must give offerings to God with thankful hearts.

**/10. Discipline.** /Anyone who commits a sin is disciplined. /Generally, a time of discipline during worship is left out if there is nothing to discipline believers about.

**/11. Benediction.** /2 Corinthians 13:13. /In the Korean Church, only pastors have the rights to benediction. /Pastors are deliverers of God's blessing. /Pastors rely only on God and deliver the blessings God gives his people. /This is addressed more specifically in "The Directory for Worship."

**/Chapter 8, Church Government, and the Several Kinds of Judicatories.**

**/Section I, Necessity of Government.**

/It is absolutely necessary that the government of the Church be exercised under some certain and definite form. /It is expedient, and agreeable to Scripture and the practice of

the primitive Christians, that the Church be governed by congregational, presbyterial and synodical assemblies, and not by individuals. /Acts 15:6.

## **/Section II, Nature and Jurisdiction of Church Courts.**

/Each church court has a rank, but each church court is composed of a pastor and elders, hence a “presbyterian polity.”

/A rank does not refer to classes. /It simply refers to order. /There are higher courts and lower courts. /The session, presbytery, and general assembly are not different classes but an order that God has established. /These are but higher and lower courts.

/Each church court has a “presbyterian polity.” /Each court is organized with the same qualifications. /This is because the session is composed of a pastor and elders, the presbytery is also composed of a pastor and elders, and the general assembly is also composed of a pastor and elders. /Each court has the same rights because they are organized with the same qualifications.

/This is “equal rights of church judicatories.” /Each court has equal rights because they are composed of pastors and elders. /They carry out their duties in church courts, and they neither lose rights nor gain more rights.

/Next, what is a “presbyterian polity”? /The presbytery is the core of church judicatories in Presbyterian government. /Each church is called “a local church of a presbytery.”

/A “presbyterian polity” indicates that each church court is equal because they are composed of a pastor and elders. /Each church court has equal and joint rights to oversee churches. /Each church court oversees one another with equal rights.

/Each court deals with spiritual issues. /They each have the right to maintain holiness and the right to maintain order. /This is what it means to “have a presbyterian polity.”

/First, when there is a dispute regarding the doctrine of the Church and the government, each judicatory must govern according to the teachings of the Bible. /They must govern according to the teachings of the Bible. /They must choose a scope in which lawful steps will be taken to govern.

/The session has the right and scope in which it governs. /The presbytery has the right and scope in which it governs. /The general assembly also has the right and scope in which it governs.

/Each judicatory has the right and scope in which they govern. /There are things the session must do, things the presbytery must do, and things the general assembly must do. /Each judicatory governs in the scope of which they can govern.

/Each judicatory must also be led by the higher courts. The session is led by the presbytery, and the presbytery is led by the general assembly.

/Second, every decision made by the judicatories become “the decision of all churches.” / When a presbytery makes a certain decision, all other presbyteries have made the same decision.

/The decision of a presbytery has the same effect as if all churches have made the same decision. /This is because each judicatory is one body of Christ. /Each church court is mutually connected. /Each judicatory must properly govern according to God’s will.

### **/Section III, Assembly of Judicatories.**

/The session and presbytery assemble at least once a year. /However, it is suitable for the session to assemble once a month. /This is because issues in the church must be resolved right away. /The session must make decisions concerning all businesses in the church.

/The general assembly is held once a year. /Special presbytery meetings and special general assembly meetings can be held as well.

### **/Section IV, Rights of the Judicatories.**

/Judicatories do not punish wrongdoers in the church with laws of state. /People are not put in prison as they are by world laws. /We must not depend on powers of the state. /We must not be spiritually ruled by powers of the state.

/The church cannot punish believers with powers of the world. /The church governs morally and governs over spiritual issues. /If a believer does wrong, he can be deprived of his rights as a member of his church.

/If a believer commits a great wrongdoing, he can be removed as a member of the church and excommunicated. /No matter how great a wrongdoing a believer has committed, the session cannot physically punish him.

/Then what must the church do when a believer has committed a great sin? /The greatest punishment a believer can receive is excommunication.

## **/Chapter 9, The Church Session.**

### **/Section I, Organization of the Session.**

/The session consists of the pastor and ruling elders of a local church. /There must be at least twenty-five baptized and registered members of the church to elect elders. /When elders are elected, one elder must be chosen per twenty-five baptized and registered members of the church.

/If there are one hundred baptized and registered members, how many elders can they elect? /They can elect four elders. /However, not all four must be chosen. /The church cannot elect anyone as elders. Elders must be men of faith and have considerable knowledge and leadership.

### **/Section II, a Quorum of the Session.**

/If there are two elders in the session, the presence of one elder and one pastor constitutes a quorum.

/If there are more than three elders, more than half the total number of elders and one pastor constitutes a quorum. /It is not the majority but half (one-half) of the number of elders.

/If there is one elder, he and the pastor can perform the duties of the session. /If one member of the congregation sins and the elder does not acknowledge the issue regarding his sin, the issue is reported to the presbytery for a ruling based on reference.

### **/Section III, Moderator of the Session.**

/The pastor of the local church is always the moderator of the session. /Except when, for prudential reasons, it may appear advisable that some other minister should be invited to preside; in which case the pastor may, with the concurrence of the session, invite some other minister as they may see meet, belonging to the same presbytery, to preside in that case. /The same expedient may be adopted in case of the sickness or absence of the pastor.

### **/Section IV, Temporary Moderator of the Session.**

/The pastor is the moderator of the session. /However, when a church is without a pastor, the presbytery may send someone to be a moderator of the session until a new pastor is appointed by the church. /The presbytery dispatches someone to be the moderator of the session.

/Even if there is no moderator of the session, the session can take care of both small and big matters. /For example, the moderator of the session must be present for judgment regarding a specific sin, but other than that, the session can take care of administrative work without a moderator of the session.

### **/Section V, Duties of the Session.**

/What does the session do? /First, the session inquires into the knowledge and Christian conduct of the members of the church. /The session looks after the faith and actions of believers. /The session must look after and help believers in knowledge and actions.

/Second, the session oversees the entrance and dismissal of members of the church. /The session appoints believers through a catechism for their studies and admission into the church. /In Korea, believers first study before they are baptized. /They are baptized six months after they complete their studies.

/Parents are encouraged to baptize their infants. /Infant baptism is the practice of baptizing infants before they reach the age of two. /Those moving to another church are issued letters of transfer.

/Third, the session performs worship and the holy sacraments. /If a pastor is not present, the presbytery may send another pastor to perform the holy sacraments. /In the case that only the unlicensed preacher and elders are present, a pastor of the presbytery can

perform the sacraments. /Elders in Korea are not allowed to officiate the sacraments. Elders can help pastors when they officiate the sacraments.

/Fourth, the session ordains elders and deacons. /The session appoints elders and deacons. /Deacons take examinations and are ordained in the session. /Elders take examinations and are ordained in the presbytery. /Elders of smaller denomination take examinations in the general assembly. /Deacons are appointed by the session, and elders are appointed upon passing an examination in the presbytery.

/Fifth, the session collects each kind of offering. /Deacons give and receive offerings. /However, a member of the session oversees the offerings.

/Sixth, the session disciplines. The session must appropriately discipline believers when they sin. /There is admonition of believers. /There is rebuke, /probation, /suspension from communion, /removal as a member of the church, and excommunication.

/To “admonish” is to encourage and persuade. /To “rebuke” is to strictly scold. /“Probation” refers to the restriction of actions for a certain period of time. /One is forbidden from performing specific works in the church for a set period of time. /For example, the periods could range from three months to six months, or even one year.

/“Suspension from communion” means that one is banned from participating in communion. /“Removal as a member of the church” indicates one’s dismissal from the church. /We must discipline fairly according to the severity of believers’ sins.

/Seventh, the session oversees all organizations in the church for spiritual development. /For example, the session oversees church schools, the women’s missionary union, and the men’s missionary union. /They also oversee the choir and other departments.

/Eighth, the session dispatches commissioners of the presbytery. /They choose commissioners to dispatch, submit petitions, and report church occurrences to the presbytery.

/With this we will conclude the third lecture on Church Order. /Thank you.