



Pastors & Elders

At West Side Church, we have an Elder Council that consists of all pastoral staff as well as lay elders. We use the term “elder” to denote one who is unpaid and the term “pastor” to denote those that are paid. We recognize this is not a biblical distinction, but the separate terms are helpful in church organization, policies, and just general communication.

The Pastoral Leadership Team (PLT)

The Pastoral Leadership Team replaces what would be a senior or lead pastor in many churches. Rather than investing the bulk of leadership to a single person, it is divested into three pastors – the Teaching Pastor, Discipleship Pastor, and Missions Pastor. These three men oversee the rest of the staff and work with the Elder Council to lead the church. Because these three are tasked with oversight of the church and make decisions in unity, a significant portion of their time is given to administrative tasks.

Non-PLT Pastors

Rather than having every pastor serve on the PLT and increasing the administrative burden, we have created pastoral positions that are not a part of the Pastoral Leadership Team. These non-PLT pastors are free to focus primarily upon oversight of their ministries and dedication to the ministry of the Word within those areas.

The two other pastoral positions on the staff are the Family Pastor and Worship Pastor. The Worship Pastor reports to the Teaching Pastor; together they oversee Sunday Worship at West Side Church. The Family Pastor reports to the Discipleship Pastor and works with the Family Team (Children's Ministry Director, Youth Director, and Family Pastor) to oversee ministry to families.

Elders and pastors, regardless of position on the staff or council, are equally elders. This means that when it is time to vote and discuss, each member has equal influence on the leadership of the church. However, as staff members, the Worship Pastor is subordinate to the Teaching Pastor, and the Family Pastor is subordinate to the Discipleship Pastor.

We recognize that this dynamic creates relational complexities which can be difficult to navigate. Therefore, it is deeply important for all pastors (Both PLT and non-PLT) to possess Christlike character. Love, humility, wisdom, servant-leadership, and openness to receive input and/or criticism are indispensable qualities for the pastors on our staff.

Directors

In addition to pastors, we also have directors on our staff. Directors are considered deacons who are employed by the church. We currently have two director positions and one assistant director position – the Children's Ministry Director (and assistant) and the Youth Director. Both of the directors report to the Family Pastor.

Ministry Assistants & Coordinators

We expect pastors and directors to oversee ministry and spend significant portions of time discipling their teams. Many of the administrative tasks are delegated to ministry assistants and coordinators. We presently have three ministry assistants and three ministry coordinators.