



## Introducing Congregational Overseers

At DPC we have the clear vision of growing followers of Christ Jesus. By God's grace we have seen exceptional growth across our church. The Session have been praying and thinking about what leadership structures can effectively shepherd DPC both now and into the future as we grow larger. This paper summarises a new initiative of the session to appoint Congregational Overseers in each of our churches.

### **What is the role of the Congregational Overseers?**

The Session set the overall vision and direction for DPC as a whole. Under this, the Congregational Overseers will work in conjunction with the various ministry teams and ministers in each church family to ensure that our goals of lovingly growing people as followers of Jesus Christ are being achieved within the specific church family for which they are responsible.

### **The Congregational Overseers will have responsibility for:**

- Overseeing the spiritual health of the congregation. This will include its mission focus, welcoming of new people, the growth, maturity and care of its members, the health of the Sunday gatherings and growth groups.
- Work with the ministry area leaders to address the health of the church family.



## What we hope these changes will achieve

It's hoped that the introduction of Congregational Overseers will lead to a number of outcomes.

- With the Overseers responsible for individual churches, the session will be able to put more time into planning across the DPC churches in areas such as evangelism, training of leaders, finances, building, mission, staffing and so on.
- The overseers will be able to give specific attention to the health of the individual churches, so that each church is cared for and led with regard to its unique nature.
- The Overseers will be given substantial responsibility, operating at a level below session, thus strengthening the leadership of the individual churches.

## Composition

- At least one session member (church elder) to facilitate communication between session and the overseer team.
- Where possible one focus pastor assigned to oversee that congregation.
- One or more other male leaders from within the specific church appointed by session. They will be mature Christians living a lifestyle consistent with the requirements of 1 Timothy 3.1-7 and Titus 1.6-9.
- The Congregational Overseers are encouraged to invite women's representatives and ministry area representatives to attend meetings, as appropriate, for specific issues, review, planning or care.
- A congregational overseer will be appointed by session. Each leader would be invited by the Session to make a 3 year commitment to serve as an overseer. At the completion of the 3 year term it would be expected that new leaders would be recruited although it might also be that an existing overseer could stay on for an extended time if agreeable to Session.

Please be praying for the new overseers from your church, that they would have wisdom, humility, gentleness and love as they serve your church family.

Pray that they would grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus and lead us to do so as well.

