

## GUIDELINES FOR LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC MINISTRY

As church leaders and people involved in public ministry, we must have a special dedication so that God can guide and use us as He wills. We need to be good examples and witnesses to fellow church members, to visitors, and to other churches. We do not want to put any stumbling block in people's way that would hinder them from being blessed by our ministry.

In order to fulfill this purpose, our church has established guidelines for people in leadership and public ministry roles. These include the Leadership Team (which includes ministry directors), the church board, emcees, the choir, special singers, musicians, ushers, hostesses, Sunday school teachers, children's church teachers, and other roles designated by the pastor.

Adhering to these guidelines does not guarantee that a person is saved, nor does failing to fulfill them necessarily cause a person to be lost. People who do not meet these criteria are still welcome to be part of our fellowship and to find other avenues of worship and service in our local assembly. The basic guidelines are as follows:

1. Personal faith in Jesus Christ, repentance from sin, water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
2. Age thirteen or older.
3. Conducting oneself everywhere in a manner becoming to a Christian, including morality, honesty, and integrity in every area of life.
4. Endeavoring to manifest brotherly love and fellowship toward all of God's people.
5. Attending worship services and informing leadership in case of absence.
6. Supporting the work of the assembly with prayer, tithes, and offerings as God enables.
7. Adhering to and practicing the holiness teachings of the local church.

With regard to holiness of life, it is important to understand that holiness is both inward and outward. Holiness must come from God, and it must come from within a person. We cannot make ourselves holy by adhering to a list of rules. For the sake of public ministry, however, we ask that each person pledge to live by the following guidelines regarding outward appearance and conduct. These standards are based on scriptural principles, and some are specifically for the sake of presenting an appearance appropriate to the occasion. (For specific scriptural teachings, see Deuteronomy 22:5; Psalm 101:2-3; Jeremiah 4:30; I Corinthians 3:17; 6:12, 19-20; 11:1-16; I Timothy 2:9-10; I Peter 3:3-4.)

- a. Dress modestly at all times and in a manner appropriate to your sex. Ladies should wear dresses or skirts that cover the knee, and men should wear pants. Sleeves should cover the upper arm. Avoid low necklines; tight, extremely thin, or sheer clothing; and extravagant, showy, or extremely costly clothing.
- b. Ladies should not cut their hair. Men should cut their hair short. Hair should be arranged or combed neatly. Avoid extravagant, showy, or wild hairstyles.
- c. Do not wear ornamental jewelry. (If you desire to wear a wedding ring, please discuss with the pastor.)
- d. Do not use colored makeup or hair dye.
- e. Do not drink alcoholic beverages, use tobacco, use illegal drugs, or abuse legal drugs.

Do not attend theaters that predominantly feature Hollywood movies, and do not possess a television to use for typical commercial programming, because the vast majority of viewing options are not wholesome. In all use of video equipment, computers, the Internet, DVDs, MP3 players, cell phones, or other technology, we should only allow ourselves to view things that are consistent with family and Christian values. In general, we should **not** assume that PG-rated videos are consistent with Christian values. R-rated videos are clearly inappropriate. Likewise, we should **not** assume that T-rated video games are appropriate. M-rated games are clearly inappropriate.