

POLICY ON CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Last Revised at Congregational Meeting of Sunday, April 30, 2000

1. In order to maintain the peace, purity and unity of the Church, the Session which has been elected by the Congregation to govern well the Church, must approve all who serve in and for the Church.
2. Only those members who are faithfully fulfilling their vows¹ may serve in worship or teaching, whether in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other ministries. Non-members may serve or substitute at the discretion of the Session.²
3. The Session expects participants in worship and teachers in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other ministries to regularly attend Sunday morning worship.
4. Workers and teachers in Sunday School, VBS and other ministries must first be approved by the Session.³
5. Men and older boys are to be taught by spiritually mature men.⁴ Women may teach children.⁵ Spiritually mature women are to teach and train younger women and girls in the Scriptures, including their biblical roles.⁶
6. Worship services, Sunday School and VBS curriculum, and other worship and teaching materials must first be approved by the Session.
7. Our goal in all we do is to present a biblical and reformed worldview, and not teach anything contrary to our final authority for faith and life, the inerrant Word of God, or our subordinate standards, which are, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Shorter and Larger Catechisms, and the Book of Church Order.
8. Our desire in doing this is to glorify God, to build up Christ's Church and to not bring any disrepute on the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ BCO 57-5. (All of) you being here present to make a public profession of faith, are to assent to the following declarations and promises, by which you enter into a solemn covenant with God and His Church.

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The minister may now briefly admonish those making a profession of faith as to the importance of the solemn obligations they have assumed...

² James 3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

³ Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

⁴ 1 Timothy 2:11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

⁵ 2 Timothy 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ Titus 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.