

CASTLEREAGH FELLOWSHIP

GOVERNANCE POLICY

Castlereagh Fellowship (CF) has a dual form of governance: Elders and Trustees.

ELDERS

In accordance with New Testament teaching, CF has a plurality of male Elders. It is these Elders who comprise the Leadership of the Fellowship.

Qualifications & Role

The qualifications and role of an Elder are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. The Holy Spirit calls such men to be examples, teachers, pastors and overseers who are to care for the members of the church family in accordance with the Word of God. The Elders are responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of CF's members; as under-shepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ they are responsible to feed, restore, guide and protect His flock. The Elders seek to maintain the Fellowship's Biblical focus, build unity and encourage the members through their own example and service.

All Elders must have been baptised by immersion and subscribe to CF's teaching and practice on baptism.

Appointment

Any prospective Elder will be recommended to the Fellowship by the current Elders. Following this recommendation there will be a 14-day period for members to raise directly with the current Elders any questions or concerns regarding the proposed appointment. The Elders will prayerfully consider all feedback received: if the current Elders consider any objection as valid, the nomination shall be withdrawn; if considered invalid, the appointment will proceed and the Fellowship will then commend the new Elder to the Lord.

Once appointed, an Elder will remain in office until they resign or are asked to resign at the request of their fellow Elders on the grounds of mental or physical incapacity/illness, moral impropriety or doctrinal error.

Operation & Decision-making

The Elders hold regular monthly meetings at which the spiritual priorities of the Fellowship are reviewed alongside any issues of concern. The Elders will make every effort to reach a

consensus position. Where no such consensus exists, decisions will be by majority-vote; in the event of a tie the Chair will have the casting vote.

While decision-making rests with the Elders, they will always seek to ensure good communication with the membership. The Elders will undertake the duty of church discipline in accordance with their Scriptural mandate. Should a member, after a period of discussion and reflection, be unwilling to submit to a decision of the Eldership, their membership of CF will cease.

Though all the work of CF is under the authority of the Elders, much of it is directed and stewarded by individuals who are not Elders. It is the responsibility of the Elders to support and encourage such members as they carry out these responsibilities.

TRUSTEES

CF is a Charitable Trust, registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (103012) and operating in a manner consistent with its Trust Deed as adopted on 26/4/15.

CF has a number of Trustees, who are responsible for the overall administration of CF, including compliance with legal requirements, insurance and sound financial practice.

The Trustees are appointed by the Elders and must agree to their direction on spiritual matters. If they refuse to do so, they must resign or be removed under the procedures laid down in the Fellowship's Trust Deed. However, the Elders cannot override the Trustees where a decision falls strictly within their remit. Should a Trustee have concerns regarding the legal or financial practices of the Fellowship, it is their responsibility to report such to the relevant civil authorities.

The Trustees hold a minimum of four meetings throughout the year. Where a consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by majority-vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.

The Trustees must submit an annual report and financial accounts to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is the practice of CF to hold a members' Annual General Meeting (normally in June) at which the work of the Fellowship is reviewed and major initiatives are outlined.