



THE OVERSEER'S DUTIES AND ROLE AS A PART OF FIRE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES AND MINISTERS, INC.

The duty of the Overseer in the Church and FIRE International Fellowship of Churches and Ministers, Inc. is a hierarchical one in the sense that the Overseer bears a responsibility to the church more than other members. Overseers are expected to help and assist Bishops in their administrative functions and sacerdotal functions, as well as, making sure the church continues along a safe path. For FIRE International FOCM, Overseers play several roles.

In Pentecostal churches, everyone can be touched or filled with the Holy Spirit, but Overseers receive special influence from the Holy Spirit. Appointed Overseers in FIRE International FOCM that have been chosen for this type of role must have a demonstrated history of faithfulness, trust, integrity, and charismatic leadership. The FIRE International FOCM Overseer must be teachable and humble.

Leadership Role and Duties

Performance

One of the main functions of Overseers in FIRE International FOCM is to perform leadership and oversight duties in coordination with their Diocesan Bishop for the betterment of the organization and the people of God, for the Glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

These duties many times will be administrative, including acting as a go-between at times for the church and the Bishop.

Overseers will serve as the right arm of the Bishop in the diocese by helping specific districts of congregations or regions to develop their God-given potential. In helping these churches, Overseers, will assist the Bishop by assisting pastors and regions to grow, to sustain growth, and to sustain holiness. The Overseer is expected to be organized and to develop good time management skills so that he/she can provide assistance to the Bishop. In understanding each church, Overseers must be patient with pastors and churches; willing to learn, in the love of Jesus Christ, those whom they have been given responsibility to help; and never taking advantage of this responsibility for personal gain or to fulfill one's self-esteem.

As leaders, Overseers must maintain high ethical and moral values in all their dealings, personally and professionally, and always be willing to learn, according to the Holy Scriptures and the FIRE International Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Overseers must actively reach out to the Bishops in their diocese for direction and understanding of their duties when there are ambiguities. If they are not getting that guidance, they must reach out to the Presiding Prelate. Overseers, in all humility, must be willing to be a help and be an asset to their Diocesan Bishop, their Church, FIRE International FOCM and the Presiding Prelate for the Glory of God.

Overseers **must** take a leadership role to find answers, solutions and bring them to the table for approval by the Board of Bishops.

Overseers **must** take an active role to reach out to their Diocesan Bishop, the FIRE International Office staff for information, to stay on top of FIRE International's schedule of events and meetings, and to accurately and correctly coordinate with the Diocesan Bishop to pass down appropriate information and guidance to churches in their diocese. The Overseer cannot sit back and wait for information to be passed on to them, but must take an active role in obtaining information in humility and love.

Overseers must take on the role of servant and not boss.

Overseers are expected to check-in with their Diocesan Bishop, to check-on, to mentor, to pray for, and fast for those churches and pastors in their diocese in coordination with the Diocesan Bishop.

Overseers of the FIRE International FOCM must actively foster cooperation at every level within the organization and must personally take on the role of peacemaker within the Body of Christ, FIRE International FOCM, with their Diocesan Bishop, and with the office of the Presiding Prelate.

Protecting the Church

The church sometimes faces internal problems or comes under attack from outsiders. The Overseer is responsible for protecting the integrity and existence of the church in these cases. In their own lives and in their teachings, Overseers must show they are "faithful to Christ, to family, to the church." Also, the Overseer has to be careful to impart a true message about the church's doctrines and belief system from the Holy Scriptures and not from their opinions. It is the responsibility of the Overseer to make the Diocesan Bishop aware of attacks against the Body of Christ.

The Body of Christ must never come under attack from the Overseer or their immediate family by word or deed.

The Overseer and their immediate family members must maintain a high standard of confidentiality at every level.

Mediator of Grace

The Overseer must be a minister of God's grace, so that all members of the congregation can enjoy its benefits through these rituals and people. The Overseer is one of many representatives to help mankind understand Christ's grace with Jesus Christ being the only way to attain that grace. The Spirit-filled, gathered church is a sacramental presence in the world, which implies that anybody can receive God's grace directly by being or becoming a part of the church's community of saved believers.

As a mediator of God's Grace, an Overseer must never take upon themselves to correct Bishops, other Overseers, or Pastors in front of other leaders or the congregation. The Overseer must remain gentle and apt to teach, being wise in their official duties. With council from their Diocesan Bishop and along with another Overseer, if there is a private admonishment of an Overseer, Pastor, or Leader, it must be done after prayer and fasting, in love, grace, and patience, not self-willed, hasty or in anger.

1. Overseers are appointed by the Presiding Bishop and set apart for a ministry of servant leadership, general oversight and helping the Diocesan Bishop in a region. As followers of Jesus Christ, in all humility, are authorized to guard the faith. The role and calling forth of the Overseer is to exercise oversight and to support the Diocesan Bishop in his mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The basis of such discipleship of leadership (*episkopé*) lies in discipline and a disciplined life as indicated in the Holy Scriptures. The Overseer helps lead, therefore, through the following disciplines:

- a) A vital and renewing spirit. The duty of the Overseer, in all humility, is to faithfully practice, model, and help provide relief to the Bishop and to call and inspire the clergy and laity within the Church to practice the Christian disciplines in their individual lives through the tradition of personal holiness. The Overseer is to help the Bishop lead public worship, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in the commendation of our faith.
- b) An enquiring mind and a commitment to the teaching office. The role of the Overseer is to continue to learn and to teach how to make disciples and lead faithful and fruitful congregations using scripture, spiritual disciplines, and the history and doctrines of the Church.
- c) A vision for the Church. The duty of Overseer is to help the Bishop to lead the whole Church in claiming its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Overseer leads by helping the Bishop in discerning, inspiring, strategizing, equipping, implementing, and evaluating the fulfillment of the mission of the church. Working in partnership with the Diocesan Bishop, laity, and clergy leadership of the annual conference, and the professing members of the church, the Overseer helps the Bishop urge the whole church to move toward the vision of sharing Christ with the world in fulfillment of our mission, faithful discipleship, and a "more excellent way" of being Christ's people in the world.
- d) The Overseer encourages and models the mission of witness and service in the world through proclamation of the gospel and alleviation of human suffering.
- e) A passion for the unity of the church. The duty of the Overseer is to assist the Bishop in the shepherding of the whole flock and thereby provide leadership toward the goal of understanding, reconciliation, and unity within FIRE International FOCM and the church universal.

Growth of the Organization

Each Overseer is expected to help develop, grow, and bring in churches as a part of FIRE International FOCM, Inc. with the guidance of their Diocesan Bishop. The Overseers are expected to conduct themselves in a way that leads to growth of the organization.

The job of the Overseer is to help the Churches to reach their full potential in love, humility and patience. They are not to lead the Church of our Lord by constraint, but by example.

If a church or pastor is not where the Overseer is in their faith, the Overseer must help him or her to grow by example and love not by demeaning or berating them into submission.

At organizational meetings, Overseers must always put out helpful information to the Church in a loving, helpful way that the church may grow to the full stature of what Christ has ordained for His Body.

The Overseer is expected to be well prepared and to teach sound doctrine to their assembly and to FIRE International FOCM during meetings, conferences, and convocations.

Overseers must not teach their individual likes and dislikes to FIRE International Churches, at FIRE International meetings, conventions, or convocations, but for the growth of the organization, they must use wisdom and the Word of God.

Overseers, along with their churches and districts, are expected to be present and accountable for Organizational functions, meetings, conventions, and convocations.

For some reason, if the Overseer cannot be there, he/she will make sure his/her leaders and church are present.

Scripture

1 Timothy 1:3-7 This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Titus 1:5-9 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Acts 20:28-32 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

James 1:19-20 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 10:9-12 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ (date) by
_____ (name of person acknowledged).

Notary Public

Print Name: _____

My commission expires:
