



WCBA Encourage Ministry | How Pastor's Relate

- Whereas the WCBA values a Kingdom mindset and partnership more than personal mission and isolated methodology;
- Whereas the WCBA embraces regenerate church membership and biblical church discipline as characteristics of a healthy church;
- Whereas the WCBA views each of its church as autonomous yet connected parts of the unified body of Christ carrying out the mission of God, for the glory of God, throughout the world;
- Whereas the Bible is the sole authority of our faith and the supreme guide for all matters of ecclesiology;
- Whereas the pastors of the WCBA hold the belief that fellow pastors are called by God, possess, and aspire to maintain the character qualifications for pastors/elders/overseers set forth in scripture and who will give account before God as to how they stewarded the respective ministry God has entrusted to them.

The Pastors of the Walton County Baptist Association...

- Will recognize any statement of membership from a sister church, concerning a candidate for church membership, as a trustworthy and biblically faithful statement in respect to the salvation and fellowship status of the said individual.
- Will lead worshippers to biblically practice the ordinance of the Lord's Supper by ensuring, to the best of their ability, that all participants are baptized believers in Jesus Christ, by discouraging a Christian who is under church discipline, either at the said church or previous, from receiving the Lord's Supper if distributed publicly, and refusing from giving the Lord's Supper if delivered personally, until repentance and reconciliation has been made with appropriate parties.
- Will contact the previous pastor of an individual who is presenting himself/herself as a candidate for church membership in order to gain a clearer understanding of the individual's faith journey and insights on how to disciple and pastor the presenting individual.
- Will, when it becomes known that a church member is regularly attending an Association church, and who is under any phase of church discipline, will contact the pastor of the church the individual is beginning to attend in order to inform him of the said individuals present status in the church (e.g., "under church discipline") and develop coordinated plan for the individual's restoration.
- Who, having been informed by a sister church of current disciplinary measures being undertaken, will refuse membership of a candidate for church membership until reconciliation by candidate with former church has been pursued or occurred.
- Will, when discovered there is a break in relationship with the former church, encourage membership candidates to pursue reconciliation in all situations; furthermore, if after reconciliation is pursued and it is discovered that "fault" lies with the former church and/or its leadership, the member candidate may then join "in good standing."
- Will not "proselytize" or recruit members of another church but will encourage all Christians to flourish as a member of the body of Christ within the Church God has led them to unite with and submit to its leadership.
- Will, when communicating to his church body or the community, speak positively about all sister churches, their pastors, and their ministries, refusing to participate in opportunities of gossip or slander, so as not besmirch the character of another or bring shame upon the name of Christ Jesus.
- Will, when it becomes known that a church member whose past behavior damaged the unity of the church or whose identification within the community is suspect (e.g. registered sex offender/predator) begins to attend another Association church, contact the pastor of the church the individual is beginning to attend in order to inform him of the said individual's past behavior and present status in order to foster a pathway forward for the discipleship of the individual and the protection of the church.