

04 Governing Document Hierarchy

Edition 2026 10 03 R2 | Operative only upon authorized adoption

Purpose and supreme written authority

This hierarchy prevents a form, resolution, policy, or isolated sentence from silently changing TGBC's doctrine or government. The King James Bible remains the supreme written authority for ecclesiastical faith, doctrine, conduct, and order. Civil obligations are evaluated under applicable law; the internal hierarchy does not invalidate a civil duty.

Order of human instruments

The Constitution and Articles of Association are the principal human organizing instrument. Next are the Bylaws, followed by the Statement of Faith and Foundational Doctrine. The PRAECEPTORIUS Charter and Founding Bishop and Succession Declaration implement those instruments. The Credentialing Manual and Discipline Code follow. Local assembly agreements, financial and conflict policies, and supplementary ministry policies implement their assigned subjects. Doctrinal position papers explain adopted doctrine. Resolutions, forms, certificates, minutes, and registers document authorized actions at the administrative level.

A doctrinal question must be examined by Scripture and the adopted confession, not resolved merely by ranking documents. An administrative policy cannot redefine foundational doctrine because it appears newer or more specific.

Conflicts and amendments

Read related instruments together where possible. If a lower instrument conflicts with a higher one, the higher one controls and the incompatible lower provision must be corrected through its proper amendment procedure. An amendment resolution changes a higher document only if it expressly identifies that document and satisfies its own amendment requirements.

Every adopted instrument shall have its title, edition, adoption and effective dates, approving authority, and register entry. Preserve superseded versions. Templates remain templates until an actual action is completed and signed; a printed certificate does not establish ordination or membership.

Titles and consistent interpretation

PRAECEPTORIUS means the internal Circle of bishops and elders. The Founding Bishop is its sole initial member. A deacon does not enter the Circle through ordination, committee service, delegated administration, or a certificate heading identifying the issuing body.

Founding Bishop is a lifetime unique historical office. Acting Ecclesiastical Overseer is temporary. Overseeing Bishop is the successor oversight title after the founder's death. No administrative record shall blur these distinctions.

Adoption

Approved by _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Effective date _____ Register reference _____ Custodian _____