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Biblical authority

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Biblical authority

Autonomy of each local church

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Biblical authority

Autonomy of each local church

Priesthood of all believers

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Two ordinances (baptism & communion)

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Priesthood of all believers

Two ordinances (baptism & communion)

Individual soul liberty

Saved, baptized church membership

Two offices (pastors & deacons)

Separation of church and state

***Two Offices:
Pastors & Deacons***

**Phil. 1:1, 1 Tim. 3:1-13,
1 Pet. 5:1-4, et al.**

The Bible refers to two specific leadership roles in the assembly: *pastors* and *deacons*. Although the Bible also speaks of *elders* and *bishops* (or overseers), these terms are alternate ways of referring to the pastoral office. The offices of *pastor* and *deacon* exist *within* the local church—they are not assumed by a hierarchy of leadership outside of or over the local church. While church leaders are personally accountable to God for their ministries, they are also responsible to the church's membership. MMBC practices congregational church polity (government), meaning that key decisions are referred to the congregation for ratification, including the selection (or dismissal) of pastors and deacons. At the same time, pastors and deacons provide leadership, shepherding, and oversight in the functioning of the ministry.

Colossians 1:18

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Forms of Church Polity (governance)

A. Episcopal

B. Presbyterian

C. Congregational

Pastors and Deacons

Acts 20:17

“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.”

Acts 20:28

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

Key aspects of pastoral ministry ...

- 1. Feed the flock.**
- 2. Oversee the work.**
- 3. Equip the saints.**
- 4. Labor among God's people.**
- 5. Care for souls.**

Key aspects of deacon ministry ...

- 1. Serve God's people.**
- 2. Promote unity in the assembly.**
- 3. Support pastoral leadership.**
- 4. Attend to material needs.**
- 5. Lead out in evangelizing.**