**Mandate to the Shepherding Elders**

All church officers (elders and deacons) represent Christ, the Lord, in the corporate life of his people. The Shepherding Elders are responsible for the spiritual well-being of God’s people. They must maintain true and pure worship including the preaching, regular celebration of the sacraments, appropriate confession, praise and prayer. The elders along with the minister(s) oversee the doctrine and life of the members of the congregation and fellow office-bearers. They are responsible for the discipline and pastoral care of the congregation. They will also participate in and promote evangelism.

Foremost in their responsibilities, the Shepherding Elders must be faithful in visiting the church family, encouraging them in their spiritual walk with the Lord and showing compassion toward those who are experiencing difficulties of various kinds.

* The Shepherding Elders meet at least monthly.
* They elect annually, from within the membership of the Shepherding Elders, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and recording secretary (clerk).

**Pastoral Care**

* Provide for regular family visitation by Elder/Deacon teams. Contact with each household should be made twice every 18 months, with at least one personal visit. Accounts of visits are to be documented and regularly reported to the Shepherd Elders.
* Provide for the care and support of persons who are sick or in spiritual need.

**Worship/Life/Doctrine**

* Oversee the Senior Pastor’s work in the area of worship and doctrine.
* Assist the Senior Pastor in the administration of the sacraments.
* Exercise church discipline.
* Supervise the life and doctrine of the ordained pastoral staff including associate pastors who have their ministerial credentials held at our church.

**Evangelism/Fellowship/Spiritual Health**

* Work with the Spiritual Care and Formation Coordinator to promote the spiritual health, education and well-being of the congregation.
* Welcome, receive and approve of all those wishing to join by transfer, baptism, and/or Profession of Faith.
* Support the Children and Youth Coordinator in promoting the spiritual health and growth of our covenant youth.
* Work with the pastors to promote evangelism and spiritual outreach ministries.