



Who Can Be a Pastor?

From time to time, we receive questions about being a pastor at North Metro Church. The questions range from “What do pastors do?” to “Why do you give some of your female staff the title of pastor?” to “How do I know if God is calling me to full-time Christian ministry?” This position statement will hopefully clarify what it means and how a person becomes a pastor at NMC.

North Metro Church’s governance structure is composed of three main groups: The Council of Elders, The Staff, and the Board of Advisors.

- The Council of Elders provide spiritual authority, Biblical and doctrinal alignment, and accountability for the staff and board.
- The Staff are responsible for the daily ministry and operations of the church.
- The Board of Advisors offer wisdom, accountability, and counsel on key decisions in the areas of personnel, finances, and facilities.

To say it succinctly... *“We are Staff led, Elder governed, and Board Advised.”* At NMC, our staff is organized by titles and functions. For example, we have interns, coordinators, directors, and executive directors. Some of those who serve in those roles also hold the title of pastor.

North Metro Church uses the words “minister” and “pastor” synonymously. I.e. To pastor someone means to minister to them in a manner worthy of the gospel.

The Lead Pastor is responsible for ensuring that the members of North Metro Church are being led, shepherded, cared for, and disciplined. The Lead Pastor also serves on the Elder Council.

As our church attendance grew, the decision was made by our elders to increase the number of pastors on staff to address the growing needs of our congregation. Persons who hold the title of pastor are called to and responsible for leading, teaching and shepherding the men, women, and children within our church in love, grace, and truth. Those who serve on the Elder Council confirm the calling and confer the title pastor upon any person who they discern to be called, anointed, and equipped by God to minister/pastor our congregation. Therefore, the decision as to whether someone is given the title pastor is not based on gender, but rather whether or not that person discerns a call on their lives by God, and displays the spiritual maturity, character, and compassion that is required to shepherd the people of NMC.

