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Blackwood Church of Christ Elders Statement of Values

As Elders of the Blackwood Church of Christ, we believe that we are called to follow the example of Jesus, and to be an example, in the way we relate to each other, the ministry team the congregation and the community. In keeping with this aspiration, the following values will define how we will relate and operate as elders.

- We will be inclusive, gracious and accepting
- We will be authentic and will strive to speak and act with integrity
- We will be fair and respect our equality in the sight of God
- We will be honest, open and trustworthy
- We will be empathic and encouraging
- We will ensure that we communicate effectively
- We will be hospitable
- We will respect confidentiality.
- We will be disciplined and accountable

In our relationship with each other, specifically:

- We will be disciplined and accountable

In our relationship with the Ministry Team, specifically:

- We will tell the story of our shared vision together
- We will support the Ministers and accept their support of us
- We will nurture our Ministers
- We will strive to be objective

In our relationship with the congregation and community, specifically:

- We will be disciplined and accountable
- We will encourage the telling of the story of our shared vision together in relevant ways
- We will lead as servants
- We will strive to be steadfast and reliable

In our conduct of business as elders, specifically:

- We will strive to speak and act with integrity
- We will be fair, open and objective
- We will make decisions which are consistent with our shared vision
- We will be adventurous and bold
- We will strive to make decisions that are relevant to those we serve.

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Blackwood Church of Christ Elders Statement of Purpose

As Elders of the Blackwood Church of Christ, we believe that we are called to a role of servant leadership.

Our shared purpose as elders is to ensure the Spiritual health and well-being of the people who share in the life of the Blackwood Church of Christ.

Fulfilling this purpose means:

- Being a living example of the values we espouse.
- Encouraging an environment of mutual nurture, support, care, encouragement, empowerment, learning and teaching.
- Determining and articulating a common sense of direction and purpose, a shared set of values and a “big picture” view of the mission of the church.
- Ensuring that the church is a place where all people (congregation and community) can have their faith nurtured.
- Maintaining accountability among ourselves and with the congregation.
- Journeying with those we serve and partner (each other, the ministry team and the congregation.)
- Engaging with those we partner and serve, with integrity and as equals.
- Monitoring and managing the Spiritual “health” of the congregation, with due regard to the following “health indicators”:
 - Degree to which people feel relationally connected with God
 - Health of interpersonal relationships within the congregation
 - Sense of belonging
 - Level of embodiment of agreed values
 - Cohesiveness of direction and purpose
 - Openness to challenges
 - Level of participation and engagement
 - Impact on local community and resultant impressions
 - Freedom of expression and opinion
 - Degree of imagination, initiative and creativity around mission.