

## ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS IN GREAT COMMISSION CHURCHES

Each church affiliated with Great Commission Churches is an independent church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, cooperating within the association with other like-minded churches in conferences, mission efforts and for accountability in doctrine and ethical practices. In our association, final authority rests in the local church. Great Commission Churches does not dictate how a particular local church carries out its affairs. However, by being part of our association a church is voluntarily agreeing to live by certain Biblical and ethical standards.

As for the pastors, our association has a high commitment to humility (see Humility Paper). Jesus said, "Let him who is the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the servant."(Luke 22:26). Pastors are to be the most teachable men in the church. Therefore, we encourage every pastor to humbly listen to concerns expressed by church member.

If an individual believes that his or her church is not complying with Biblical or ethical standards, what is that individual to do? Our policy is that a church member should work through the Matthew 18:15-17 process, presenting his or her concerns to a pastor in the church and then, if not satisfied, to the board of that church. If still not satisfied, that individual has the option to contact a regional or national office of Great Commission Churches. Our commitment is to address concerns with impartiality and sensitivity, with the goal of restoration and reconciliation.

Our appeal is that if you have a concern with a church in our association that you will follow this process. In addition, if you hear of a concern, or you know someone who has a concern, we ask that you encourage that individual to follow this process. Our confidence is that if we are committed to this Biblical process, the church will be strengthened, the gospel of Jesus Christ will spread, and God will be glorified.