



## WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Men and women are created in the image of God equally and individually. (Gen. 1:27) Women and men come to faith in Christ the same way. Neither has advantage over the other. (Gal. 3:26-28) The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to women and men as God wills. (1 Cor. 12:7-11, Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Pt. 4:10) Spiritual gifts are to inform and empower service to God, the church, and the world. The church functions best when men and women use their gifts in the building up of the Body of Christ.

The elders understand Scripture to teach that men and women are created equally and also with complementary differences. Those differences are expressed in marriage and church. In church, while there are New Testament examples of women serving as deacons<sup>1</sup> (Rom. 16:1), there are none of a female pastor/elder.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the list of biblical qualifications for an elder assumes only qualified men will serve in the office. (Tit. 1:7-9; 1 Tim. 2:11-15, 3:1-13; 2 Tim. 2:2).

Elders exercise spiritual authority as overseers in the church. (Ac. 20:28) Congregants are to submit to their leadership (Heb. 13:17). 1 Timothy 2 gives elders the specific responsibility of doctrinal teaching and exercising authority (1 Tim. 2:11-15). CCCC holds that the context of 1 Timothy 2 is the corporate worship assembly of the local church. The environment where teaching is seen by the congregation as authoritative, directional, and binding is the pulpit ministry of the corporate worship assembly of Clear Creek Community Church (e.g., Sunday morning preaching). Therefore, the regular practice of preaching/teaching in the corporate worship assembly will be by the elders of CCCC (exceptions being at the elders' discretion).<sup>3</sup>

All non-elder teaching and leading opportunities at CCCC can be performed by qualified men or women, and will be determined by the elders or the appropriate teams chosen by the elders to oversee spiritual formation environments. For example, classes, workshops, and seminars are considered non-elder ministries and, as such, employ qualified men and women to teach classes.

Practically speaking, the view of the elders is:

- Single-gender classes will be led by the same gender: men with men, women with women because of propriety and the unique dynamic of single-gender environments.

- Mixed-gendered classes are preferably led by men and women together because it paints the best picture of complementarity's effectiveness.

<sup>1</sup> Or deaconesses

<sup>2</sup> CCCC understands the terms pastor and elder as synonymous.

<sup>3</sup> For example, elders may select men who might be considered for future eldership roles and want to give them some limited training and experience in the pulpit.