

The Point Church

Simply **Christians**

thepoint.org.au

Leadership & Ministry Overview 2024

Becoming a church of God's dreams



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Introduction

A word of explanation about elders and deacons and other formal ministry roles ...

The Point Church seeks to be a contemporary community of Jesus' disciples honouring the *enduring* teachings and practices of the Christian faith established through Christ's apostles and recorded in the inspired New Testament Scriptures – *the faith once for all delivered to the saints* (Jude 3). While *all* Christians are ministers engaged in ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16), the local church is led and equipped by its own biblically qualified and formally appointed (ordained) leaders. The apostle Paul addressed the church at Philippi as “all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Philippians 1:2). Paul described to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:1-15) the sort of qualities and qualifications required of those who would perform the role of **elder** and **deacon** in a local congregation. The terms shepherd/pastor; bishop/overseer and elder/presbyter are used interchangeably in the New Testament to describe different facets of the same leadership role (see Acts 20:17, 28 and 1 Peter 5:1-2). The term deacon literally means servant or minister. The incident recorded in Acts 6:1-7 gives helpful insight by distinguishing between the pastoral role and the servant's role (**evangelists**, as church planters, end up being a bit of both as they seek to plant and then nurture and mature a congregation of Jesus' disciples towards developing and appointing its own elders and deacons).

And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”

Acts 6:2-4 NRSV

This account differentiates between the *broad congregational leadership* exercised initially by the apostles and prophets and by evangelists and congregational elders/shepherds/bishops (cf. Ephesians 4:11); and the *narrower task-oriented leadership* exercised by deacons. The former leadership role is summarily described as **prayer and the ministry of the word**. The latter leadership role is summarily described as **servicing tables**. Deacons are responsible for addressing the administrative needs of a congregation while elders focus upon ministries pertaining to God's word and prayer. The administrative needs of a congregation may vary (e.g., from distributing benevolence to organising event logistics to management and maintenance of resources). Some of these needs may be short term, while others will be ongoing. The responsibility and authority of a deacon would normally be limited to the areas or tasks entrusted to them by the congregation. In contrast, *prayer and the ministry of the word* are foundational to *every* aspect of the life of the church. The function of shepherds revolves around their responsibility to promote the *soul welfare* of the entire congregation as they serve to gather, feed, protect, equip, and mature the flock of God through example, prayer, and teaching God's word (Acts 20:17, 25-31; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-4:5).

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith ... Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing – for that would be harmful to you.

Hebrews 13:7, 17 NRSV

Because the deacon's role is primarily one of management or administration, they will often delegate responsibilities and tasks to other suitably gifted members of the congregation. This also enables the deacons, along with the elders, to train and equip others for service.

The Point Church **Elders** and their Wives **2024**



David and Gloriam **Clark**

David's contact details:
0447 142 492
davidc@thepoint.org.au



Peter and Hilde **Searson**

Peter's contact details:
0418 191 813
peters@thepoint.org.au



Stephen and Donette **Wilson**

Steve's contact details:
0419 779 438
steve@thepoint.org.au

Ministry of the word and prayer,
equipping the saints for ministry,
pastoral care & oversight ...

The Point Church **Deacons** and their Wives **2024**



Peter and Yvonne **Amos**

Peter's contact details:
0414 388 581
petera@thepoint.org.au



Travers and Nikki **Coker**

Travers' contact details:
0479141165
traversc@thepoint.org.au



Johan and Lara **Engelbrecht**

Johan's contact details:
0457 519 316
johane@thepoint.org.au

Administration and **service**,
supporting *ministry co-ordinators*,
practical **help & tasks ...**

Ministry Coordinators 2024

Isaac **Bates** 0421 543 795
○ Responsible for Singing Ministry.

James **Graham** 0438 537 121
○ Responsible for Health and Safety, Rosters & Directory.

Craig **Holyoak** 0422 024 023
○ Responsible for Information Technology & Website Management.

Nathan **Holyoak** 0432 434 054
○ Responsible for Policy & Procedures.

Clifford **Snell** 0424 247 151
○ Responsible for Koinonia.

George **Varnfield** 0477 731 195
○ Responsible for Multimedia.

Men's ministry team **group email contact:** ministry_team@thepoint.org.au

Nikki **Coker** 0413 114 855
○ Responsible for coordinating the Point's Sunday morning youth class.

Lara **Engelbrecht** 0415 422 417
○ Responsible for administration of The Point Church Directory of Family and Friends.
○ Responsible for assisting the elders and deacons with various administrative tasks.

Helen **Hughes** 0409 623 838
○ Responsible for assisting the elders and deacons with various administrative tasks.

Terri-Leigh **Hughes** 0449 821 120
○ Responsible for administration of the Point's volunteer Blue Cards.

Ebony **Lowe** 0418 888 827
○ Responsible for coordinating the Point's Sunday children's and toddler's classes.
○ Responsible for coordinating the Point's Mainly Music Program.

Deacon Ministry Responsibilities

Managing and/or coordinating administrative duties pertaining to ...

Peter Amos

- General administration (e.g., insurances; hall rental).
- Responsible officer for oversight of The Point's Policies & Procedures (Safe Church, Employment, Blue Cards, Health & Safety, etc.).
- Easter retreat administration.
- Point Church Noticeboard.
- Point Church library.

Johan Engelbrecht

- Foreign missions.
- Seminars and special events.
- Thorneside Community Hall facilities.

Travers Coker

- General benevolence and social support.
- Mainly Music Program.

Elder Ministry Responsibilities

Overseeing and facilitating the ministry of the word and prayer ...

- Sunday morning assembly teaching.
- Sunday morning prayer groups.
- Sunday evening Bible class.
- Weekly Small Group Bible classes.
- Special interest educational groups (e.g., Men's Breakfast Group; Christ & Culture group; Ladies' Bible classes).
- Facilitating fellowship through regular pastoral support gatherings and other faith and family building activities (e.g., Easter retreat, encouraging member generated social events and activities).
- The Point Church website content.
- The Point Church publications.
- *Points of Interest* weekly news and teaching bulletin.
- Equipping all saints for ministry.
- Strategic planning.
- Promotion of the Point's ethos and implementation of the Point's Safe Church policies and procedures.
- Prayer and pastoral support to deacons, the men's ministry team, and ministry coordinators.
- Prayer and pastoral support for all members in general.
- Administration of finances.

The elders meet for prayers on most Monday evenings at the Ministry House (57 Finucane Road, Capalaba). Members are encouraged to join the elders for prayers and/or a chat on these occasions. Please let one of the elders know of your desire to meet so a time for meeting can be confirmed. Elders are available at other times by negotiation.

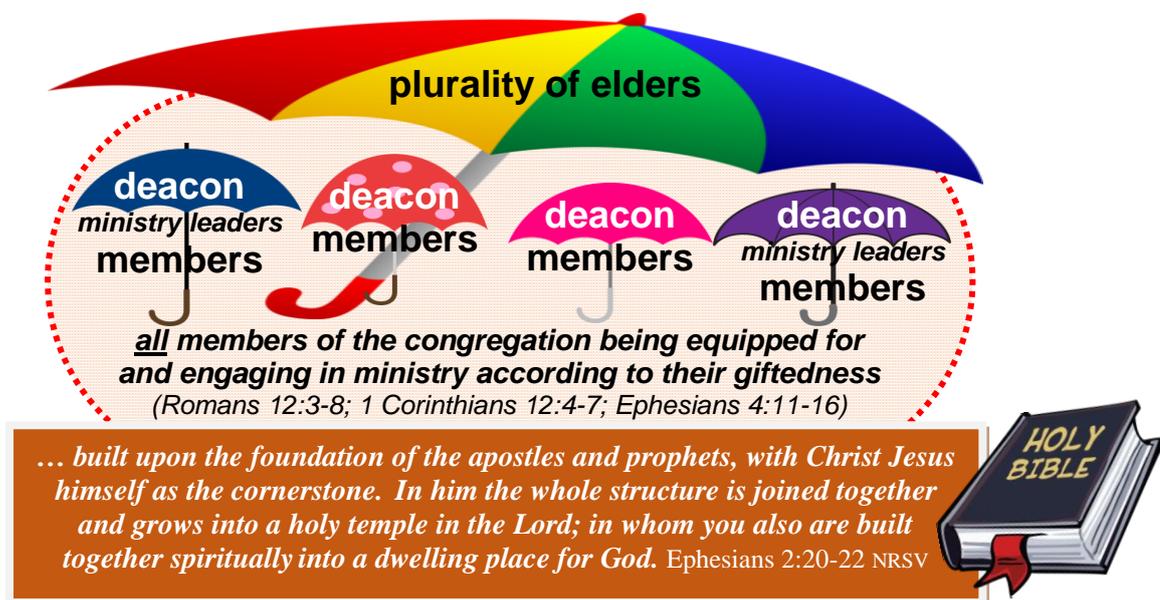
Understanding the organisation of New Testament churches

“To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi [or in Wellington Point / Thorneside, etc.], with the bishops and deacons.” Philippians 1:2; cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-15

The household or family of God was organised congregationally by Christ’s apostles with the following characteristics:

- Each congregation is an autonomous (self-governed) expression of the universal body of Christ, whose members are relationally bound together as brothers and sisters by virtue of their initiation into Christ through water and the Spirit (John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:13, *et al.*); and their commitment to the unity of the Spirit expressed in the seven ones: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.* Ephesians 4:4-6 NRSV
- Each member of each congregation is engaged in ministry in and through their local church, according to their giftedness: *For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us ...* Romans 12:3-8 NRSV
- A vital role of the servant-leadership of each congregation is to equip each member for service, where everyone is maturing through doing their part: *The gifts he gave [to the church] were that some would be apostles, some prophets [who still lead the universal church today through their message preserved in the inspired Scriptures], some evangelists [church planters or missionaries], some pastors and teachers [i.e. elders/shepherds/bishops], to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ... joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.* Ephesians 4:11-16 NRSV

Biblical church organisation is covenantal and familial (organic) rather than institutional and hierarchical. When operating according to the biblical ideal (e.g., Matthew 20:25-28) with mature servant-leadership exercised by their own bishops and deacons as first-among-equals, the local church looks something like this:



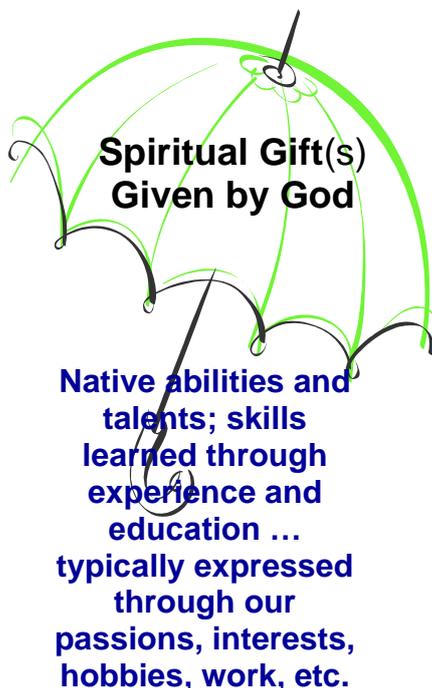
Member Spiritual Gifts and Talents

Gifts of Grace ... Gifts to Share

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:3-8 ESV

The apostle Paul teaches that each Christian possesses one or more spiritual gifts from God (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31) for service to and through the body of Christ. We understand that certain *miraculous gifts* served both as signs and as practical helps necessary to support the initial spread of the gospel message and the establishment of the church in its infancy, but declined following the time of Jesus' apostles who delivered the faith once and for all (Jude 3) in the first century AD.* There remain, however, *enduring gifts* given by God's Spirit to His people that are still necessary to the ongoing health and growth of God's church in all ages (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:7-16). The online Spiritual Gifts Survey you have been asked to complete, and the resulting analysis, is a means to assist each member of The Point Church identify their spiritual gift(s). Spiritual gifts (or Spirit given gifts) are not necessarily the same as our talents and skills. Spiritual gifts are spheres or genres of service (represented by the umbrella at left). Under that umbrella fits our native talents and learned skills which are those things we use to give our spiritual gifts expression in the form of specific tasks/service/ministry. For example, you may have a spiritual gift of shepherding or mentoring; and you may have attained skills and knowledge as a parent, teacher, or a counselor that you can use to exercise the gift of shepherding in service to God's flock. By considering our spiritual gift(s) and our talents and skills, we may link and apply those things to practical ministry opportunities and outcomes.



* This is not to say that God no longer performs miracles. We may as well stop praying if that were the case! It is to say, though, that much of the miraculous activity that characterized the ministries of Jesus and his apostles served as signs to *confirm* their authority and their message (John 20:30-31; Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:1-4). But confirming signs became redundant once the message was established (and recorded and preserved in Scripture). Indeed, to insist on "confirming signs and wonders" today suggests a lack of confidence in the integrity, sufficiency, and authority of the inspired Scriptures.



Member Spiritual Gifts and Talents Survey

Member Name:

Date: / / 2024

Spiritual Gifts My top three spiritual gifts per the Spiritual Gifts Survey accessed at https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/ are:	Talents and Skills These are those skills and abilities that I have, whether they are innate or inherited abilities and strengths; or skills I have been trained and educated in (passions; interests; hobbies; work) ...	Church Ministry How I am utilizing my talents through the exercise of my spiritual gifts in service to God, either formally or informally, through the local church and/or other contexts ...

Member Spiritual Gifts and Talents Survey

Member Name: Stephen Wilson

Date: 2024

<p>Spiritual Gifts</p> <p>My top three spiritual gifts per the Spiritual Gifts Survey accessed at https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/ are:</p>	<p>Talents and Skills</p> <p>These are those skills and abilities that I have, whether they are innate or inherited abilities and strengths; or skills I have been trained and educated in (passions; interests; hobbies; work) ...</p>	<p>Church Ministry</p> <p>How I am utilizing my talents through the exercise of my spiritual gifts in service to God, either formally or informally, through the local church and/or other contexts ...</p>
<p>Pastor/Shepherd (21) 2014</p> <p><i>2020 update: Shepherd (16)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal counselling training (MCouns) • Bible knowledge • Spiritual formation (e.g., spiritual companionship; Spiritual disciplines) • Wisdom • Discernment/Wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church leader (teaching elder) • Counselling other Christians • Mentoring (prayer group and other small group contexts)
<p>Teaching (18) 2014 (bias towards exhortation, 15)</p> <p><i>2020 update: Teaching (16) (bias towards prophecy, 13)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Bible and Theological training (BA, MRS, MA, MTh) • GradDipEd; CertIV TAA • Creativity/Design (former sign-writer) • Writing • Competent public speaker • Good communication skills • Wide reading • Basic technology skills (e.g., Word; PowerPoint) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preaching • Teaching classes (e.g., Sunday night small group; HOGS) • Website • Bulletin • Development of teaching materials and resources (e.g., Growing Men; Theophilus' Quest)
<p>Showing Mercy (18) 2014</p> <p><i>2020 update: Showing Mercy (16)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling skills • Compassionate • Forgiving • Empathic • Welcoming; approachability; hospitality • Social Justice • Dip Community Services CertIV Disability Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in Community Services with disadvantaged people (people with disabilities, carers, etc.)

Point Church Membership Ethos

Our Vision ... *Becoming a Church of God's Dreams*

In other words, we want to be the church established by Christ through his apostles (Ephesians 2:20-22; Jude 3) as revealed in the inspired New Testament Scriptures. This includes the apostles' teaching, practices, and ethos. Nothing more and nothing less. We seek to be SimplyChristians!

Our Mission ... *Open Bibles, Open Hearts:*

To be a family of God nurturing Christlikeness in our lives – glorifying God by upholding His truth in love and proclaiming His gospel to the world

In other words, we are committed to the commission Christ gave to his disciples: making disciples of Christ, and maturing disciples of Christ who will, in turn, make more disciples of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

God, through His word, speaks of His church in two senses: the universal church, which is synonymous with the sum of all those people reconciled to God in Jesus Christ (i.e., children of God, Galatians 3:26-29); and the local church, which is God's primary provision for the fellowship of His children through voluntarily cooperating and working together to promote spiritual growth and ministry (cf. Acts 2:41-47). The God who redeems us is a relational God (Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We are saved in and for relationship ... with God and one another (cf. Matthew 22:36-40).

Becoming a Christian is to begin developing a cross-shaped-life, a life conforming to Jesus' own sacrificial example of obedience to the Father, following the way of the cross and incarnation through self-less discipleship (Matthew 16:24-25; 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-18; 8:29; 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 2:1-6). It is to patiently and in a disciplined way develop characteristic virtues of godliness (cf. Galatians 5:22-25; 2 Peter 1:2-11). And we grow these virtues in God's new social order – *the church* – where an other-worldly (*Your kingdom come ... Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*), Spirit empowered ethos prevails. Through the sanctifying power of God's indwelling Spirit and the direction of His inspired word, we place ourselves under God's discipline and experience His training in righteousness which is applicable to every aspect of our life.

In the local church we develop and exercise ministry (service) by becoming a vital and active member of a living body (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Ministry or service intersects with a congregation's spiritual ethos – *the characteristic purpose, attitudes, and behaviour of the community towards God and one another*. Because God expects these things of His people in community, the following biblical principles and commands are vital to pursuing our vision of becoming a church of God's dreams. In choosing to become a member of The Point Church, you are therefore committing yourself to pursue and develop, with God's help and grace and the support and encouragement of all other members, the following biblical ethos . . .

I will protect the unity of my church

... by acting in love toward all other members

A member of a church of God's dreams will consciously endeavour to be humble, long-suffering, empathetic, forgiving, and act unselfishly in the interests of others (Romans 14:13-19; Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 2:1-5).

... by refusing to gossip

A member of a church of God's dreams will talk graciously *with* people rather than *about* them (Ephesians 4:29-31). If they have a grievance with someone, they will follow Jesus' instructions outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.

... by following the congregation's leaders

A member of a church of God's dreams will respect the congregation's leaders and their responsibility to lead as instruments in God's plan for every individual's spiritual growth and welfare, as well as that of the church collectively (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:7,17).

I will share the responsibility of my church to nurture spiritual growth

... by praying for our growth and spiritual health

A member of a church of God's dreams will commit time to personally pray for God's blessing upon the church's members, their outreach into the community, and for the church's spiritual soundness and vitality (Acts 4:23-31; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2; James 5:16).

... by growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ and His will

A member of a church of God's dreams will commit time to be equipped by the church through studying, discussing, and applying God's word in community (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 2:2).

... by serving in the ministry of my church

A member of a church of God's dreams will commit time to be equipped for ministry and to use their gifts and talents in service to God through the church (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

*... don't think "rules"
think "relationships!"*

I will support the public testimony of my church

... by attending church gatherings regularly

A member of a church of God's dreams will welcome and take advantage of opportunities to actively encourage their brothers and sisters in Christ and to be encouraged by them (Hebrews 10:24-25). Chief among these opportunities is the gathering of the saints on the first day of the week to proclaim the Lord's death till he returns (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; cf. 16:2; Acts 20:7).

... by committing to living a godly life

A member of a church of God's dreams will take seriously her or his relationship with God by trying to honour Him at all times in their behaviour and relationships (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 1:3-4; 5:1-3; Titus 2:11-14).

... by sharing the gospel with others

A member of a church of God's dreams will seek to positively influence non-Christians through genuine relationship and godly example, and to verbally share with them the good news of salvation in Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:4; 1 Peter 3:15-16).

... by making regular financial contributions

A member of a church of God's dreams will be committed to financially supporting the church's mission and work in accordance with new covenant principles (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

I will accept and support my church's responsibility to discipline its members

A church of God's dreams is a church that cares enough to correct and protect its members (Hebrews 12:5-13). The Point Church cares about each member's personal spiritual welfare, and we care about the doctrinal and moral purity and unity of the congregation. In the interests of any member's spiritual well-being, a member of a church of God's dreams will accept and support biblical discipline [e.g., instruction, encouragement, admonition – and as a last resort – disfellowship in cases of deliberate and unrepentant rejection of God's gospel, immorality, or divisiveness. Remember, all biblical discipline is redemptive, seeking the other's best interests and repentance with a view to reconciliation with God and his people] (Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 5-10).

"We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone." 1 Thessalonians 5:14 GW

The Point Church makes no claim or pretence to spiritual perfection. We simply and humbly desire to be authentic and committed in our relationship with God and one another in the pursuit of our vision to become a church of God's dreams. The apostle Paul said it well:

I'm not saying that I have it all together, that I have made it. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward – to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So, let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision – you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it ...

Philippians 3:12-16 The Message

“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”

Amos 3:3 NIV

If you share our vision, mission, and ethos, we hope you will choose to unite and work together with us as we seek to become a church of God's dreams.

Please prayerfully consider your decision.

Please inform the elders when you reach a decision and retain this membership ethos for your own reference. If no indication is given to the elders beforehand, your continued fellowship with The Point Church for three months after undertaking this ethos study will be taken as an indication that you wish to be regarded a member of this congregation and that you desire to support and pursue our vision, mission, and ethos.

The Point Church 2024 Strategic Plan

G*od*

L*eading us in*

U*nity and*

E*vangelism*

2024 Four Key Goals:

1. The church is united in spirit and purpose as each member does their part and shares in a common vision, mission, ethos, and community life that honors God and benefits all members
2. The church has a practical teaching program aimed at developing individual Bible knowledge, especially of the gospel, in such a way that each member is better equipped for spiritual growth and evangelism and being a Christ-like model to those around them
3. The church has positive relationships with other believers
4. The church is disciples of Christ making disciples of Christ

For more details see the separate Point Church 2024 Strategic Planning Document available on our website (thepoint.org.au).

The Point Church is a **Safe Church**

Policies and procedures pertaining to health and safety in general, and Safe Churches in particular (including a Code of Conduct), are available on the Point Church website (thepoint.org.au). These documents will be updated and expanded periodically. One important step taken by the Point Church towards protecting the emotional and physical safety of its members and associates is the appointment of two **Safe Church Go-To-Persons**. Any concerns regarding the emotional and physical safety of persons arising from their involvement with the Point Church, its ministries, and its representative personnel (whether paid or volunteer) should be reported to one of the Safe Church go-to-persons as soon as possible. The Safe Church go-to-persons both have training and experience in counselling and/or pastoral care. They will respectfully and non-judgmentally listen to any concerns in confidence. They will then take appropriate action in accordance with the Point's Safe Church grievance procedure (incorporating the process outlined by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-19; see page 18).

The Point Church **Safe Church Go-To-Persons**

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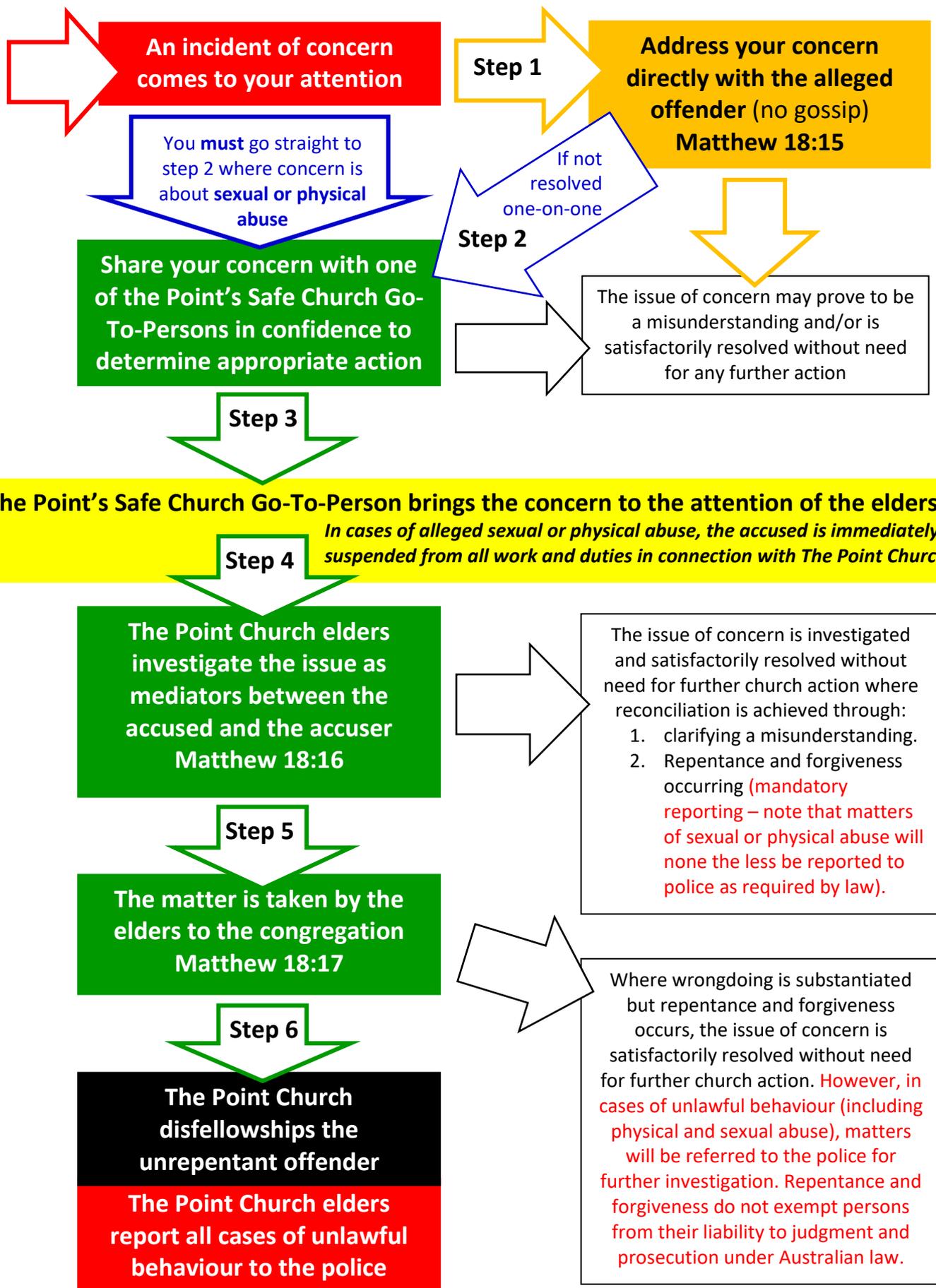
Stephen Wilson

0419 779 438

steve@thepoint.org.au



Point Church Safe Church Grievance Procedure Flow Chart



*I have been crucified
with Christ. It is no
longer I who live, but
Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in
the flesh I live by faith in
the Son of God, who
loved me and gave
himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20 ESV

Notes
