

Southview Community Church
Elders' Statement on Women and Men in Ministry
August 10, 2011

We believe the Bible teaches that men and women were created by God and equally bear His image (Gen. 1:27). God's intention was for them to share oneness and community (Gen. 2:23-24), even as the Godhead experiences oneness within the Trinity. The Church is made up of many parts and all are required to form one body without division (1 Cor. 12: 12-13, 24-26) "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

God has acted through Christ to redeem the human race, and to offer to all people the opportunity to be part of His church. It is God's intention for His children to experience the oneness that exists between the Father and the Son (John 17:11, 20-23.) At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on women and men alike, as had been predicted long before the coming of Christ (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:18). In the New Testament, women as well as men exercised prophetic and priestly functions (Acts 2:17-18, 1 Cor. 11:4-5, 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Therefore, in our attempts to worship together as a biblically functioning community, both men and women may serve in ministerial and leadership capacities. We are committed to the following values:

1. To provide opportunity for ministry based on giftedness and character, without regard to gender. All believers will be encouraged to exercise their spiritual gifts for God's glory, mission purpose, and the joy of serving God and others, with the full support of the entire Christian community.
2. To pursue the kind of purity and loyalty in relationships between genders that led New Testament writers to describe them in terms of family "brothers and sisters".
3. To teach and model these values to members of our community, to the church and to the world at large. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matt. 20:19-20