

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XXX

The Government of the Church and its Offices

Leader: We believe that this true Church must be governed by that spiritual polity which our Lord has taught us in His Word;

People: **Namely, that there must be ministers or pastors¹ to preach the Word of God and to administer the sacraments; also elders and deacons, who, together with the pastors, form the council of the Church;²**

Leader: That by these means the true religion may be preserved, and the true doctrine everywhere propagated, likewise transgressors chastened and restrained by spiritual means;³ also that the poor and distressed may be relieved and comforted, according to their necessities.

People: **By these means everything will be carried on in the Church with good order and decency, when faithful men are chosen, according to the rule prescribed by St. Paul in his Epistle to Timothy.⁴**

¹ Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 4:14-16, 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:6, 2:15, 4:1-5

² Acts 6:3, 14:23

³ Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 20:28-30

⁴ 1 Tim. 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-11; Acts 6:1-7