**PROTOCOL FOR ELDERS**

**By**

**Pastor Owen E. Jack**

* Elders should not conduct church boards or business meetings without knowledge and permission of the pastor.
* Elders should not conduct baby dedications, house blessings and funerals without the knowledge and permission of the pastor.
* Permission should be sought from the church pastor if an Elder or departmental leader wish to have another pastor conduct a service or church related activity. Also, the invitation should be given through the church pastor.
* An Elder, church leader or member can choose to have another pastor do their wedding, baby dedication or funeral. However, the invitation should be given through the church pastor.
* If an Elder, leader or member has a problem with the pastor it should be dealt with in the following steps: (1) speak to the pastor alone, if that fails; (2) they should take someone else, (3) write and ask the board to look into it, (4) write the Zonal leader, if that fails the Zonal Leader will (5) write the Ministerial Secretary. If that fails the Ministerial Secretary will (6) refer the matter to the President. If the President cannot settle the problem (7) he will then take it to the Conference Committee for action.
* The Elder should never seek to undermine the pastor’s influence or usurp the Pastor’s authority in the church. He or she should encourage members to love, respect and cooperate with the Pastor.
* When it is time for Pastor’s Appreciation Day, the elder should never choose not to show any appreciation to the pastor because of his relationship with him.
* The elder assigned to speak at the Sabbath mid-day service should offer any visiting ordained minister or a Pastor who serves at the Conference Office the privilege to speak, if it is not a special day with an invited guest speaker.
* Elders should be modestly and appropriately dressed for all services, whether they are officiating or not. The Elder may be called upon at any time.
* Farewell functions for outgoing pastors should be before the new pastor is introduced to the church or district.
* Elders should switch off their phones before entering the church so that they can set a good example for the members.