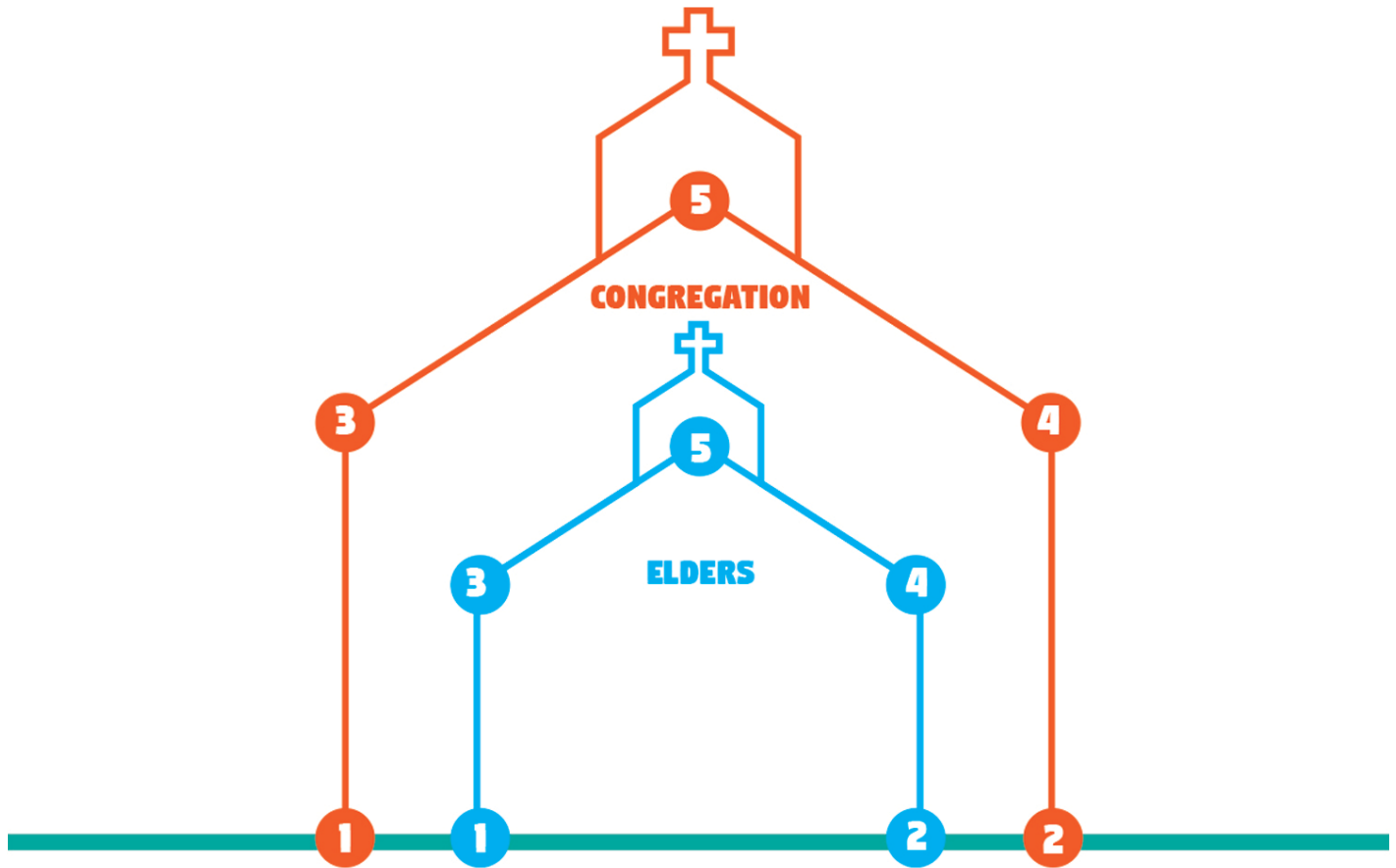


A House of Servants Built on the Line of Scripture



Men and Women Serving in the Church

1. God's household will have "male servants and female servants" (Isaiah 56:6 LXX). The New Testament is filled with men and women serving in God's household (1 Tim. 2:8–10).
2. The church needs the gifts and examples of male and female servants (*diakonoi*). Men and women should be encouraged to serve (Titus 2:1–10); exemplary servants should be recognized by the church (1 Tim. 3:8–13).
3. Men are the spiritual leaders of the church and the home, and the church should reflect the order of God's family in its public gatherings (1 Tim. 3:1–7).
4. Elders are always qualified men; women cannot be elders. Therefore, women will not teach in the public gathering of the church or have authority over a man (1 Tim. 2:12–14).
5. Elders cannot do everything; the church needs the help of gifted women serving in the church.

Male and Female "Deacons"

1. Deacons are not leaders and do not have authority in their office; they are servants, tasked with various roles in the church (e.g., Mark 10:42–45; John 12:26; Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28)
2. The New Testament is filled with women deaconing (e.g., Matt. 8:15; Luke 8:3; John 12:2; Acts 6:1)
3. Scripture has no prohibitions against women as deacons (1 Timothy 3:12 affirms male deacons; it does not deny women as deacons). Qualified women can be recognized as deacons.
4. Phoebe was a "deacon" of the church in Cenchraea (Rom. 16:1). First Timothy 3:11 identifies female deacons.
5. Church history testifies to faithful churches that have had male and female deacons.