

# COLE COMMUNITY CHURCH POSITION ON CHURCH INTERVENTION

Below is the procedure for intervention at Cole Community Church (CCC). The Scriptural principles stated in Matthew 18:15–17 underlie this policy. This procedure shall apply to any believer in Christ, whether a member of CCC or one who is identified with CCC as a regular attender.

1. A believer who sins shall be confronted in private by a believer who has knowledge of the offense. (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3,4; Galatians 6:1,2) It is important to keep the information in the smallest possible circle of knowledge while carrying out this procedure. If the offending believer repents, confesses and makes appropriate restitution, that is the end of the matter. (Luke 17:3; 1 John 1:9; Matthew 18:15)
2. Should the offending believer continue in sin after being privately confronted, the confronting brother/sister shall take one or two other believers and approach the offender so that “the facts may be confirmed”. (Matthew 18:16b; see Deuteronomy 19:15; John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1) If the offending believer repents, confesses and makes appropriate restitution, that is the end of the matter. (Luke 17:3; 1 John 1:9; Matthew 18:15)
3. If the offending believer rejects the confrontation with witnesses (as evidenced by an unrepentant spirit or a refusal to discuss the issue):
  - a. The sin shall be made known to the CCC Board of Elders who will assess the situation by sending a delegation to meet with the offending believer. If he/she agrees to that meeting, the board shall then decide whether to proceed with intervention. Should the offending believer reject the invitation to meet, then the board may render a decision based upon established facts.
  - b. If the CCC Board of Elders decides to proceed with intervention, the sinning believer will be informed that the sin will be announced to an appropriate segment of the fellowship, i.e., to a small fellowship group, or to the congregation at a specially called meeting at which time the body will be asked to lovingly admonish the unrepentant believer by means of personal visits, telephone calls, cards, or letters. (Matthew 18:17)
  - c. A “rescue team” of friends will be organized and sent to the offending believer to appeal to him/her for repentance.
  - d. The effort of the church to restore the believer shall continue for a period of time to be determined by the elders.
4. If the offending believer has not repented by the time determined by the elders, the unrepentant believer shall be told to disassociate from all activities of the church. (Matthew 18:17b; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13) A registered letter will be sent to the offending believer informing him/her of the action of the church and of the steps that must be taken for restoration. Furthermore, an announcement of this action will be made to the group in which the third step was announced.
5. A request for voluntary severance from CCC shall not void this process. If a believer under intervention leaves CCC to attend another church, the CCC Board of Elders will inform the leadership of that church of the action taken.
6. After the steps of this procedure have been completed, the body will be encouraged to continue to pray for the unrepentant offender. If the offender is moving toward repentance, the CCC Board of Elders should be notified and appropriate church activities (e.g. a growth group) may be reopened to the offender by the elders. Those involved in any “reopened” ministry will be advised of the elders’ decision.
7. Whenever the offending believer demonstrates a spirit of repentance (acknowledgment of sin, asking forgiveness of God, asking forgiveness of those offended, and making restitution where necessary) the following steps should be taken:
  - a. The repentant believer should contact a member of the CCC Board of Elders for the purpose of discussing his/her desire to discuss restoration with the entire Executive Committee.
  - b. At an Elder meeting or smaller gathering of Elders, the repentant individual should acknowledge his/her sinful actions, and the steps taken to demonstrate repentance (restoration of relationship with God; actions taken to reconcile with those affected by the sin; steps of restitution where necessary).
  - c. With the approval of the CCC Board of Elders, the individual may be brought back into fellowship. (2 Corinthians 2:5–7; Galatians 6:1)
  - d. An elder or other mature man or woman will be assigned to work with the repentant individual for the purpose of accountability and discipleship.