

The Evangelists Office

Article I – Definition of the Office

The term *evangelist* derives from the Greek word *euangelistēs* (“bringer/proclaimer of good news”). Evangelists are given by Christ to His Church to proclaim the Gospel, call people to repentance and faith, and help establish new believers in local churches (Eph. 4:11; Acts 21:8; 2 Tim. 4:5).

Evangelists announce Christ publicly and personally, explaining the Scriptures and urging a response (Acts 8:4–5, 26–40). Their ministry may involve itinerant work, citywide or neighborhood outreach, evangelistic preaching, personal witness, training believers in evangelism, (Rom. 10:14–15; 1 Cor. 9:16–23).

Article II – Qualifications of the Office

Biblical Qualifications

- Exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23).
- Walk in integrity, speaking truth in love (Eph. 4:15; 2 Cor. 4:2).
- Demonstrate soundness in the Gospel and guard against false gospels (Gal. 1:6–9; 2 Tim. 1:13–14).
- Endure hardship for the sake of the Gospel (2 Tim. 4:5; 2 Tim. 2:3).
- Maintain a good reputation with believers and outsiders (Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:7).
- Keep prayer and the Word central (Acts 6:4; Col. 4:2–4).

Lifestyle & Disposition

- Live a life of holiness, humility, and hospitality (1 Pet. 1:15–16; Rom. 12:13; Phil. 2:3–4).
- Work well in teams and honor church leadership (Acts 8:14–17; Eph. 4:3).
- Cultivate compassion for the lost and boldness in witness (Matt. 9:36–38; Acts 4:29–31).
- Exercise cultural wisdom and flexibility without compromising the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:19–23).
- Live above reproach in family, finances, and public conduct (1 Tim. 3:2; 2 Cor. 8:20–21).

Skills & Competencies

- Clearly proclaim the Gospel and call for response (Acts 8:35; Rom. 1:16; 10:9–10).
- Equip the Church for personal and corporate evangelism (Eph. 4:11–12; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- Engage seekers and skeptics with gracious, reasoned answers (1 Pet. 3:15; Acts 17:2–3).

- Train new believers in foundational discipleship and connect them to a local church (Matt. 28:19–20; Acts 2:41–47).
 - Organize and lead evangelistic outreaches (Acts 8:5–8).
 - Tell and steward testimonies appropriately to build faith (Acts 14:27; Rev. 12:11).
 - Model prayer, fasting, and dependence on the Spirit for Gospel fruit (Acts 13:2–3; Col. 4:3–4).
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Article III – Responsibilities of the Office

Evangelistic leaders bear responsibility to:

- Proclaim Christ and His Gospel with clarity and compassion, urging repentance and faith (Acts 8:12; 2 Tim. 4:5).
 - Equip the saints for personal witness (Eph. 4:11–12).
 - Partner with church leaders to integrate converts into worship, discipleship, and community life (Acts 8:14–17; Acts 2:42–47).
 - Guard the Gospel against distortion, manipulation, or prosperity-driven messaging (Gal. 1:6–9; 2 Cor. 4:2; 1 Thess. 2:3–8).
 - Lead prayer for the lost and mobilize the church toward the harvest (Matt. 9:37–38; Col. 4:3–4).
 - Train evangelistic apprentices; multiply faithful witnesses.
 - Encourage the Church in courage, perseverance, and joy in witness amid opposition (Acts 4:29–31; 1 Thess. 1:6–8).
 - Report fruit and needs to leadership for ongoing care and mission strategy (Acts 14:27).
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Article IV – Apprenticeship of the Office

- **Calling** – An evangelistic leader shall discern individuals sensing a call to the evangelist's office, confirmed by character and local church references.
 - **Agreement** – Candidates must read and understand the *Gardens in Exile Charter* and the *Leadership Office Bylaws* before entering an apprenticeship agreement.
 - **Apprenticeship** – Apprentices will be trained through teaching, lifestyle shadowing, and practical ministry experience by co-labouring. The goal is to prepare them to meet the qualifications of an evangelist. Further details will be outlined in the Apprenticeship Guidelines.
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Article V – Appointment of the Office

Apprenticeship Route

- Only evangelists may appoint evangelists.
- The mentoring evangelist ensures completion of apprenticeship training.

- Candidates must agree to the Charter and Leadership Bylaws.
- The mentoring evangelist ensures the apprentice has a strong theological foundation, tested by oral or written examinations in line with outcomes set by the Apostolic Council.
- The mentoring evangelist submits a report to the Apostolic Council for testimony and record.
- The apprentice is appointed into the office of evangelist through prayer and the laying on of hands.

Recognition Route (Existing Evangelists)

- The recognizing evangelist requests character references from family and church leaders regarding the candidate's suitability.
- The recognizing evangelist requests ministry references regarding the candidate's experience and grace for the office, and discerns whether they meet the qualifications or should first enter an apprenticeship.
- Candidates must read, understand, and agree to the Charter and Leadership Bylaws.
- The recognizing evangelist ensures the candidate has a strong theological foundation, tested by oral or written examination in line with outcomes set by the Apostolic Council.
- If approved, the recognizing evangelist submits a report to the Apostolic Council for testimony and record.
- The candidate is publicly appointed through prayer and the laying on of hands.

Article VI – Finance for the Office

1. Sources of Support

Appointed evangelists may receive financial support from:

- Individual supporters who partner in their ministry.
- Local churches they have planted, served, or are currently serving.

Evangelists shall not charge fees or sell ministry services. Their ministry must remain fully donation-based, freely offered as an act of stewardship and obedience to Christ (Matt. 10:8). Support must come through voluntary gifts and donations, never through commercialization of the Gospel.

2. Annual Reporting & Accountability

Evangelists who raise financial support must provide an annual report to supporters and contributing churches. Reports must include:

- **Donors** – individuals or churches who gave financial support that year (one-time or ongoing).
- **Living Salary** – modest personal support.
- **Ministry Expenses** – travel, training, discipleship, materials, gatherings, etc.
- **Retirement Savings** – 10% of raised funds, in addition to salary, set aside for retirement.

- **Administrative Costs** – banking fees, online giving platform fees, etc.

Failure to report honestly or misrepresentation of funds will result in discipline and restoration under apostolic oversight.

3. Bi-Vocational Expectation

Evangelists must remain willing to be bi-vocational as needed, serving with integrity and diligence (Acts 18:3; 1 Thess. 2:9). Their ministry shall not depend solely on external fundraising but be rooted in stewardship, prayer, and faithfulness to God's provision.

4. Tax Obligations

Evangelists must honor the civil laws of the nations where they minister by paying taxes as required (Rom. 13:6–7; Matt. 22:21). They must not conceal or misrepresent income but act with honesty and integrity before God and man.

Article VII – Legal Matters for Evangelists

Each evangelist may operate as self-employed in compliance with civil law.

Article VIII – Restoration & Removal of Evangelists

1. Accountability

Every evangelist shall be accountable to other evangelistic leaders and to the apostolic leaders who appointed them or under whose oversight they serve.

2. Restoration

Evangelists may be corrected for misconduct, sexual immorality, financial dishonesty, abuse of authority, false teaching, or any action contrary to the Word of God and the *Gardens in Exile Charter and Bylaws*. Correction shall be redemptive in nature, seeking repentance, healing, and restoration rather than condemnation (Gal. 6:1; Heb. 12:11).

Steps:

- First, evangelistic leaders correct one another in love privately.
- If unresolved, the matter is brought before their apostolic overseer.

The goal is always reconciliation, spiritual health, and the honor of Christ's name.

Restoration may include repentance, accountability, mentoring, or suspension from ministry.

3. Removal from Office

- No evangelist may be removed solely by another evangelist.
- If removal is deemed necessary, the matter must be brought before the Apostolic Overseer, who holds final authority.
- Removal must be prayerful, based on evidence and spiritual discernment, not personal grievance.

- Ministries led by a removed evangelist shall be informed and reassigned to another evangelistic leader.
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Article IX – Amendments

- Amendments to these Bylaws may only be made by the Apostolic Council.