

SURVEY RESPONSE FULFILLMENT LIBRARY

Fellowship & Spiritual Covering Discovery Guide

A preparation guide for pastors considering counsel, accountability, and covenant relationship

DOCUMENT	SURVEY PATH	INTENDED AUDIENCE
01-02	Covering, accountability, or pastoral relationship	Senior pastors and governing leaders

PURPOSE Help both parties discuss spiritual covering with clarity, mutual honor, healthy boundaries, and documented responsibility.

READY FOR STANDARD RELEASE Send with 01-01 when covering or accountability is selected; follow with a confidential pastoral conversation.

A working understanding of spiritual covering

Within CIOA, spiritual covering is understood as relational ministry expressed through prayer, instruction, encouragement, counsel, accountability, and timely assistance. It should strengthen a leader’s faithful stewardship before God; it should never be used to replace Christ’s headship, Scripture, lawful governance, or the responsibility of local leaders.

HEALTHY BOUNDARY Covering is not ownership, coercive control, automatic legal authority, or permission to bypass a church’s governing documents. Any authority granted must be explicit, lawful, proportionate, and reviewable.

Mutual commitments to discuss

CIOA / covering leader	Local pastor / church
Pray, listen, counsel, teach, encourage, and respond within agreed limits	Communicate honestly, seek counsel early, and remain responsible for local decisions

CIOA / covering leader	Local pastor / church
Protect confidentiality subject to safety and legal duties	Disclose material doctrine, governance, conflict, or safeguarding concerns
Clarify recommendations versus decisions	Identify who may approve decisions and how advice is received
Offer correction with dignity and a restoration aim	Receive accountable questions without surrendering conscience or due process
Review the relationship and address unresolved concerns	Honor agreed meetings, records, and any documented commitments

Prepare for the discovery conversation

- ☐ State the primary reason you are seeking fellowship or covering at this time.
- ☐ List current denominational, network, apostolic, legal, or financial relationships.
- ☐ Identify your board, elders, trustees, or other decision-making body.
- ☐ Bring governing documents, a concise doctrinal statement, and the church's ministry profile.
- ☐ Name the pastoral, doctrinal, organizational, or succession concerns that need attention.
- ☐ Describe the degree of counsel, accountability, intervention, and confidentiality you expect.
- ☐ Identify any matters that must remain under local authority or require congregational approval.

Suggested 45-minute agenda

Time	Focus
5 minutes	Prayer, introductions, and purpose
10 minutes	The church's history, present need, and desired relationship
10 minutes	CIOA vision, values, doctrine, and approach to covering
10 minutes	Governance, authority, confidentiality, and boundaries
5 minutes	Questions, possible pathway, and matters requiring review
5 minutes	Agreed next step, owner, and target date

Covering as entrusted relationship

CIOA's governing materials frame covenant relationship as a mutual exchange of commitments, privileges, and responsibilities. That framework keeps covering relational and accountable. A covering leader may pray, teach, advise, correct, encourage, and help a pastor discern; the local pastor remains answerable for faithful stewardship, lawful governance, and the care of the congregation.

- **Source:** authority is received from God and exercised under Scripture, not manufactured by title or personality.
- **Scope:** each relationship states what counsel, review, intervention, reporting, or approval is actually entrusted.
- **Character:** correction aims at restoration, maturity, truth, and peace rather than humiliation or dependency.
- **Consent:** expectations are understood by the pastor and the church's authorized governing body before public representation.
- **Review:** the relationship is evaluated at defined intervals and may be clarified when circumstances change.

KAPS CONNECTION When useful, KAPS can support a development conversation about identity, preparation, capacities, competencies, and placement. It does not confer office or replace the church's governing process.

Recommended response

NEXT STEP Complete the preparation checklist, then request a confidential discovery conversation. No covering relationship should be announced until written expectations and approvals are complete.

Contact: KOGC Office: 202-642-4215 | info@sdlglobal.org

Key Scripture references (NKJV): Ephesians 4:11–16; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Galatians 6:1–2

Source foundation: S01, S02, S04, S07. See 00-01 Source & Public Release Matrix for source titles, controls, and approval requirements. Scripture references are presented for study; verify quotations against the approved Bible text before publication.

This document supports information and conversation. It does not by itself establish affiliation, spiritual covering, credentialing, ordination, KRC designation, academic enrollment, or event confirmation.