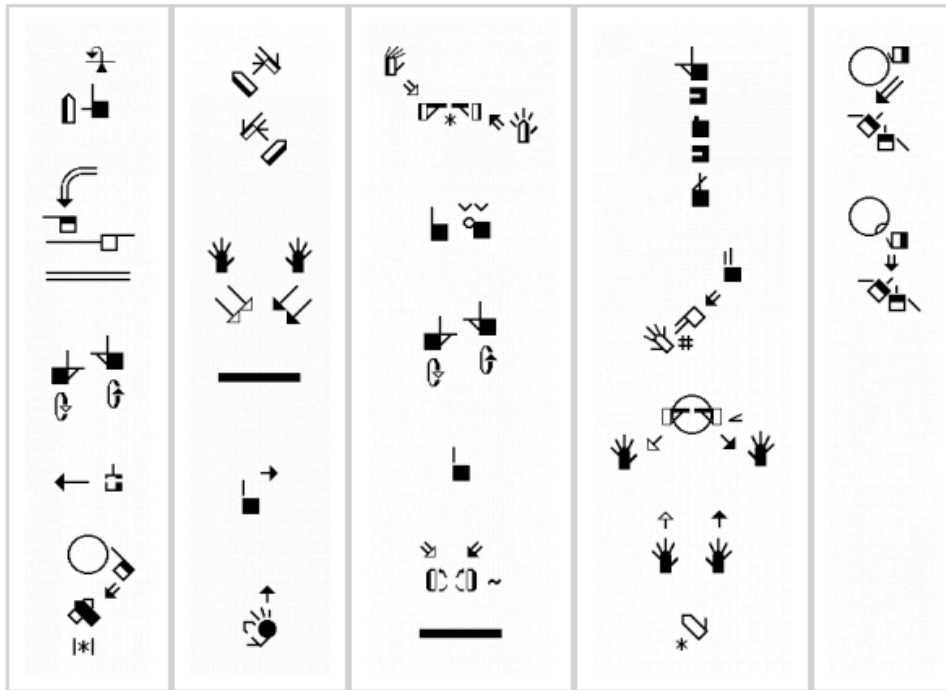
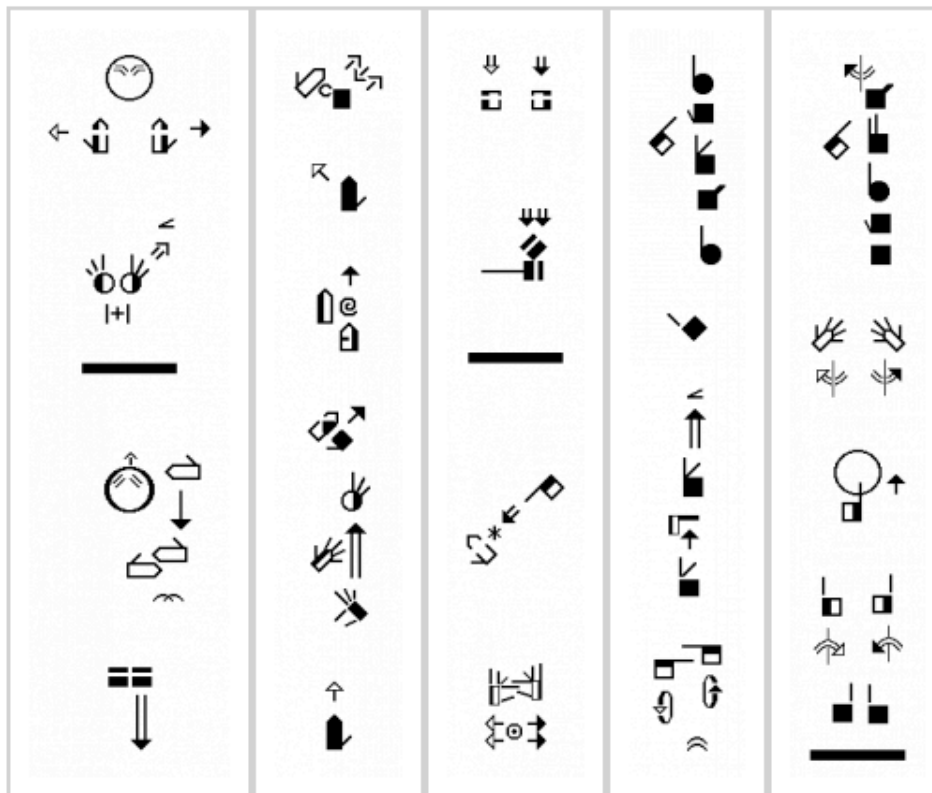


CHURCH BUSINESS (POLITY)



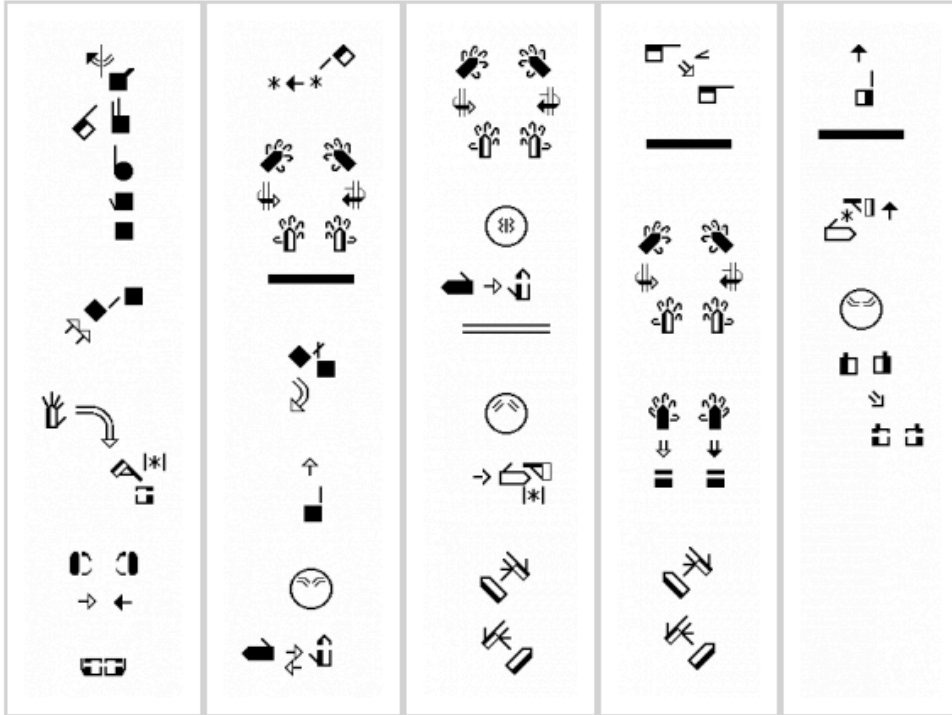
Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

The first Christian congregation. They maintained order and organization. An unorganized church is confused and cannot accomplish very much. Apparently, Peter was one of the leaders, if not THE leader of the first church.



16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus--

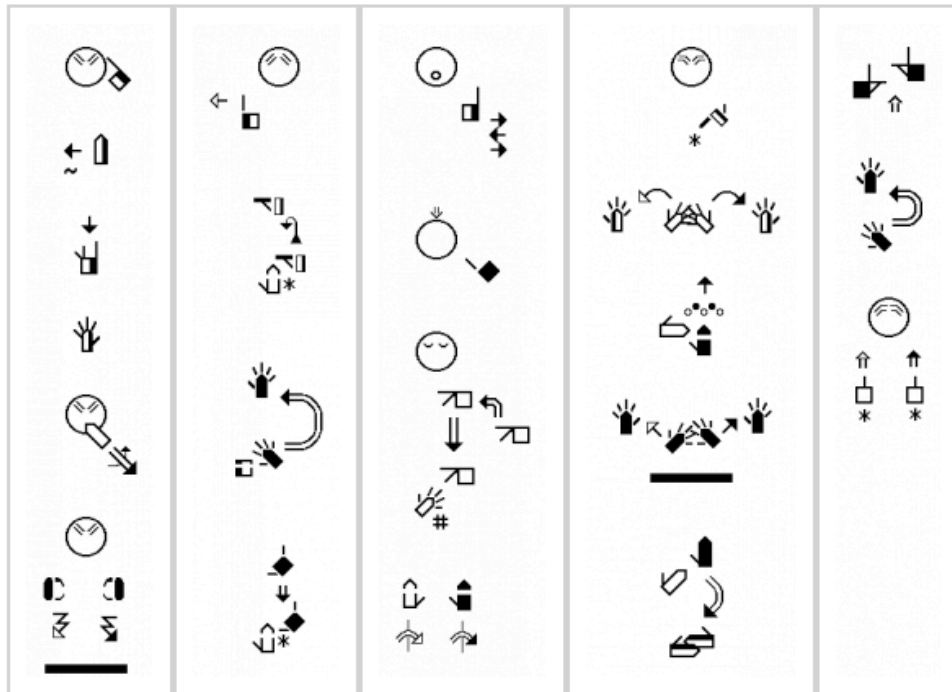
Peter and the others believed they must organize themselves according to the Scripture and the Holy Spirit.



17 he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.”

Peter saw Apostolic leadership as divinely ordained and necessary to maintain. The Apostles had a ministry of preaching and prayer.

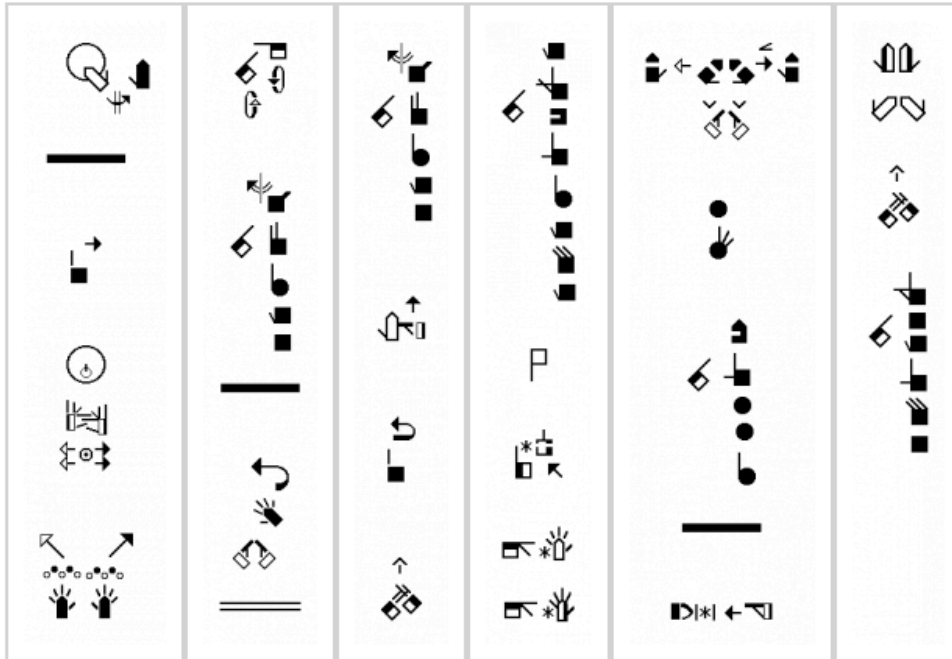
Apparently, Jesus instructed Peter to replace Judas or he had learned it from the Scriptures himself. We also need to follow Biblical patterns of organization.



18 (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.

Psalm 109:8 This is an an interesting question: Does God cause the future or only know the future?

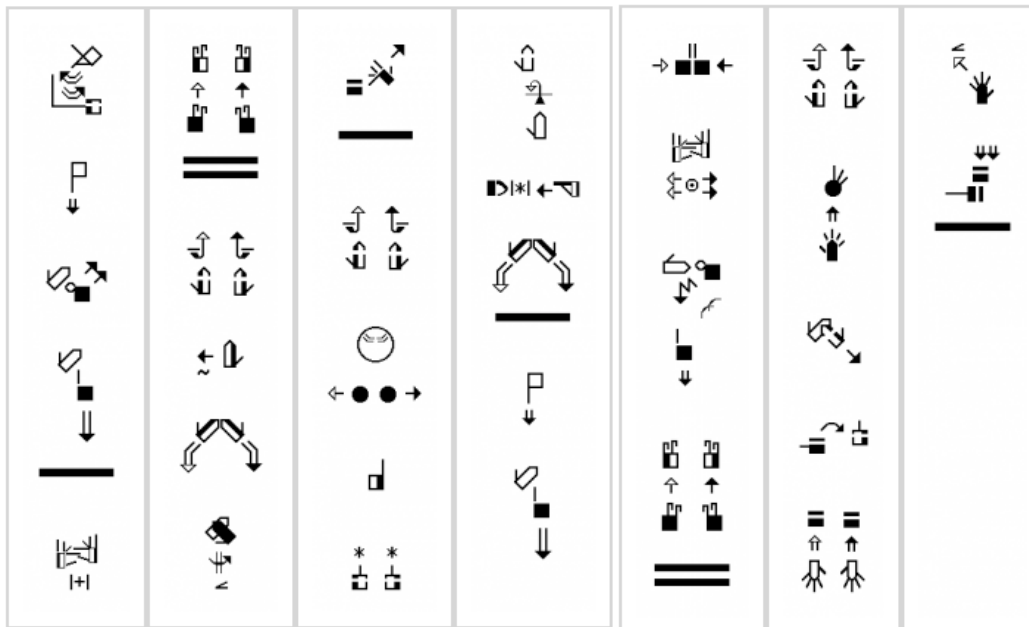
We Learn from the very beginning of the Church the importance of organization, leadership, Scripture and the Holy Spirit. Those who under value these principles weaken the Church. The Body of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church, must be organized around these principles in order for her to accomplish her mission.



19 Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Question 2: What are the implications of suicide? Why do people kill themselves?

Suicide is a sin; it could be understood as killing everyone. Depression, guilt, anger, fear, and even drugs can contribute to suicidal thoughts



20 “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms, “May his place be deserted; let there be no-one to dwell in it,’ and, “May another take his place of leadership.’

Peter saw this Scripture not only as a prophecy but also a command.

The first meeting of the church did not give much time to Judas’ tragedy. Instead they prayed, studied, and did what they thought God wanted them to do. Sadly, present day Christians are distracted from their mission by ordinary life and comparing themselves to other churches instead of organizing their assemblies according to the will of God. Let us seek not to please people but to be the church God wants.