



YOUR ROLE as ELDER

A WORKSHOP



A Workshop Hosted by:
DHM's **Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)**

Examining Your Role as Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

(Sessions 1 and 2)

Historically, the various functions of Elders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been, and continues to be significant. In this workshop we will examine the role of Elders, who are called to be primary in church leadership, along with service as teachers, and shepherds. Most importantly, and with great significance Elders participate in the service at the Lord's Table. This workshop will examine the roles of Elders in many capacities and offer education, training and resources to strengthen leadership within the church.

Hosted by: DHM's Leadership Initiative Team (LIT)

Monday, July 22nd

Session 1: 1:30-2:50

Session 2: 3:00 – 4:30

This workbook belongs to: _____



***Blessing, glory and honor
be to God forever. Amen.***

[illegible]



Paragraph 97 of Section VI ("Ministry") of the Design for the Christian Church. It reads as follows:

The offices of the eldership and the diaconate are ordered by the congregations, through election and recognition with appropriate ceremony, for the performance of certain functions of ministry appropriate to the offices. A person elected to the eldership is authorized to exercise within the congregation which elects him or her the ministerial functions which it assigns for periods of time which it specifies, such as: sharing in the ministration of baptism and the Lord's Supper and the conduct of worship, and sharing in the pastoral care and spiritual leadership of the congregation. The eldership is a voluntary ministry, each congregation having a plurality of elders.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Elders in the Church

true: Anyone wanting to become an overseer desires a good work. An oWhat I say is verseer must not give people a reason to criticize him, and he must have only one wife. He must be self-controlled, wise, respected by others, ready to welcome guests, and able to teach. He must not drink too much wine or like to fight, but rather be gentle and peaceable, not loving money. He must be a good family leader, having children who cooperate with full respect. (If someone does not know how to lead the family, how can that person take care of God's church?) But an elder must not be a new believer, or he might be too proud of himself and be judged guilty just as the devil was. An elder must also have the respect of people who are not in the church so he will not be criticized by others and caught in the devil's trap.

Footnotes:

1 **3:11 women** This might mean the wives of the deacons, or it might mean women who serve in the same way as deacons.

3:16 He Some Greek copies read "God."

Church Officials

It is true that[a] anyone who desires to be a church official[b] wants to be something worthwhile. That's why officials must have a good reputation and be faithful in marriage.[c] They must be self-controlled, sensible, well-behaved, friendly to strangers, and able to teach. They must not be heavy drinkers or troublemakers. Instead, they must be kind and gentle and not love money.

Church officials must be in control of their own families, and they must see that their children are obedient and always respectful. If they don't know how to control their own families, how can they look after God's people?

They must not be new followers of the Lord. If they are, they might become proud and be doomed along with the devil. Finally, they must be well-respected by people who are not followers. Then they won't be trapped and disgraced by the devil.

Footnotes:

1 **3.1** *It is true that:* These words may be taken with 2.15. If so, that verse would be translated: "It is true that women will be saved. . . holy, and modest." And 3.1 would be translated, "Anyone who desires. . . something worthwhile."

3.1 *church official:* Or "bishop."

3.2 *be faithful in marriage:* Or "be the husband of only one wife" or "have never been divorced."

When it is time for your congregation to select elders...

Prayerfully selecting and calling an elder to serve

Examine the guidelines and examples given in the Acts scripture below. It can be challenging; selecting elders based on their spiritual gifts and call. Remember a person's character counts. Be careful not to select new Christians.

So, brothers and sisters, choose seven of your own men who are good, full of the Spirit and full of wisdom. We will put them in charge of this work. Then we can continue to pray and to teach the word of God."

The whole group liked the idea, so they chose these seven men: Stephen (a man with great faith and full of the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (a man from Antioch who had become a follower of the Jewish religion). Then they put these men before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:1-7

Instruction and Cautions

Read the Bible verse below which is only two sentences. Find the instruction and cautions within this verse. Write your thoughts below.

An elder must not be a new believer. It might make him too proud of himself. Then he would be condemned for his pride the same as the devil was.

1 Timothy 3:6 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

Are you willing to be a servant, and if your answer is “yes”, how do you envision living this out?

Today: Where Are You?

What is your favorite scripture passage or mantra? Write the passage on line "A." Write the title of your favorite "church" hymn, or other song on line "B."

A) _____

B) _____

What do you value most at this time in your life? Write your answer in space "C" below.

C) _____

Read the passage below. In the space following, explain, in your own words, what it means.

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT)

Why?

Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)



Gifts Given. . . . (By the Holy Spirit):

Making personal growth choices on our spiritual journey.

God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job teaching. If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have the gift of showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

Help each other... Plant to please the Spirit...

Galatians 6:7-10 New Century Version (NCV)

Do not be fooled: You cannot cheat God. People harvest only what they plant. If they plant to satisfy their sinful selves, their sinful selves will bring them ruin. But if they plant to please the Spirit, they will receive eternal life from the Spirit. We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up. When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.

Everyday living as an elder in the church

Personal Spiritual Growth



Help with the Heavy Pieces

Where do you get help when things are really heavy?



Elders stronger together for prayer and support





This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]



Mentors, Helpers and Angels

The future - Your plan as an elder with God as your partner.

Your own personal Christian Service _____

Why? *Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving.*

1 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT)

- Study Resources _____
- Prayer Partners _____
- Spiritual Warriors _____
- Mentors _____
- Sharing Jesus Christ _____
- Sharing and receiving love in Christ's design _____
- Taking time -- to **listen** and **be still** , to build a relationship with God.

Why? *The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.*

1 Kings 19:11-13 (NIV)



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