

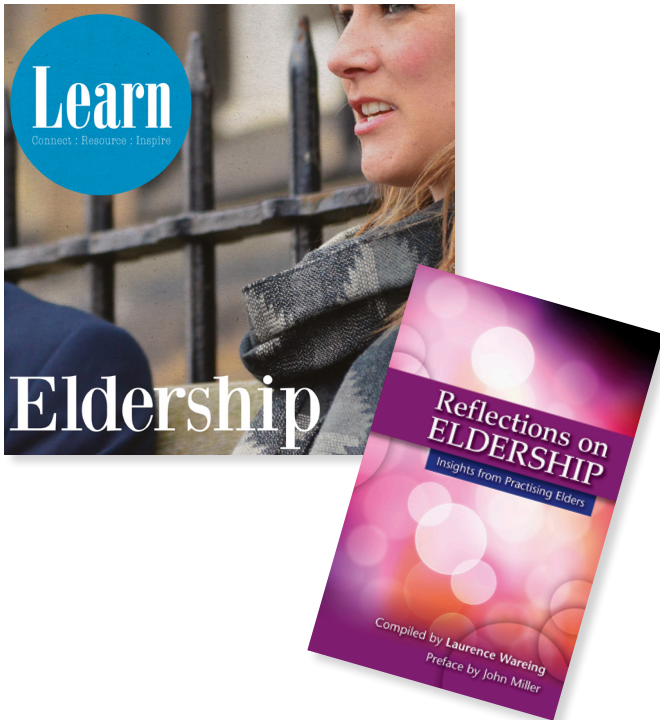
Why should I?

In this time of exciting challenge, change and opportunity in the life of the church in Scotland:

- Your church needs people like you
- You have gifts and skills that the Kirk Session needs
- Other people see you as the right kind of person
- We think God is calling you

Resources

- **Learn Eldership**
available at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn
- **Reflections on Eldership** by Laurence Wareing
available at www.standrewpress.com



Learn

Church of Scotland
121 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4YN

Email: learn@cofscotland.org.uk
Web: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn

 The Church of Scotland

©COS 871 10/14
Scottish Charity Number: SC0 11353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn

Learn

Connect : Resource : Inspire

Becoming an elder in the Church of Scotland



What does it entail?

While the work of an elder varies from church to church every elder agrees to the following:

The eldership affirmation

“Do you believe the fundamental doctrines of the christian faith;

Do you promise

To see the unity and peace of the church;

To uphold its doctrine, worship, government and discipline;

And to take your due part in the administration of its affairs?”

What does this mean?

Every elder is expected to:

- Attend worship regularly
- Remember the work of the church in their own prayers
- Give sacrificially of their time talents and money
- Attend Kirk Session meetings and workgroups/ committees
- Work in partnership with the minister and the other elders

Individual elders might use their gifts in:

- Leadership & vision building
- Pastoral care
- Developing forms of worship
- Administration
- Outreach
- Christian education



What is the time commitment

Your personal circumstances will dictate how much time you can offer but Session meetings usually last about 2 hours. There is also an expectation that you will commit time to using your gifts to enrich the life of the church.

This individual and personal commitment should be discussed with your minister or session clerk.

What help is there?

- God promises to help you fulfil your role and thus grow in faith through involvement and service
- Elders whom you know can share their wisdom and experience
- Eldership workshops and conferences are available locally and nationally
- Downloadable resources:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn
www.resourcingchurches.org.uk

What distinguishes the elder?

The call and commitment to undertake, along with the minister, responsibility for the life of the congregation in all its aspects, including worship, mission and service to the wider community.

Assembly council report on eldership 2003

A prayer for elders

Grant them the gift of your Holy Spirit, that their hearts may be set on fire with love for you and those committed to their care. Make them pure in heart as those who have the mind of christ. Give them vision to discern your purposes for the church and the world you love. Keep them faithful to the end in all their service, that when the chief shepherd appears, they may receive glory, a crown that never fades.

Book of Common Order of the Church of Scotland,
St Andrew Press 1994, pp.338-339