

# TED Elders Training Curriculum

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Ministerial Association | General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | Trans-European Division



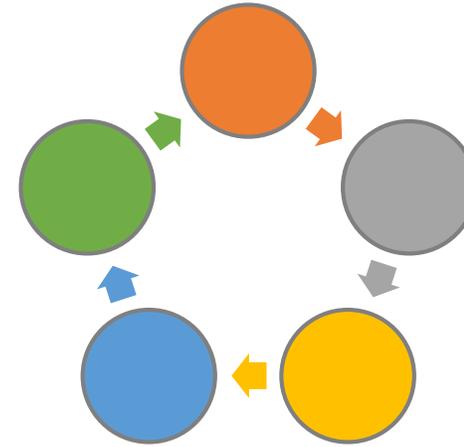


# General Oversight

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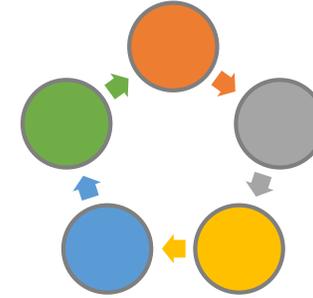


# Administrating

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## GO 2.1

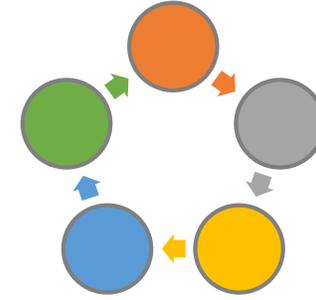
# The Church and Its Organisation

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# Purpose of the Church



The church is God's idea:

- The church is a divine plan.
- God works in an organized way.
- The church was founded by Christ.

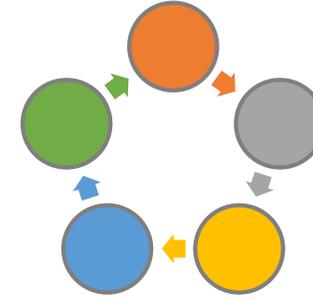
*“People who want to be part of God’s plan, but not part of an organization, do not understand how God works.”*

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# What is the Church?



## Biblical images:

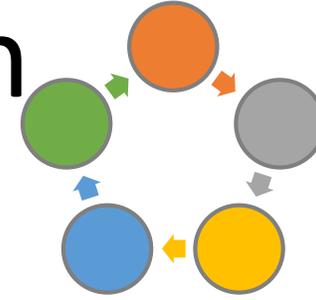
- A holy nation
- A covenant people
- The body of Christ
- The family of God
- A household of faith
- The bride of Christ
- A royal priesthood

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# Organisation of the Church

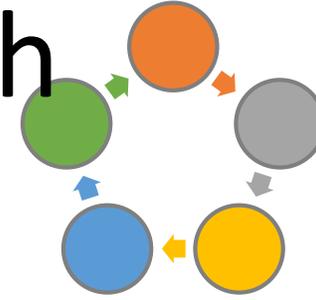


## Bible models:

- **Old Testament model:** The 12 tribes, a theocratic nation.
- **New Testament model:** *Ekklesia*, ‘the called out ones’



# Organisation of the Church

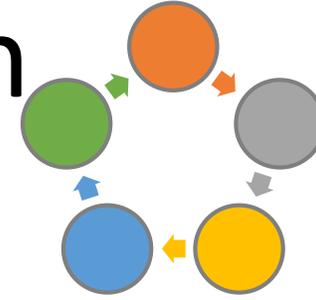


The SDA organisation:

- **Prophetic origin:** Revelation 12:17 and 14:12
- **Prophetic message:** Revelation 14:9-11
- **Great Commission:** Matthew 28:19- 20



# Organisation of the Church



Four forms of church organization:

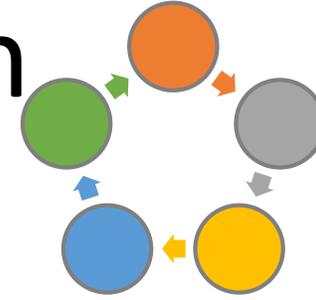
- **Papal:** The Pope has supreme authority.
- **Episcopal:** The final authority rests with church bishops.
- **Congregational:** Full authority within its domain rests with the local congregation.
- **Representative:** Authority rests with church members.

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# Organisation of the Church



Levels of SDA church organization:

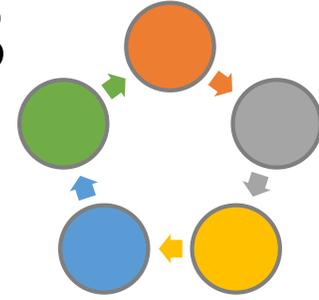
- **Local Congregations:** Includes organized churches and companies.
- **Local Field:** Conference/Mission.
- **Union:** Conference/Mission.
- **General Conference:** The 13 Division world field.

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# Importance of Church Elders



## Old Testament Elders:

- An elder doesn't refer to “the elderly”, but does imply one of maturity and experience.
- Moses: Counsel from Jethro (Exodus 18).
- The 70 Men: Qualifications (Numbers 11).

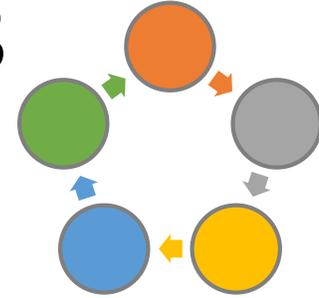
**“In the KJV, the term ELDER is used 194 times.”**

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# Importance of Church Elders



## New Testament Elders:

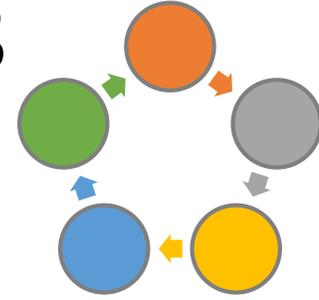
- **Apostles:** They were ordained and were responsible for the overall teaching, planning, administration, and evangelism of the church. They were generally itinerant workers.
- **Elders:** They were ordained lay persons. They exercised their spiritual gifts in the local congregation. They provided a ministry that gave strength and direction to the local church.

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# Importance of Church Elders

Seventh-day Adventist Elders:



There are approximately 25,000 ministers available to serve more than 21 million Seventh-day Adventist members in more than 120,000 congregations. Only through the faithful ministry of local church leaders can churches thrive.

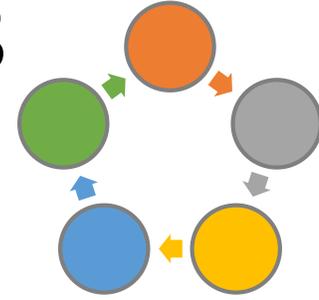
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# Importance of Church Elders

Seventh-day Adventist Elders:



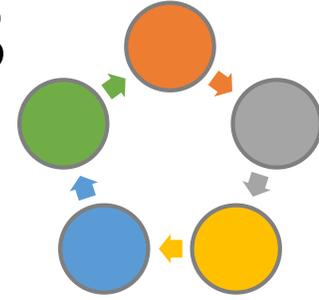
The need of effective pastor-elder teams is more necessary today than ever. We have to learn to depend more upon the ability and skills of well-trained lay people rather than upon the talents and skills of the professional pastor.

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# Importance of Church Elders

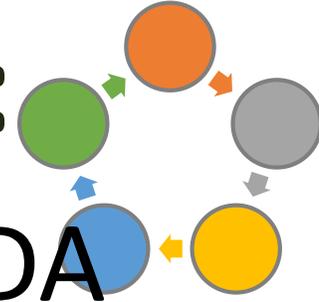


*“In the absence of a pastor, elders are the spiritual leaders of the church and by precept and example must seek to lead the church into a deeper and fuller Christian experience.”*

Church Manual, p.73



# The Need of the Church:



Training is the greatest need of the SDA Church in the world today because of:

1. our rapid growth
2. the decline of economy
3. the new mentality of this generation

We need to change our philosophy of pastoring the local congregation.

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