



TED Elders Training Curriculum

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





Spiritual Leadership

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The Elder's Call and Qualifications

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Overview:

1. Calling and election
2. Job description
3. Qualifications
4. Example to members
5. Leader of members
6. Ordination



1. Calling and Election

Called by God:

- God has called every member to a ministry.
- The call to be an elder is a call from God.
- Elders who realize that their calling comes first from God will most appreciate the importance and seriousness of their leadership responsibilities.



1. Calling and Election

Elected by congregation:

- Election and ordination are required to become an elder.
- Elders should not be elected on status or appearance but on recognition of God's calling and equipping.



2. Job Description

In the New Testament:

- They were appointed in every church (Acts 14:23)
- They were highly respected (1Tim 5:17,19)
- They had administrative responsibilities (Acts 15:2,6)
- They gave leadership in prayer and anointed the sick (James 5:14)
- They were shepherds, overseers, and living examples (1Pet 5:1-3)



2. Job Description

Spiritual Leadership:

- Should have consecrated lives
- Have spiritual leadership ability
- Be respected by their congregation
- Good communication skills



2. Job Description

General Oversight:

- Understand SDA organisation and governance
- Running committees
- Congregational worship
- Teaching and preaching
- Church departments
- Team building, recognizing spiritual gifting



2. Job Description

Nurture:

- Elders are not only overseers, but shepherds
- Visitation
- Prepare new members for baptism
- Provide a loving and nurturing environment for new members



2. Job Description

Small Churches:

- Have more responsibilities in the church
- Preach more often
- Lead out in worship service and communion
- Call and chair the church board or business meeting in the pastor's absence



2. Job Description

Small Churches:

- Plan the visitation of church members
- Oversee the evangelistic plans for the church
- Train the congregation in stewardship
- Give general oversight to church finances



2. Job Description

Large Churches:

- Team of Elders and the first elder
- Board of Elders
- Serve as members of the church board



3. Qualifications

Committed to Christ:

- Total commitment
- Daily commitment
- Time commitment



3. Qualifications

Total Commitment:

- To give others what you don't have yourself is an impossible and frustrating task.
- Real power springs from spirituality that comes from a personal encounter with Christ.



3. Qualifications

Daily Commitment:

- Commitment, deep spirituality, and a strong moral character are necessary attributes of Christian leadership, but they do not come naturally.
- As a Christian leader, you cannot hope to have the power to lead your people in God's way unless you make a commitment to daily devotion.



3. Qualifications

Time Commitment:

- No commitment is total unless it includes a commitment of time. You need to consider spending two to four hours a week doing the work of an elder.
- You must not let church work cause you to neglect your family and other responsibilities.



4. Example to members

- Support church doctrine
- Maintain strong family relationships
- Be sexually pure
- Overcome racial/gender/disability prejudices
- Be an exemplary giver
- Admit your mistakes

“God asks nothing of you that He is not willing and able to empower you to do.”



5. Leader of members

- Elders must love people
- Keep the church unity
- Able to work with church members
- Follow your leaders
- Be an enabler of members



6. Ordination

Definition and purpose:

- Acknowledged form of designation to an office and the recognition of one's authority in that office.
- Ordination conveys no special powers upon the recipient, it does impose solemn responsibilities.



6. Ordination

Prerequisites to ordination:

- A call by God and election by a local church.
- Elders should be persons of experience and chosen wisely.
- The *Church Manual* suggests that ordination should occur soon after election.



6. Ordination

The ordination service:

- Performed by an ordained/commissioned minister.
- Ordained/commissioned ministers and elders in the congregation may assist.
- The ordination is held in the presence of the congregation the elder is to serve.



6. Ordination

Authority granted:

- Elders are recognized their entire life if church membership is maintained.
- Elders may officiate communion, funeral, and marriage services.
- Elders may request the conference/mission to arrange for the baptism rite.



6. Ordination

Authority limited:

- They function as elders as long as the church elects them to the office.
- Only the local church can elect elders. They are authorized to serve only where they were elected.
- It is customary for the local church pastor to ordain them.



Conclusion

1Peter 5:1-4

