



That is a lot to ask of anyone.

What are those essential tenets, and what does it mean to receive and adopt them “as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do?” How might you be “continually guided by our confessions?” And by doing these things, can you “further the peace, unity, and purity of the church,” or “better serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” Not to mention, how does this office of elder and the ministry to which you have been called help to form you into a more faithful Christian?

In response to this desire to be all that God would have us be, the Office of Theology and Worship has created **The Order of Elders**. Similar to The Company of Pastors, this program is meant especially for you, the elder who wants to know God more clearly, love God more dearly, and follow God more nearly, day by day.

The Order of Elders is open to all elders, whether you are currently serving on session or resting between terms. Those who join The Order commit themselves to daily disciplines of prayer, reading of Scripture and the *Book of Confessions*. Members also agree to be part of a book subscription program through which they will, three times a year, buy and read selected books of significance for church leaders and faithful Christians. The books will be sent out **automatically**.

THE COVENANT OF THE ORDER

When you and/or your session join **The Order of Elders**, you will have a new way of living those promises you made upon your ordination, most particularly being a friend to those with whom you serve. But this is a friendship strengthened by the practice of common spiritual, intellectual, and vocational disciplines:

- Daily reading of Scripture based on the Sunday lectionary readings, including the Psalms, tilling the soil during the week to better receive God’s Word each Lord’s Day.
- Daily prayer for your colleagues, congregation, and the denomination.
- Daily reflection of an assigned portion of one of the church's confessions.
- Reading of assigned books concerning issues of faith and life that are central to Christian living and ministry. The books will be sent out **automatically**

There will also be a luncheon at the General Assembly for members of **The Order of Elders** (and those interested in the program), in conjunction with one hosted by The Company of Pastors. Speakers have included William Placher, Cynthia Campbell, Thomas Long, Leanne Van Dyk, Richard Mouw, Eugene Peterson, and Craig Barnes.

HOW IT WORKS

Upon joining **The Order of Elders** you will receive the following:

Access to a member-only website with

- *a list of resources, including electronic access to many of the daily readings*
- *a roster of members*
- *a discussion forum to communicate with other members*
- *reports on regional gatherings, and suggestions for planning one in your area*

A schedule of readings and a suggested order for prayer.

A stoneware paperweight/coaster with the logo of **The Order of Elders**, as a visible reminder of your covenant with your colleagues

Publications from the Office of Theology and Worship, as well as a subscription to the Office of Spiritual Formation’s quarterly periodical, *Hungryhearts*.

A copy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s annual *Mission Yearbook*.

As part of this common discipline, you will also agree to be listed with our book subscription service through Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS), which will automatically ship and bill the book selections, three times per year. These books are discounted and may be paid by credit card (Mastercard, VISA, American Express, or Discover), check, or Church PIN. You will need a copy of *The Book of Confessions*, which is also available through PDS by calling (800) 524-2612.

COST OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual Members: \$30 first year (\$20 renewal)

Institutional Memberships: \$25 first year (\$15 renewal) per member

To join **The Order of Elders**, please see the different opportunities available on the reverse side.



Send payment to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Order of Elders
P.O. Box 643745
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3745

By e-mail: subscriptions@ctr.pcusa.org

By phone: 800-524-2612 Option 4

By fax: (502) 569-5030 / **Attention: Order of Elders**

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Choose One: individual membership institutional membership
 For individual renewals, please check if this is a new address

Address

Individual or Church Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Church Name: _____ Presbytery: _____

*E-mail addresses are particularly important in our efforts to maintain electronic communication
Please include a separate sheet with the name and email address of each individual member.*

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership: \$30 first year (\$20 renewal) \$_____

Institutional Membership \$25 first year (\$15 renewal) per member

Number of new members \$_____

Number of renewing members \$_____

Total \$_____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

With institutional orders, please provide only one payment for all of the members

a. Check [made payable to **PCUSA/Order of Elders**]

b. Church PIN _____

c. Type of Card: MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover (*circle one*)

Name as it appears on card _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

God asks a lot of us.

But in calling you through your congregation to ministry as an elder, God has asked even more of you.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service?

Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

Book of Order G-14.0207

Discover the resources that will help you live out your calling.