

Elder Discipleship Plan  
First Presbyterian Church San Angelo

“Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation’s faithfulness to God’s mission. Elders may also be asked to preach and teach” (ECO Polity 2.02).

To be more effective elders, we must all pursue growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Elders will be encouraged to complete the following outline over their three-year term.

At the end of every year, each elder will schedule time with the pastor to celebrate areas of success and discuss opportunities for continued growth.

### **Year One**

#### Required Reading:

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Overstreet, Jane. *Unleader: The Surprising Qualities of a Valuable Leader*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2011.

Confessional Standards of ECO

Constitution of ECO (Essential Tenets / Polity / Rules of Discipline)

One additional book that the Session is studying together for that year.

#### Suggested Reading:

Allin, Dana. *Simple Discipleship: Grow Your Faith, Transform Your Community*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2018.

Brown, Steve. *What Was I Thinking?: Things I’ve Learned Since I Knew it All*. New York: Howard Books, 2006.

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflection on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989.

#### Bible Study Requirement:

- Weekly Bible study of the Gospel According to Mark with the pastor. Approximate time commitment of 1.5 hours of group study per week.
- Participation in a discipleship small group recommended.

#### Congregational Involvement:

- Regular attendance at Sunday morning worship services (minimum of two per month).
- Quarterly contact with approximately ten family units from the church.

#### Session Requirement:

- Adherence to and public affirmation of the ECO Essential Tenets
- Participate in elder retreat and share personal faith journey with the Session.
- Attend every Session meeting (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays).
- Actively participate on at least one committee.

### **Year Two**

#### Required Reading:

Finke, Greg. *Joining Jesus On His Mission: How to Be an Everyday Missionary*. Elgin, IL: Tenth Power, 2014.

Getty, Keith and Kristyn Getty. *Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family, and Church*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 2017.

One additional book that the Session is studying together for that year.

#### Suggested Reading:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together. Vol. 5 in Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Cordeiro, Wayne. *Sifted: Pursuing Growth Through Trails, Challenges, and Disappointments*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2006.

**Bible Study Requirement:**

- Participation in a discipleship small group.

**Congregational Involvement:**

- Regular attendance at Sunday morning worship services (minimum of two per month).
- Quarterly contact with approximately ten family units from the church.
- At least two hospital or nursing home visits accompanied by the pastor.

**Session Requirement:**

- Attend every Session meeting (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays).
- Participate in elder retreat
- Actively participate on at least one committee.

**Year Three**

**Required Reading:**

Guinness, Os. *The Call: Finding and Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life*. Rev. ed. Nashville, TN: W Publishing, 2018.

One additional book that the Session is studying together for that year.

**Suggested Reading:**

Benner, David G. *The Gift of Being Yourself: A Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*, Expanded Edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship. Vol. 4 in Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works*. Edited by Geoffrey B. Kelly and John D. Godsey. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

Hagberg, Janet O. and Robert A. Guelich. *The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Salem, WI: Sheffield Publishing Company, 2005.

Peterson, Eugene H. *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

**Bible Study Requirement:**

- Participation in a discipleship small group.
- Active engagement in the mentoring of a member of the church.

**Congregational Involvement:**

- Regular attendance at Sunday morning worship services (minimum of two per month).
- Quarterly contact with approximately ten family units from the church.
- At least two hospital or nursing home visits accompanied by the pastor or with another elder/deacon.
- Possibility of being asked to preach on one Sunday morning.

**Session Requirement:**

- Attend every Session meeting (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays).
- Participate in elder retreat
- Actively participate on at least one committee.
- Strong possibility of serving as chair of a committee.