



Christian Community Church

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Eldership Exploration and Mentoring Program

The **purpose** of the program is to clarify the call to eldership for eldership candidates and mentor these candidates for the potential role as elders for our congregation.

Available to all male members of Christian Community Church who have a desire to:

- Explore the Biblical meaning of eldership and the practice of Biblical leadership here at CCC
- Engage in a mentoring relationship with a current elder or group of elders

The Eldership Exploration and Mentoring Program will consist of at least **twelve-monthly meetings** as defined by the syllabus below. Upon completion of the EEMP, the candidate and the current eldership will discuss the appropriateness of whether to move forward toward an official appointment as elder. A one-month examination of the candidate by the congregation will follow the completion of the EEMP and precede any official appointment to the office of eldership.

Entering the EEMP does not guarantee an eldership candidate will be appointed to the office of eldership at the conclusion of the program. The program may reveal that the candidate does not truly desire, is not gifted for, is not qualified for, is unable to make a commitment to or is not yet at the level of maturity required for Biblical eldership.

Method of instruction in the meetings will center around open dialogue and discussion. While the meetings will be facilitated by the mentoring elder/elders, the meetings are designed to have a conversational feel and not lecture driven.

Required reading will consist of Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership by Alexander Strauch, the church constitution, the church's Foundations Course and any relevant portions of Scripture. Candidates should expect to bring their Bible to each meeting.

Attendance is required at each meeting, and it will be the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that any missed meetings are made up.

The following **syllabus** details the content of the monthly meetings:

Month One: Testimonies

Candidate and elder should be prepared to share their testimony of how they came to salvation in Jesus Christ and also a recent synopsis of what the Lord is doing in his life along with the desire to pursue eldership in the church.

Month Two: Biblical Based Leadership Structure.

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 101-117 and 277-289 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the church constitution should be read prior to and ready to be discussed.

Month Three: Plurality of Leaders - Shared Leadership

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 15-50 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About the Scriptures (pages 2-3) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Four: Qualified Leadership

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 51-98 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What we Believe About God the Father (pages 4-5) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Five: The Earliest New Testament Elders

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 121-159 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About Jesus Christ (pages 5-6) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Six: Thessalonian and Philippian Elders

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 161-180 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About the Holy Spirit (pages 7-8) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Seven: Paul's Instructions to Timothy

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 181-224 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About Angels, Satan and Demons (pages 8-10) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Eight: Paul's Instructions to Titus

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 225-238 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About Creation (pages 10-11) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Nine: Peter's Instructions to the Asian Elders

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 239-252 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About the Humanity, Sin and Salvation (pages 11-14) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Ten: Specific Instructions from James and the Author of Hebrews

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss pages 253-273 of the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About the Church (pages 14-15) should be read and ready to be discussed.

Month Eleven: A Night of Prayer

Candidate and elder should be prepared to spend the meeting in a time of prayer together for each other, the church and clarity in identifying elders.

Month Twelve: What's Next?

Candidate and elder should be prepared to discuss the next steps in appointing elders for the church and discuss pages 291-296 in the Strauch book. Additionally, the Foundations Course concerning What We Believe About End Times Theology (pages 15-16) should be read and ready to be discussed.