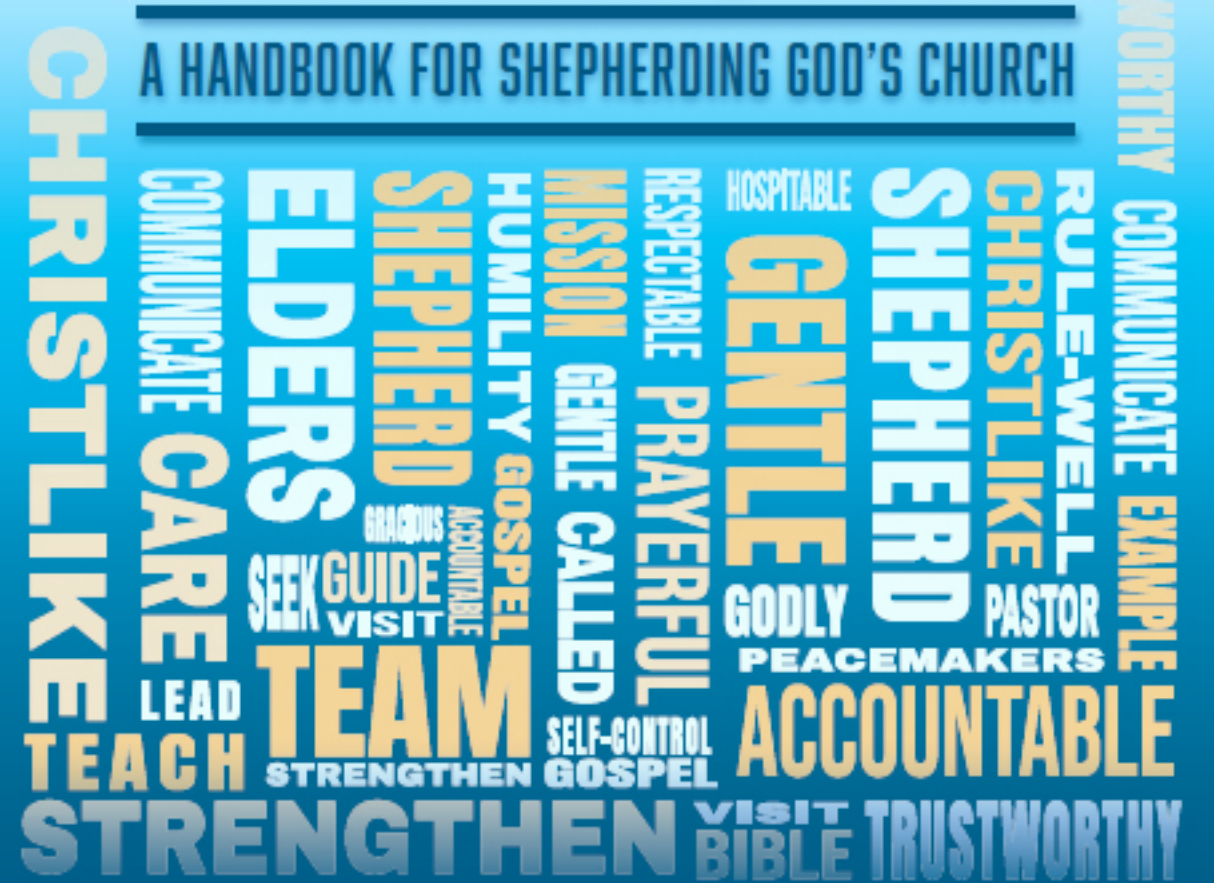
EFFECTIVE ELDERSHIP

A HANDBOOK FOR SHEPHERDING GOD'S CHURCH



Edited by Murray Smith

EFFECTIVE ELDERSHIP

A HANDBOOK FOR SHEPHERDING GOD'S CHURCH

Edited by Murray Smith

NSW Presbyterian Church Committee
on
Elders and Deacons

© 2022 Eider Books

ISBN 978-0-6450875-1-2

Eider Books
PO Box 878
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768
Australia
eiderpress@gmail.com

This book is copyright apart from any use permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 and subsequent amendments, and any exceptions permitted under the current statutory licence scheme administered by Copyright Agency Limited (copyright.com.au) no part may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted by any means or process whatsoever without the written permission of the publisher.

Designed and typeset by Umami Effect

A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of Australia

Edited by Murray Smith

For the

NSW Presbyterian Church Committee on Elders and Deacons

2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

God and the gospel: foundation and centre for elders
Murray Smith 6

Part 1 Biblical and theological foundations for eldership

1.1 A biblical vision of eldership
Murray Smith 12

1.2 The calling and qualifications of elders
Murray Smith 31

1.3 The pastoral charge: 'Shepherd God's church!'
Murray Smith 38

1.4 How the Presbyterian Church of Australia works
Bruce Meller 47

1.5 Doctrinal foundations
John McClean 57

Part 2 Tools for the task

2.1 The elder at home – leading in family life
Murray Smith 68

2.2 Effective oversight – leading the church
Jonathan Pratt 73

2.3 Developing biblical vision
James McFarlane 86

2.4 Praying for and with God's people
John McClean 94

2.5 Leading gathered worship
Kristian Hartberg 99

2.6 Preaching
Kristian Hartberg 108

2.7 Baptism and the Lord's Supper
John McClean 121

2.8 Developing strong teams
Rod Thompson 135

2.9 Building healthy relationships between elders and ministers
Kamal Weerakoon 144

2.10 Church membership
John McClean 153

2.11 Proactive pastoral care
David Burke 160
2.12 Responding to crises
Allan Welch 168
2.13 Visiting the sick, the grieving, and others in need
Ian Schoonwater 175
2.14 Leading funerals
Stephen Moore 183
2.15 Hospitality
Murray Smith 188
2.16 Leading small groups and Bible studies
Stephen Moore 194
2.17 Developing adult Christian education
Murray Smith 201
2.18 Peacemaking
Bruce Meller 209
2.19 Church discipline
Michael Bedros 220
2.20 Productive meetings
Fiona Wright 229
2.21 Using the Code for good
David Burke 233
2.22 Communicating well with the congregation
Fiona Wright 241
2.23 Managing church money for God's kingdom
Caron Balzer 244
2.24 Engaging the local community
Paul McKendrick and Kristian Hartberg 249
2.25 Engaging in global mission
Kevin Murray 255
2.26 Planning and evaluating ministry
Jonathan Pratt 266
2.27 Passing the baton
Sandy McMillan 278
Further reading and resources 285

EFFECTIVE ELDERSHIP

A HANDBOOK FOR SHEPHERDING GOD'S CHURCH

Church eldership is not a Presbyterian thing. It's a God thing. It's part of God's provision for his mission through his Church in his world.

Effective Eldership: *A Handbook for Shepherding God's Church* shows how 'church government' and 'gospel-centred mission' go together.

Part 1 lays out the *Biblical and Theological Foundations* for the vital role that elders play in the Church.

Part 2 offers a series of short practical *Tools for the Task* that are designed to be a reference guide for elders and sessions as they do their work.

The introduction and the 32 chapters of this Handbook are written by ministers, elders, and other qualified members of Presbyterian Churches. While these chapters express a diversity of views at the level of detail, the contributors share the common conviction that the work of elders is vital to the life and health of any church. The Handbook can be read cover-to-cover, but it's intended to be a go-to reference book for elders and sessions as they go about their work.

Produced by the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales Committee for Elders and Deacons and edited by Murray Smith.

Eider Books

ISBN 978-0-6450875-1-2
90000
9 780645 087512