

Resources for Elder and Deacon Training

Below you'll find links to resources to learn more about serving as an elder or deacon in a PC(USA) congregation. Recognizing that one size doesn't fit all, you'll find a variety of options for inclusion in new officer training or for personal study. If a resource you like is not on this list, please contact Visioning and Connecting Leader Jennifer Burns Lewis at Jennifer@ourpresbytery.org to have your resource added to the list.

Video Curricula with study guides

Theocademy: www.theocademy.com

Theocademy videos of about fifteen minutes in length are produced by the Synod of Mid-America and are well-done resources on a range of topics. Visit their website for lots of previewable, downloadable videos and study guides for use in officer training and more. The officer education series includes some Presbytery of Wabash Valley leaders, too. Watch for them!

Part One: Ordered Ministry (with Landon Whitsitt and Carol McDonald)

Part Two: Being Leaders (with Sandy Carlson)

Part Three: Who is the Church? (with Amy Plantinga Pauw)

Part Four: What is the Church? (with Gary Neal Hansen)

Part Five: Being a Confessional Church (with Anna Case-Winters)

Part Six: The Confessions (with Gary Neal Hansen)

Part Seven: A Brief Statement of Faith (with Shannon Craigo-Snell)

Part Eight: Principles for Order and Government (with Clifton Kirkpatrick)

Part Nine: The Councils of the Church (with Clifton Kirkpatrick)

Part Ten: The Dynamics of Worship (with Robert Hoch)

Part Eleven: The Word in Worship (with Margaret Aymer Oget)

Part Twelve: The Sacraments in Worship (with Christopher Elwood)

Part Thirteen: Prayer and Song in Worship (with Gary Rand)

Print Resources

Books:

You can find many books on many topics, including officer education, at www.thethoughtfulchristian.com, and www.wjkbooks.com. Here are a few:

The Presbyterian Elder and The Presbyterian Deacon by Paul Wright
(also available in Spanish and Korean)

Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers by Joan Gray

Selected to Serve by Earl Johnson

Making Disciples, Making Leaders by Steve Eason

Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders by Joan Gray and Joyce Tucker

Workbook series:

Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding series: Ruling Elders

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/8/6/new-officer-training-resources-being-reformed/>

Two workbooks

Articles:

Personal article on the faith and work of a ruling elder:

<http://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/9/15/regarding-ruling-elders-faith-and-work/>

Websites:

The national church website, www.pcusa.org has a webpage devoted to the work of ruling elders. Find treasures and riches for training and continuing study, including a ruling elder contact list, a resource bank and a way to subscribe to a monthly series for ruling elders, here:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/>

And here: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/helpful-resources/>