

2026 Elder Training

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Subject: **Elder Training**

Hello All

The Vision Team (Awtrey, Owens, and Walker) met this morning to discuss Elder training for the current Elders, the newly appointed Elder, and those entering a discernment period.

We are recommending Lynn Anderson's book [They Smell Like Sheep](#) as the primary resource. In addition, each participant will use the accompanying Participation Guide. The training series includes 12 sessions, each with a corresponding video.

Recommended Training Format

The Elders currently meet twice monthly—the first and third Monday of each month. We recommend continuing this schedule with one modification:

- **First monthly meeting:** Continue with the current format.
- **Second monthly meeting:** Dedicate the first portion of the meeting to Elder training reviewing [They Smell Like Sheep](#).

Each training session will last approximately 45 minutes and will include:

- Reading assignments to be completed before the meeting
- Occasional exercises from the [Participation Guide](#)
- A brief video for most sessions
- An agenda with key discussion points
- Time for participants to share additional insights from the reading

Following the training portion, the final hour of the meeting will focus on people, updates, old business, and new business.

The church will purchase the [Participation Guides](#) and Leader's Manual. Each participant is asked to purchase their own copy of [They Smell Like Sheep](#).

Training is scheduled to begin in **January**.