

FOCUS

our 4th 5th year

For the Week of 8th February 2009

9 Resolutions for 2009:

Check 3 or More

...to make these your personal resolutions for your well-being, growth and success this year!



- ❑ Return Sunday to the Lord by being present at worship on time. I will get the entire family to sit together and teach my children how to behave in the house of the Lord - 1 Timothy 3 :15
- ❑ Show tender love to my family, starting with my spouse and then to my parents and children. I will find time each week to visit my parents and be with my children - Ephesians 6:3-4
- ❑ Be an example in my chosen career so that my life will be one to the praise of His glory. I will make decisions based on the teachings of the Bible - Philippians 1:11
- ❑ Make the Sunday 9:30am Bible class session my spiritual growth hour by being regular, active and participative. I will check on my children's Bible lessons and help them prepare for it just as I do - 2 Timothy 2:15
- ❑ Begin a regular devotion at home with my family or a breakfast session with members of the church. I will look out for opportunities to speak a good word for Christ and affirm God's blessings as they are showered upon me and my family - Eph. 1:3
- ❑ Make a conscious effort to reach out for Christ at the marketplace. As more people are affected by the doom and gloom of the economic downturn, I will look for opportunities to comfort those who are hurting with the gospel of Christ - 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- ❑ Look for ways that I can practice hospitality each Sunday. God has blessed me with so much. I want to pay back by looking for ways to share God's abundance with another - Romans 12:13
- ❑ Impress the practice of prayer in my house. At times such as this, nothing is more important than leaning upon God for His daily bread. I will model the way for my family as I lead them in prayerfulness - Col. 4:2
- ❑ Make a difference in 2009. I will not let this year slip by without doing all I can to grow in my faith in Christ, love with my family, and hope for the lost - 1 Cor. 13:13



The following 2009 camp fees apply to all members, visitors and church workers.

Adults (Working) \$250
Adults (Non-working) \$170
Youth/House Helpers \$170
Child (4 to 11 years) \$80
Child (with extra bed) \$150
Single Room \$440

- a. Registration will be conducted during Jan – Apr 2009. Please have ready Date of Birth and Passport Number (including Date of Issue and Date of Expiry). Note that 6 months' passport validity is required for travel to Malaysia.
- b. Full payment is required by end Apr 2009.
- c. Members who require financial assistance may approach any of the Registration Committee members.
- d. Accommodation will be guaranteed for participants who register by end Feb 2009.
- e. Registration after end Apr 2009 will be accepted on a case-by-case basis, and accommodation is not guaranteed if hotel rooms are unavailable.
- f. Single rooms (without church subsidies) are limited and available based on a case-by-case basis.
- g. Cancellations made before the end of April 2009 will be entitled to a full camp fees refund, but cancellation thereafter will not be entitled to a refund as payment would have been made to the hotel.



COORDINATORS LISTING

West

Sharon Goh HP: 98219056
Peggy Phua HP: 96542798

North

Edward Lee HP: 96277817
Rosalind Png HP: 96300683
Teng Cheng Chong HP: 90709938

South

Geoffrey Kiang HP: 90888061
Eileen Lim HP: 96996905
Judy Ong (HI) HP: 96229063
Pang Foon Yoong HP: 94509021

Central

Nat Kong HP: 97552916
Doreen Teo HP: 98781903
Hedy Wong HP: 94551552
William Wong HP: 94551556

East

Winston Chong HP: 96771031
Linda Ching HP: 91823781
Kuek Lee Hock HP: 82232483
Catherine Leow HP: 92701717
Janet Lim HP: 93823754
Rudy Lim (HI) HP: 97384241
Tan Li Li HP: 90494897
Belinda Yam HP: 98466606

Youth/Young Adults Care Teams

Stephanie Kiang HP: 96749603
Kenneth Koh HP: 91127215
Andrea Li HP: 92471702
Shawn Li HP: 96230430
Magdalene Lim HP: 92210770
Geraldine Lim HP: 82688267
Joseph Ooi HP: 91525067
Charmaine Tan HP: 92762075

For more information on Care Teams, go to www.ppcoc.org/careteam.htm



We are so happy that regular visitor, **sister Emily Lim** was baptised at the 11am worship service last Sunday. Sister Nat's Care team has been teaching her on a regular basis. The House Helpers Bible class has been a great encouragement to her, especially sister Maribel. Her children, Justin and Jeremy attend our Bible classes regularly.

At our morning worships today, **brother Cher Yam** will exhort the congregation. Come back at 6pm for our monthly Youth emphasis night. **Brother Johnston Seah** will be the speaker.

We want to urge all members and visitors to sign up for **the June camp** during the month of February. Resorts will only release their best facilities after they receive a confirmed list of campers from us. If you have not yet signed up, please do so this month. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bring your friends to the **SIBI Open Bible Study** this Wednesday at 10am. Come back in the evening to learn important lessons on "**Leadership, Jesus' Style**" (as reflected in our minister's article) with brother Charles Cook every Wednesday at 7:30pm.

The first **SIBI internship** went off extremely well with many benefiting from the tremendous effort put in by SIBI in cooperation with the PP congregation. Besides overseas Chinese students, brothers Daniel and Jack, sisters Cheryl, Michelle, Olivia and brother Joel participated for the entire 2-months. They were many others like brothers Ming Hui, Christopher, Siow Hwee, Johnston, Clarence, Kenneth Leow and sister Rachel Yeo who attended as many sessions as they could. This is such a great blessing for PP - eternity will tell of the good that is done.

With this issue is an important article by our minister on the **Biblical role of elders**. Please file the article for future reference. We encourage all members to come for the current SPC series for this study.

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 8th February 2009

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship
Speaker: Lim Cher Yam
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship
Youth Emphasis Night
Speaker: Johnston Seah



Wednesday, 11th February 2009

- 10:00am SIBI Open Bible Study
with brother Charles Cook
- 7:30pm Leadership, Jesus-Style
with brother Charles Cook

Sunday, 15th February 2009

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship
Speaker: Deacon Swee Aun
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship
Speaker: Deacon Li Chhoan

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

God to help us to lead a life of love - Eileen Lim
 My family and friends to be safe in every
 temptation that they might encounter - Amelyn
 God's guidance for me and my family - Amparo
 The salvation of my family - Gina
 Travel mercy and safety for Mak's business trip to
 Hainan, China on 9 February - Patrick
 Li Li's mother's well being. Health and strength for
 Li Li. My niece Karen Teo for God's peace and
 a successful interview on Tuesday.
 Protection for sister Chor Kin's well being
 - Sandra Chan
 My mother's health - Linda Ching

Thank God for:

Elder Adrian's sermon - Linda, William Chong, Pat
 Elder Beng Chuan's sermon - Henry and Nat
 Mercy and grace, strength provided for my
 family during my mother-in-law's injury. Thank
 you, brethren, for your prayers and love for
 my mother-in-law and us - elder Eric
 Travel mercy and guidance. May God continue to
 take care of my family - Lynda Wee
 All the blessings and grace that you have given to
 me and my family - Lolita
 Praise God for Emilita's obedience in baptism to be
 a Christian - Maribel, Henry and Nat

During this festive season, I thank and praise God for keeping watch over me and for His great mercies throughout 2008. Praise be to God my who daily bears my burdens.

May God be gracious to all at PP and bless us throughout 2009. As we celebrate the lunar new year, may we not forget our Lord whose love and faithfulness never fail us.

May I persevere to honour His name - sister Phay

A thanksgiving gift accompanied the above note

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	141
11am Worship	246
6pm Worship	<u>60</u>
Total:	447
Morning Giving	\$10,060
Evening Giving	<u>\$ 2,179</u>
Total Contribution	<u>\$12,239</u>



Receipt No.	Donor	Amount
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3RsF 1224	Phay Siew Hua	\$200
3RsF 1225	Anonymous	\$500



For the full month's listing, look up the Notice Board
For up to the whole year's listing, log in at ppcoc.org/men.htm

MEN to SERVE at All Services for this Week and the Next

Please call the church office by Wednesday if you cannot serve

Worship Service

Today (8th February)

Next Week

8am

Scripture Text:

Psalm 48:9-11

Psalm 50:1-6

11am

Call to Worship:

Elder Adrian Teo

Elder Beng Chuan

SR/OP:

Kenneth Koh

Alvin Tjipto

S. Leader:

Daniel Ng

Kelvin Koo

Communion:

Chew Chong Lin

Ken McCumsey

Preacher:

Lim Cher Yam

Deacon Swee Aun

Shepherd's Prayer:

Elder Winston Chong

Elder William Wong

Ushers

Richard Leow

Ivan Kuek

Leow Peng Liam

Shawn Li

Ng Ee Kai

Daniel Goh

Tan Yiu Huat

Darren Chan

Mike Mariaraja

Ryan Lim

Billy Wee

Jeremy Tng

Balcony

HI Team

HI Team

6pm

Call to Worship

Elder Adrian Teo

Elder Beng Chuan

Scripture Text:

Psalm 48:12-14

Psalm 51:7-12

SR/Prayer:

Alistair Chong

Ban Haw Leong

S. Leader:

Shawn Li

Charles Pang

Communion:

Basil Chong

Ramesh D

Preacher:

Johnston Seah

Deacon Li Chhoan

Closing Prayer:

Elder Beng Chuan

Elder Adrian Teo



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and hath not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one be warm alone? And if a man prevail against him that is alone, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

FOCUS is published weekly by the Church of Christ (English-speaking) meeting at 347 Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 118688 (Tel: 67788259. Fax: 67765278). eMail Address: ppcoc@pacific.net.sg. Internet Webpage: www.ppcoc.org. Address all correspondence to Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang P.O. Box 74, Singapore 911123.



The Biblical Role of Elders

by Henry Kong
Minister



Elder Adrian mentioned in his sermon last Sunday that more members should be making a beeline to attend the current SPC series on "Leadership, Jesus Style" by brother Charles Cook. The reason for his heartfelt plea is because of the important groundbreaking lessons that brother Charles is sharing on servant leadership - one that he is bringing from his long years of study, training and teaching as well as from his experiences with churches all over USA.

Amongst the many excellent lessons that brother Charles shared with much passion in this series, are these points on the Biblical role of elders:

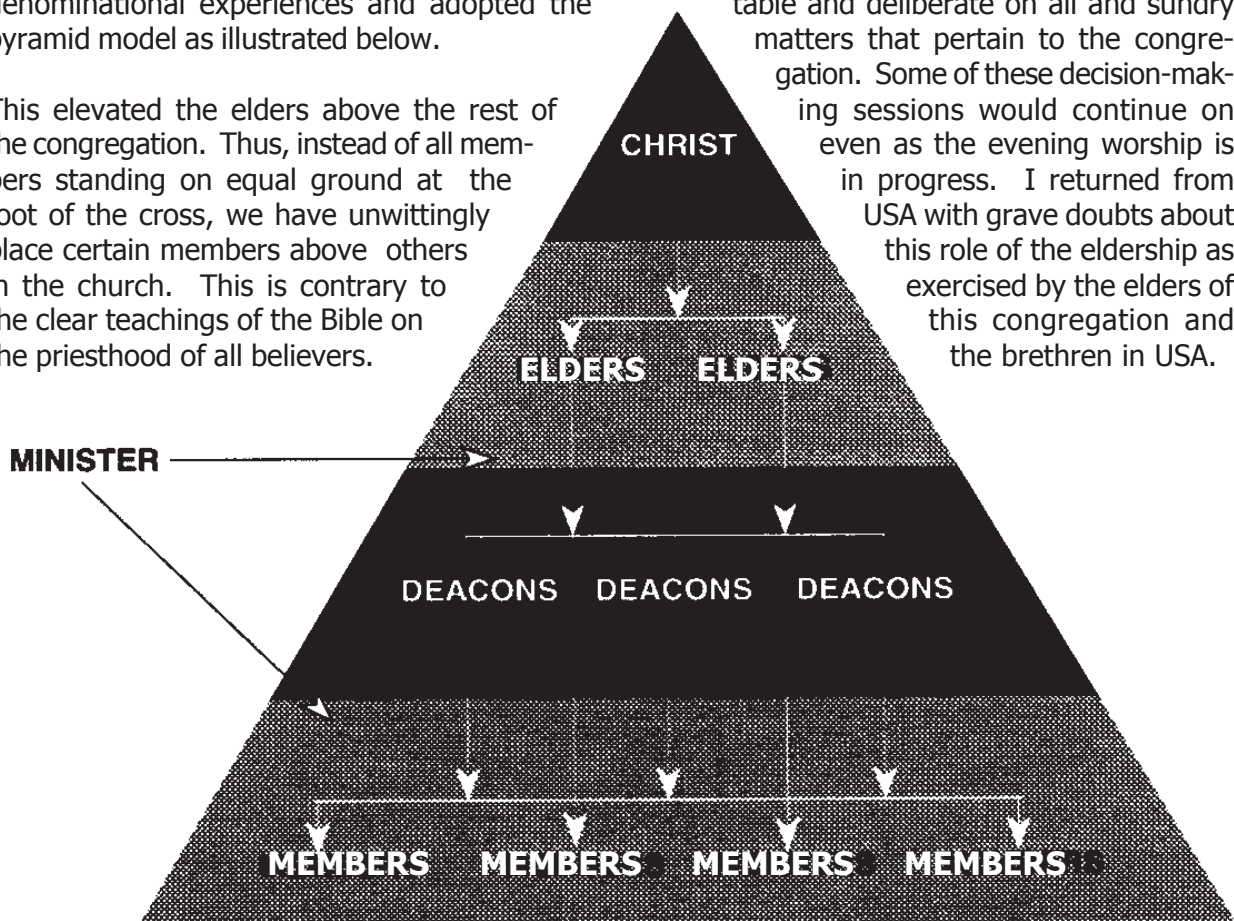
1. Churches of Christ have erred in our teaching on the authority of elders

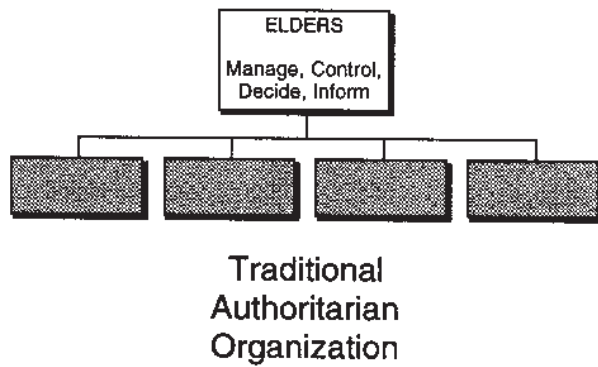
In the early days of the restoration movement, leaders of the church have not thought-through the structure of the eldership as taught in the Bible. Instead, they drew from their previous denominational experiences and adopted the pyramid model as illustrated below.

This elevated the elders above the rest of the congregation. Thus, instead of all members standing on equal ground at the foot of the cross, we have unwittingly place certain members above others in the church. This is contrary to the clear teachings of the Bible on the priesthood of all believers.

As a minister, I am very interested in building the body of Christ at PP from a scripturally unorganised congregation, to a scripturally organised congregation with Biblically installed elders.

However, during my sabbatical in USA, my passion turned into doubt. For several months, I was invited to sit in with the 6 elders who oversee a 2,000-member congregation at their weekly Sunday afternoon meetings. Each week, the good elders would sit around a table and deliberate on all and sundry matters that pertain to the congregation. Some of these decision-making sessions would continue even as the evening worship is in progress. I returned from USA with grave doubts about this role of the eldership as exercised by the elders of this congregation and the brethren in USA.





The pyramid model (illustrated above) is the traditional eldership structure practised by the majority of churches of Christ in USA. While most churches of Christ ascribe to this structure, it puts undue pressure on the eldership and at the same time robs the membership of the opportunity to work in consensus.

**2. More and more churches
are relooking this structure
and moving away from it**

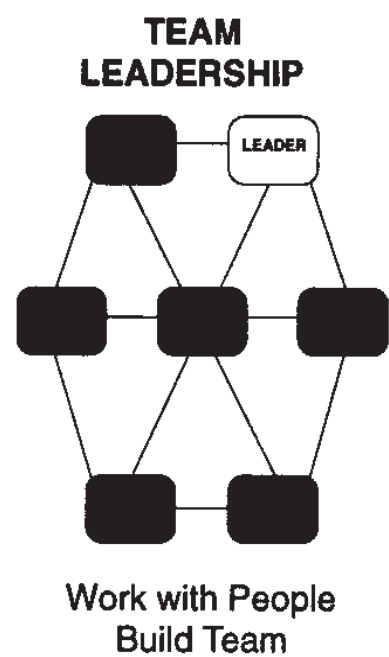
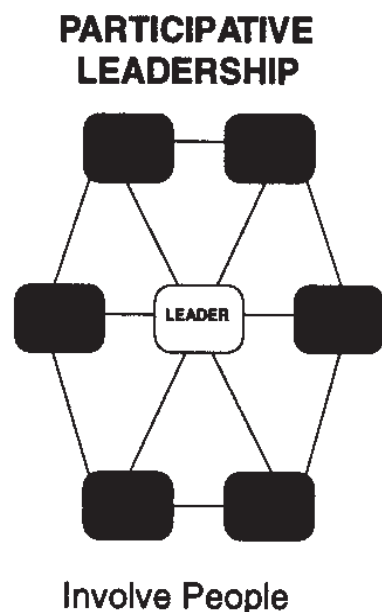
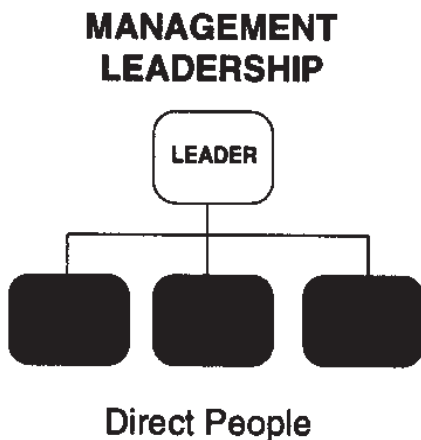
Illustrated below are 3 styles of leadership. The traditional eldership organisation is likened to the management style, in which leaders direct the membership. Some churches have moved to the participative style in which more enlightened elderships are seeking to involve the membership in the work. It is my understanding that the leadership style that is most representative of the Bible is that of team leadership. The work of the church as the Bible teaches is for the eldership to work with the membership. Together, we are all on level ground, each serving the Lord in the priesthood of all believers.

It was during this time of my study and reflection on eldership, that I met up with brother Ian Fair who is the Dean of the College of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University at the Davo Asian Missions Forum. I was both excited and encouraged to find another in our brotherhood thinking along the same lines as I was.

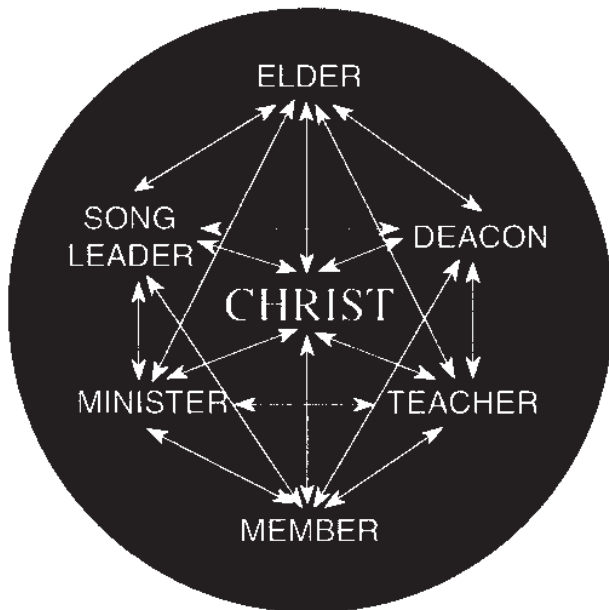
At that forum, brother Ken Sinclair, longtime missionary to Malaysia presented me with a book authored by brother Fair entitled, "Leadership in the Kingdom" (all illustrations in this article taken from this book). For the first time, I have read a brotherhood book that looks at eldership in a different light. Immediately, I activated the PP eldership process that I have put on hold for so long. Then I sought the consensus of the church to invite brother Fair to conduct an eldership seminar for the church.

This was followed by a series of eldership seminars conducted by speakers from USA, including one by brother Lynn Anderson on "They smell like Sheep". At long last, after 40 years, PP was on its way to install elders and deacons. In close consultation with brother Pence Dacus, over the space of the next few years, sermons, BC series and seminars were conducted.

The leadership sought feedback from the membership at our Annual General Meetings. A special committee was selected by the church to ensure that nominations, votes received and objections were properly tabulated, checked and verified by all.



It was clearly impressed on the minds of the candidates that they were elected into a service, not office. And that the elders' chief responsibility is to watch over the flock. They are to serve with the membership, as the diagram below illustrates the mutual ministry dynamics:



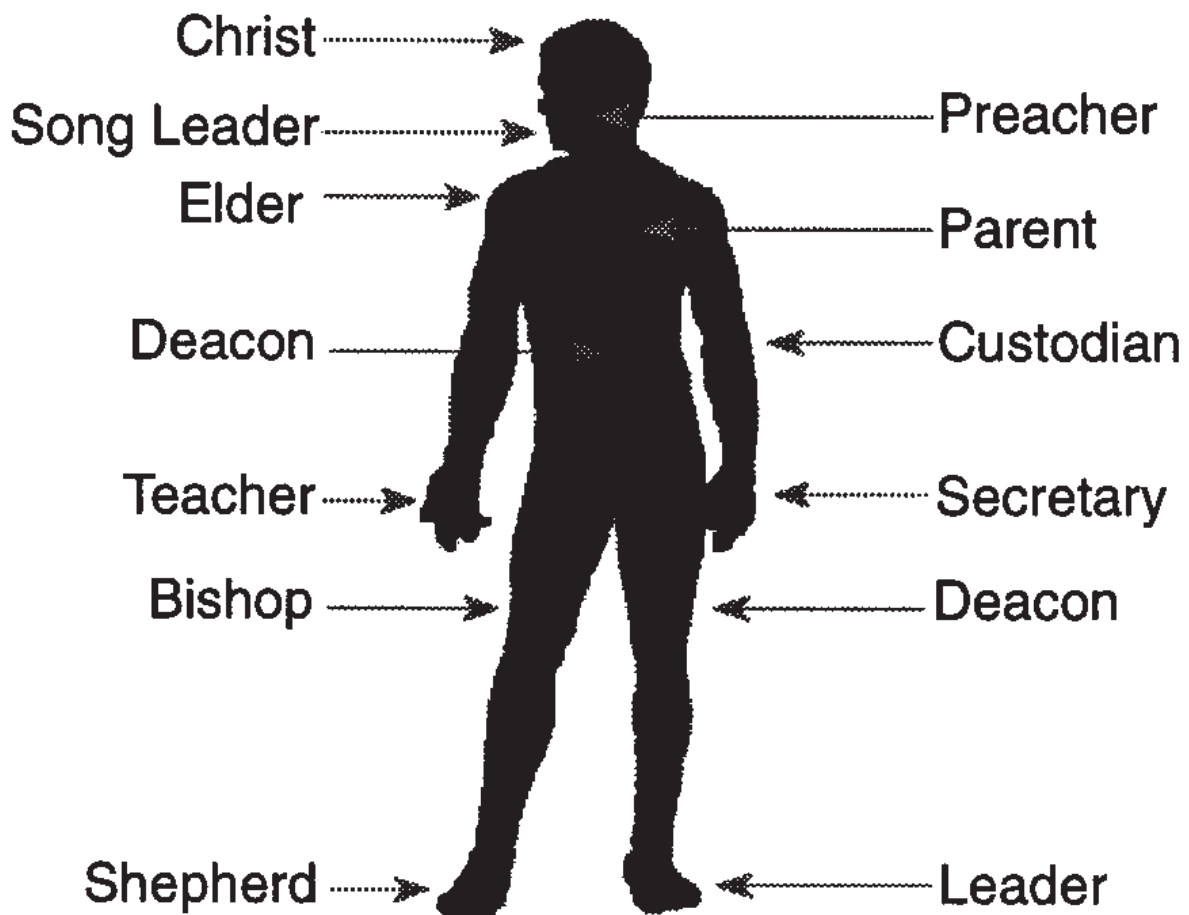
Using Paul's figure of the church as a body in 1 Corinthian 12, the structure of the church may look like the illustration below:

Here we have the church represented by the body with Christ as the head. Each member has a function in the body. The eldership, like any other part of the body, serves together in unity and harmony under Christ.

When we understand this, we see how well this fits with the priesthood of all believers and the teachings of Christ and the apostles as in Ephesians 2:18-22: "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

At PP, we currently have six elders. Five of them are assigned a specific zone to watch over. Elder Eric, because of his vocation as missionary to China is out of the country most of the time. Even without an assigned zone, he still functions effectively as an elder in other ways.

The Body



3. What brother Charles Cook has shared with us at the SPC's "Leadership, Jesus Style" series

Drawing from his rich personal experiences with churches of Christ in USA and a lifelong study and teaching of the word of God, brother Charles shared that:

1. Churches of Christ have erred on the structure of eldership.
2. The eldership is not an office but a function.
3. All of us stand on level ground at the foot of the cross. There is no one above another.
4. We do not install men to serve as elders so that they can make decisions and take on the highest position in the church.
5. Instead, we look for men who are already functioning as elders; members who are set-

ting the example, watching over the flock and caring for the sheep.

6. The lists in 1 Timothy and Titus must not be used to disqualify men from serving as elders. Except for the physical qualifications (being married and having believing children), every Christian should aspire to be similarly developed in faith and maturity.

Conclusion

The work of the Lord is to be carried out by the entire church. 1 Peter 2 emphasizes the priesthood of all believers. Every member, like the physical body has a function. Elders are to work together with the entire church, not lording over them but to serve as examples (1 Peter 5:3). When we understand this, we will all pitch in to serve, working together as a team, in consensus one with another. Christ is our head, the Bible is our guide and all members are on equal ground at the foot of the cross.

