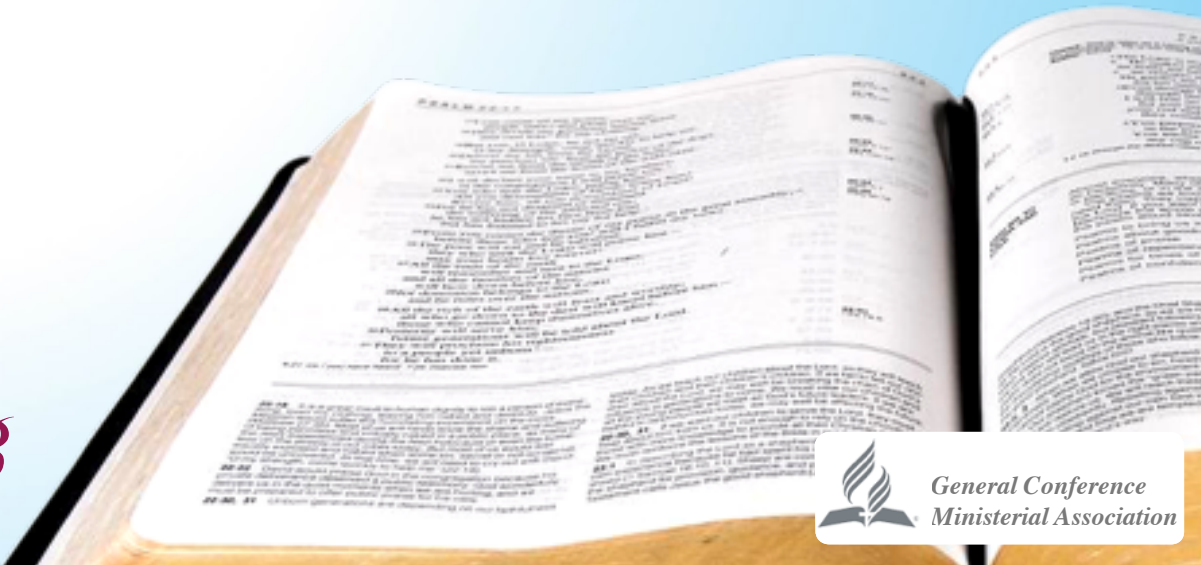


THE PURPOSE FOR THE CALLING

Volume 1

Section B



General Conference
Ministerial Association

*“To the elders among you, I appeal...
Be shepherds of God’s flock that is
under your care, watching over them
—not because you must, but because
you are willing... not pursuing
dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not
lording it over those entrusted to you,
but being examples to the flock. And
when the Chief Shepherd appears,
you will receive the crown of glory...”*

1 Peter 5:1-4



In His infinite wisdom, God has a plan for the men and women that He is calling into His service. It is not a call without a motive or purpose. When the Lord calls, it is because He has a specific plan.



What is the purpose for which God calls the church elders?

Let us analyze the above text, and in it we will find a clear definition of what that purpose is.



I. SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD

*“To the elders among you,
I appeal... Be shepherds
of God’s flock that is
under your care.”*

1 Peter 5:1-2



- Must be concerned for the physical and spiritual health of the church.
- Must be concerned about feeding the sheep well.
- Will not allow the sheep to be spiritually malnourished.
- Will avert the sheep from going to other pastures to feed.



- Will be watchful that the families of the church conduct family worship.
- Will assess the spiritual life of the church.
- Will not deliver mediocre sermons to which not enough time has been spent in preparing for them.
- Will put in place programs that will enrich the spiritual life of the church.



Bible counsel illustrates:

*“And David shepherded them
with integrity of heart; with
skillful hands he led them.”*

Psalm 78:72



*“Then I will give you
shepherds after my own
heart, who will lead
you with knowledge
and understanding.”*

Jeremiah 3:15



“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Acts 20:28



Summary

The flock is to be pastured with:

1. INTEGRITY *Psalm 78:72*
2. EXPERTISE
(competence) *Psalm 78:72*
3. SCIENCE (knowledge)
Jeremiah 3:15
4. INTELLIGENCE
(wisdom) *Jeremiah 3:15*



II. LOOK AFTER THE FLOCK OF GOD

*“To the elders among
you, I appeal... Be
shepherds of God’s flock
that is under your care.”*

1 Peter 5:1-2



- Will safeguard the church from false doctrines.
- Will safeguard the church against ineffectiveness in soul-winning.
- Will make sure the church does not focus on trifling matters and forgets what is important.
- Will make sure the church is faithful in returning tithes and offerings.



- Will safeguard the church from turning **extremist** in certain areas and very liberal in others.
- Will make sure that all things in the church are done according to the Law and the **Testimony**.
- Will make sure the spirit of **competition** does not take over the leadership.
- Will be watchful of their own **testimony**, the testimony of their family, and the testimony of the church.



- Will safeguard the church from the influence of wicked persons who come with new doctrines based on their own views.
- Will ensure that in the church all the glory and honor always goes to God.
- Will ensure that the pulpit is always regarded as sacred.
- Will safeguard the music that is presented in church.
- Will look after the youth and children in the church.



*“Therefore this is what the Lord,
the God of Israel, says to the
shepherds who tend my people:
‘Because you have scattered my
flock and driven them away and
**have not bestowed care on
them**, I will bestow punishment
on you for the evil you have
done,’ declares the Lord.”*

Jeremiah 23:2



III. PERSUADE AND NOT FORCE

*“Watch over that flock
because you want to, not
because you are forced...”*

1 Peter 5:2, ERV



- Force achieves temporary results.
- Persuasion achieves lasting results.
- Force causes rejection.
- Persuasion brings acceptance.
- Force foists.
- Persuasion convinces.



- Obedience by force is based on fear.
- Obedience by persuasion is based on love.
- Force destroys teamwork.
- Persuasion cements teamwork.
- Force is part of the tools of the enemy.
- Persuasion is part of God's method.



“So I said, ‘Wisdom is better than strength.’

But the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.”

Ecclesiastes 9:16



IV. WORK VOLUNTARILY

*“...because you want to,
not because you are forced
to do it.”*

1 Peter 5:2, ERV



- Is always ready to visit the flock.
- Volunteers to organize missionary work.
- Is willing to take the time that the church requires.
- Is willing to invest time in training other leaders.
- Is willing to work with the youth.



- Is always ready to preach.
- Is always available to attend board meetings.
- Promotes and supports the various clubs that exist in the church.
- Is interested in maintaining a baptismal class.
- Works well to retain the newly baptized.



*“Now the overseer is to be
above reproach, faithful
to his wife, temperate,
self-controlled,
respectable, hospitable,
able to teach.”*

1 Timothy 3:2



V. BE AN EXAMPLE OF HONESTY IN EVERYTHING



“...not pursuing dishonest gain.”

1 Peter 5:2

- Are honest in their dealings with other people.
- Are honest in their work for God.
- Are honest in returning to God tithes and giving offerings.
- Are honest in their daily tasks.



- Are honest with their families.
- Are honest in their business transactions.
- Are honest with the time that belongs to God.
- Are honest in dealing with the opposite sex.



- Are honest with God and other men and women.
- Are honest with their spouses.
- Are honest with their children.
- Are honest with the organization.
- Are honest in all aspects of life.



“...not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.”

1 Timothy 3:3,7



*“Whoever loses his
honesty, has nothing
else to lose.”*

Anonymous



VI. SPREAD ENERGY TO PEOPLE

*“...not pursuing dishonest
gain, but eager to serve;”*

1 Peter 5:2



- Are hardly ever discouraged.
- Are great motivators for the church.
- Always find solutions to conflicts.
- Give advice that is always appropriate and expected.



- Are filled with positivity and optimism.
- Are consummate optimists, but with their feet on the ground.
- Almost always look at things from the bright side.
- Are promoters of big ideas.



- Are men and women others can always count on.
- Put all things in God's hands.
- Know how to face adversity.
- Emphasize the positive aspects in everyone.
- Will not succumb to be destruction during hard times.



“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing... And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11,14



**VII. SHOULD NOT CONSIDER
THEMSELVES AS THE
MASTERS OF THE CHURCH**

*“...not lording it over
those entrusted to you.”*

1 Peter 5:3



- Understand that the only star of the church is Jesus Christ.
- Understand that they are not in charge.
- Work in harmony with the pastor.
- Take into account the other leaders.
- Listen to suggestions made by members of the church.



- Aim to achieve consensus.
- Do not seek glory for themselves.
- Take into account the youth of the church.
- Show interest in new members.



- Do not act as if they are the owners of the church, and demolish walls, make renovations and do remodeling, or hang up pictures or add ornaments, without having any regard for the other leaders or the church board.
- Delegate responsibilities.



“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,



did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Philippians 2:3-8



VIII. ARE AN EXAMPLE TO THE FLOCK

*“...but being examples
to the flock.”*

1 Peter 5:3



- Example in consecration.
- Example in missionary work.
- Example in faithfulness to God.
- Example in humility.
- Example in dedicated service to the church.



- Example in treating others well.
- Example of concern for souls.
- Example of absolute dependence upon God.
- Example of good parent and spouse.



“Command and teach these things. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift,



which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

1 Timothy 4:11-16



IX. ARE INTERESTED IN AND LABOR FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

*“And when the chief
shepherd appears, you will
receive the crown of glory
that will never fade away.”*

1 Peter 5:4



- Labor first and foremost in the salvation of souls.
- Their goal is eternal life.
- Yearn for the salvation of their families.
- Yearn for the salvation of the church.



- Yearn for those around them to be saved.
- Yearn for the youth of the church to be saved.
- Strive for the salvation of the children.



- Make plans for salvation by organizing programs that contribute to the salvation of the church.
- Personal salvation, the salvation of their families, and the salvation of the church are the supreme goals of their lives.



X. BECOME A FRIEND OF JESUS

- Friends are sought for advice.
- Friends are asked for help.
- Friends are kept in mind.
- Friends help when making big decisions.



- Friends are imitated.
- Friends of Jesus are friends of the other leaders of the church.
- By beholding the life of his friend Jesus, Jesus transforms them into His own likeness.
- By spending much time with Christ, they will be like Jesus.



*“Greater love has no one
than this: to lay down
one’s life for one’s friends.
You are my friends if you
do what I command.”*

John 15:13-14



Conclusion

*“To the elders among you,
I appeal... Be shepherds of
God’s flock that is under
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but because you are willing,
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