



# Elders' Institute NEWSLETTER

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Elders' Institute • St. Andrew's Hall • 6040 Iona Drive • Vancouver, BC • V6T 2E8 • 1-866-794-8888 • www.eldersinstitute.ca

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## Pastoral Care for 21st-Century Churches

A special workshop on new models of congregational pastoral care took place on March 27 at St. John's, White Rock, BC. The Presbytery of Westminster had asked the Elders' Institute to develop this workshop when it discovered that the model of elders' districts presented in the Book of Forms is being adapted and supplemented. Research conducted by EI director Roberta Clare revealed there are several models in development by churches who cite the following reasons why elders' districts are no longer working:

- Pastoral care requires more time and commitment than ruling elders can offer.
- Ruling elders have "a variety of gifts." However, burnout occurs when they are constantly called to serve out of their weaknesses rather than their strengths.
- Many ruling elders lack confidence because they have had little or no training.
- Expectations are unclear.

Dr. Clare suggests the following definition of pastoral care: "We respond to God's call to serve as pastoral caregivers when we *relate* to a person *intentionally* in the name of God and respond to an invitation to travel with them on their spiritual journey."



## Pilgrimage 2010, From Noyon to Iona: Exploring the Reformed Tradition

### Celebrating 450 years of Scottish Presbyterian heritage (1560–2010)

Enrich your ministry in the leadership of the church by attending Pilgrimage 2010: September 30 to October 16. Stops include Paris, Strasbourg, Geneva, Glasgow, Iona and Edinburgh. To receive a registration form and brochure, visit Elders' Institute website or call toll-free: 1-866-794-8888.

Five models presented by congregational leaders during the workshop and discussed by participants, included the traditional elders' districts, a model for intercultural and ethnic churches and "Life Groups."

Finally, the workshop flagged important issues that all churches need to consider regardless of the model(s) of pastoral care they use:

- Responsibility: Be aware of boundary issues.
- Confidentiality: Respect privacy laws.
- Supervision: Pastoral teams, groups and committees must report directly to the session.
- Training is essential: How do we offer non-judgmental pastoral care, active listening and feedback?
- Evaluation: Have a process to review and revise your model of pastoral care.

EI offers the following pastoral care programs:

### Six-Week Online Courses:

- Pastoral visiting: An introduction
- Pastoral care: An intermediate course

### Workshop:

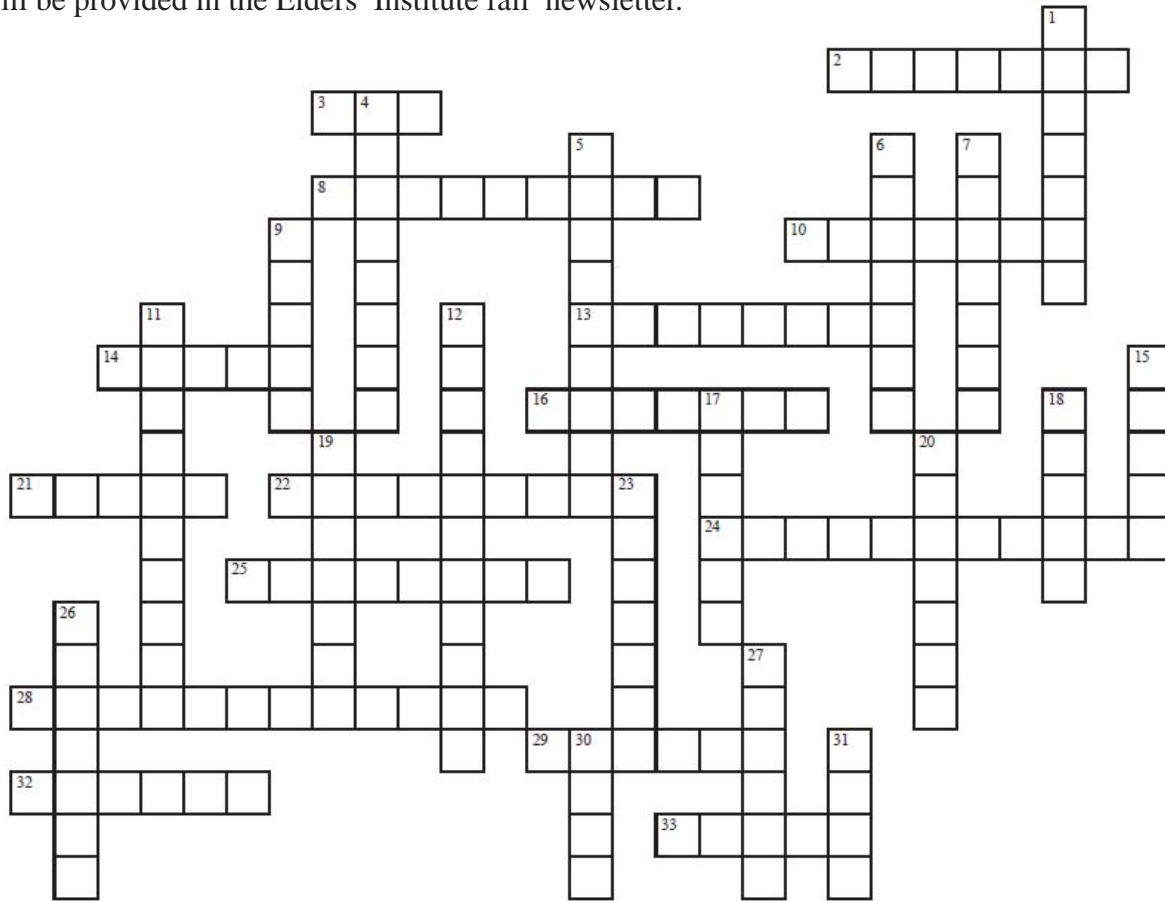
- An introduction to pastoral visiting
- Models of pastoral care

**For further information about these courses and workshops, call the Elders' Institute toll-free: 1-866-794-8888.**

Models of Pastoral Care Workshop  
for Presbytery of Westminster

## Cape Breton Trivia Puzzle

See how much you know about Cape Breton, the location of PAW 2010, by trying this crossword puzzle. Send your completed puzzle to the Elders' Institute for your chance to win a \$25 Elders' Institute gift certificate. Answers will be provided in the Elders' Institute fall newsletter.



### ACROSS

2. Location of LeNoir Forge Museum
3. Number of mountains to go over to get from Ingonish to Bras d'Or
8. Cape Breton's giant
10. Island at the entrance of Baddeck Harbour
13. Island located off the coast of Main-a-Dieu
14. Code invented by Samuel
16. Great composer of Cape Breton style music
21. Causeway linking Cape Breton to mainland Nova Scotia
22. Nova Scotia's flower
24. Location of Angus MacAskill museum
25. Famous NHL hockey player comes from Inverness, Cape Breton
28. Composer of "Song for the Mira"
29. Scottish Highland language taught in Cape Breton
32. Name of passage separating Isle Madame from mainland Cape Breton
33. Strait separating Iona from Grand Narrows

### DOWN

1. Type of shark known as the "Frambois" Monster
4. Recipient of the "fastest stick" award in hockey in 1979
5. Type of rock (other than marble) found at Marble Mountain
6. Home of Alexander Graham Bell Museum
7. John Cabot's second ship
9. Dominant colour of Cape Breton tartan
11. The largest reconstructed 18th-century French fortified town in North America
12. Name for those not from Cape Breton
15. Oldest Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton (1857)
17. Munroe's bridge
18. Strait between Cape Breton and Newfoundland
19. National historic site located in Glace Bay
20. The main activity in Big Bras d'Or
23. Moderator of Cape Breton presbytery
26. Famous Toronto-area choir conducted by Lydia Adams from Glace Bay
27. First newspaper in Cape Breton
30. Bay where John Cabot landed on Cape Breton Island
31. Material used to build homes, known as Insulite

The Elders' Corner is a regular feature of our newsletter that gives you, the ruling elders across Canada, an opportunity to field questions you've come across as an elder. Mail your questions or answers to the Elders' Institute, St. Andrew's Hall, 6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8, email them to [elders@standrews.edu](mailto:elders@standrews.edu) or post them on the Elders' Institute Facebook discussion board marked "Elders' Corner."

Ruling elders have asked this question in different ways and in different places across the country:

*I was ordained as an elder at my last church and was a ruling elder when we moved. I resigned as an elder just before we moved hoping to become a ruling elder at my new church. That was several years ago and I have never been elected as a ruling elder. What is my position in the Presbyterian Church having gone through being ordained as an elder and yet not being a ruling elder? I am sure this has happened to many, with people on the move more than ever. Also, with the new term service for elders, many elders in the Church become non-ruling elders after their term. In my home church they use non-ruling elders (after their term) to fill in when needed, but since I was never a ruling elder at my home church, I am treated as just another parishioner. Are there any rules for us non-ruling elders?*

The short answer is ruling elders are ordained for life but may be called to serve in various capacities throughout their lives. How do we balance adherence to our polity with pastoral care and concern? Some churches honour non-serving elders by naming them elders emeritus, using them as mentors to new members or young adults.

What would you do? How has your session dealt with this issue? Send your response to the Elders' Institute. If we print your reply, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate for an EI course, e-sources or workshop.

Elizabeth Duncan, an elder at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church in Calgary asks:

*When it is time for an elder to relinquish his/her position in the rotation for term eldership, can he/she automatically remain on session at will, or must there be an election?*

Don Muir, Associate Secretary and General Clerk of the General Assembly Office, gave this response:

*Under the term service model for eldership, now employed by 180 sessions in our denomination, elders are ordained for life but serve on session for a term of six years at a time. Every two years, one third of the session fulfills its term.*

*At this point in the process, sessions are sometimes tempted to do one of two things.*

- 1. Some sessions insist that elders who finish their term take a one-year sabbatical before they can be re-elected. This is contrary to our polity that states elders "may stand for re-election at the end of each term" (Book of Forms section 108). When an elder's term ends, the elder is as eligible as any other member of the congregation to be elected to the session. Of course, an elder may choose not to be included on the ballot.*
- 2. Other sessions assume that those who finish their term don't need to be re-elected. They believe that if elders are willing to continue serving they may be automatically returned to the session for another six-year term. As noted in the paragraph above, our polity states there must be an election at the end of each term. This honours the discernment process by which a congregation confirms an elder's call to service. The elder, if re-elected, returns to the session with the confidence that the congregation continues to identify his/her God-given gifts for this ministry at this time in its history.*

### Keeping in Touch

Join the Elders' Institute new **Facebook** group to chat with elders from across Canada, ask questions, share insights and keep up to date with Elders' Institute news. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/groups> and look for the group "Elders' Institute, St. Andrew's Hall." Then the fun begins!





### Leadership Training for Chinese Churches:

#### Reaching your God-Given Potential

*This online course in Mandarin will provide an introduction to leadership for ruling elders and lay leaders within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Participants will learn to recognize and appreciate other people's leadership styles and to identify the particular way they approach service and growth.*

**Date Start: Monday, October 18, 2010**

**Date End: Friday, November 26, 2010**

Registration Fee: \$100

### 領袖培訓：發揮神所賜予的潛能

本課程是為在加拿大華人教會中服事的長老同工和信徒領袖而設計培訓課程。其主要目的是在引導學員認識不同的領袖模式，並了解個人的事奉型態與風格，進而提升屬靈領袖的領導質素。

開課日期: 星期一, 2010年10月18日

結束日期: 星期五, 2010年11月26日

註冊費: \$100

For more information and registration, visit our website: [www.eldersinstitute.ca](http://www.eldersinstitute.ca).

**Serving as a Clerk of Session: Boning up on the Basics** continues to be a very popular new online course. It is designed for novice and experienced clerks of session as well as for elders discerning an invitation and call to become a clerk of session. This hands-on, practical course has no prerequisites other than having a copy of the Book of Forms and appreciating a wry sense of humour. It was written by Ted Siverns who is teaching it remotely from Taiwan where he is serving as a scholar in residence at Tainan Theological College. This course has filled up the first two times it has been offered and has limited space left in the fall class, which runs September 20 to October 29, 2010.

## Pre-Assembly Workshops (PAW) 2010



**100,000 Welcomes!**

*CIAO mite PAITTE*

Join with other elders and lay leaders of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for a day of learning with experienced facilitators.



Union Presbyterian Church

Albert Bridge aka Mira Ferry  
Cape Breton, Nova Scotia  
Saturday, June 5, 2010



Camp MacLeod

### Uplifting Presbyterian Worship

- Worship led by Margaret MacLeod
- Reflections by Glen Davis and Lara Scholey
- Special music by John and Patti Fukala
- Featuring members of Cape Breton's Lay Worship Team

**PAW 2011** is scheduled to take place at Oakridge Presbyterian Church in Hamilton on Saturday, June 4, 2011. The theme for PAW 2011 will be inter-cultural ministry.

### Workshops Options

- > **CIAO mite PAITTE: Extending Hospitality to Strangers**  
*Cameron Brett* on leadership skills for hospitality ministry
- > **Spiritual Mentoring Tools for Hospitality Ministry**  
*Roberta Clare* on spiritual mentoring and pastoral care tools for hospitality ministry
- > **Hospitality: A Christian Welcome**  
*Stephen Farris* on Matthew 25 as a guide for hospitality ministry

Seat cushions will be provided by the Atlantic Mission Society. Donations to AMS will be gratefully received.

For more information and to register, visit our website: [www.eldersinstitute.ca](http://www.eldersinstitute.ca).

