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*Bearing witness
to Jesus Christ;
strengthening and
connecting our
congregations*

How to use the Mini-Manual

The manual you have in your hands is a tool box of six, 15-30 minute trainings for newly elected Ruling Elders, intended to be scheduled at the beginning of six session meetings. The first session can also be used with Deacons and as a stand-alone session, if that works better for your church.

Each of the six sessions has a lesson plan and materials provided. Homework for the following session is available in the week ahead. References to chapters from The Presbyterian Ruling Elder refer to a small book in the black zipper pocket in the front of this manual. Please make copies of those indicated chapters from the book for your session members. Otherwise, chapters from other sources and other materials have been reproduced for you to be copied for your session members.

You will see video titles listed, all of which are from “Theocademy.” “Theocademy develops faith formation materials for Presbyterians through high quality video series and study guides.” This manual draws from two of the video series, both titled “Being Presbyterian.” The study guides, which provide discussion questions to facilitate more exploration and conversation, can be viewed and/or downloaded and may be another resource for you. You can find out more at <http://www.theocademy.com/>, including ordering 5 free copies of the video series.

It would be helpful to get feedback from you and your session about whether this was a useful tool. There is a survey included in the materials for Session Six. Please make copies available for all session members. A stamped return envelope is in the left-hand inside pocket of this manual for you to return the surveys. Thank you for taking time to complete and return them to us.

COM hopes that you find this tool easy to use and helpful in training newly elected officers to their ministry in the church.