

## A Spiritual Formation Process For

### Elders in the Christian church (Disciples of Christ)

#### A Model for Weekly Support and Nurture<sup>1</sup>

##### **PURPOSES:**

1) To provide the best support and nurture for individuals who feel called to the office of Elder in the Christian Church (DOC);

2) To provide an atmosphere which results in the members of the eldership sharing with the pastor the tasks of spiritual leadership within the congregation?

##### **FORMAT:**

A weekly meeting of one hour shall be scheduled. The group is seated around a large table, so everyone can see the entire group. Within that hour, the following shall take place, with each segment requiring about 15 minutes:

1. **Fellowship/Prayer** – Coffee and treats are provided. Informal fellowship takes place around the table. The first section is complete as the group shares together in prayer.
2. **Caring** – sharing the cares/concerns of members of the congregation. Individuals report on visits made, and other needs.
3. **Bible Study** – using the text for the upcoming Sunday sermon, the group will read together and share reflections on the text. The common question is: How does this inform our shared ministry?
4. **Leadership Development** – a common book is read together. The pastor (or other leader) guides the reflections on the implications for leadership.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Jim McCollough, Senior Minister at First Christian Church, Topeka, KS pioneered this program prior to his tenure at the Topeka congregation beginning in 1990. This summary was written by Steve Martin, Associate Regional Minister, Christian Church in Kansas and an elder in the First Christian Church of Topeka.