

SAMPLE OUTLINES FOR TWO OFFICER TRAINING SESSIONS (90 - 100 minutes)

Session 1 - basic training

Session 2 - focusing on faith and spiritual leadership (optional)

SESSION 1 (90-100 minutes)

I. SERVING AS A DEACON OR AN ELDER IS A VOCATION – A CALLING (20 minutes)

Open with Prayer

Biblical stories – groups of two or three (Eg. Isaiah, Amos, Jeremiah, Moses, Mary, Jesus)

What is the “call” in this story?

How do you understand your role as elder/deacon as a calling?

Sing “The Summons” (Glory to God - #726)

II. PRINCIPLES OF PRESBYTERIAN POLITY AND GOVERNANCE (30 minutes)

[TheoAcademy Video – Cliff Kirkpatrick](#) (11 MINUTES)

[Power Point – Gradye Parsons](#) (5 MINUTES)

What surprised you? Confused you? How is Presbyterian Polity unique?

III. INTRODUCE PCUSA CONSTITUTION (15 minutes)

Give copy of Book of Order (and Book of Confessions) to each person

Do a quick walk through sections of the Book of Order – having each person use their book

IV. BREAK INTO DEACON OR ELDER GROUPS (20 minutes)

Using the BOO, have each group read the duties of their office,

(Ideally led by an active Deacon or Elder)

V. POPCORN STYLE– WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU ARE TAKING AWAY

FROM THIS Session?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

SESSION II (90 -100 MINUTES)

I. GROUP READING OF A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH (30 MINUTES)

[TheoAcademy Video – A Brief Statement of Faith](#) (20 MINUTES)

What line or section speaks to your heart? What surprises you?

II CHURCH OFFICE AS SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP (30 MINUTES)

How is Spiritual Leadership different from Secular Leadership? (Brainstorm)

[TheoAcademy Video – Leadership](#) (15 MINUTES)

III REVIEWING ORDINATION/INSTALLATION QUESTIONS (25 MINUTES)

- 1) Which question excites you/ calls to you?
- 2) Which question is the hardest to answer?
- 3) Which question(s) are confusing?

IV CONCLUDE WITH BLESSING AND ANOINTING OF OIL (5 MINUTES)