

## Congregational leadership

Congregations are generally overseen by a plurality of [elders](#) (also known in some congregations as shepherds, bishops, or pastors) who are sometimes assisted in the administration of various works by [deacons](#).<sup>[1][10]:47,54-55[9]:124</sup> Elders are generally seen as responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation, while deacons are seen as responsible for the non-spiritual needs of the church.<sup>[42]:531</sup> Deacons serve under the supervision of the elders, and are often assigned to direct specific ministries.<sup>[42]:531</sup> Successful service as a deacon is often seen as preparation for the eldership.<sup>[42]:531</sup>

Elders and deacons are appointed by the congregation based on the qualifications found in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.<sup>[10]:53,48-52[43][44]:323,335</sup> Congregations look for elders who have a mature enough understanding of scripture to enable them to supervise the minister and to teach, as well as to perform "governance" functions.<sup>[45]:298</sup> In lieu of willing men who meet these qualifications, congregations are sometimes overseen by the congregation's men in general.<sup>[46]</sup>

| Title                            | Qualifications  | Duty   | Authority                                   |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Elders/Bishops/Pastors/Shepherds | husband of one wife, reverent, able to teach, sober, father of believing children | overseers of the church                        | I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-3 |
| Deacons                          | husband of one wife, reverent, in control of household                            | to serve the general needs of the congregation | I Timothy 3:8-12                            |

While the early [Restoration Movement](#) had a tradition of itinerant [preachers](#) rather than "located Preachers", during the 20th century a long-term, formally trained congregational [minister](#) became the norm among Churches of Christ.<sup>[42]:532</sup> Ministers are understood to serve under the oversight of the elders.<sup>[45]:298</sup> While the presence of a long-term professional minister has sometimes created "significant *de facto* ministerial authority" and led to conflict between the minister and the elders, the eldership has remained the "ultimate locus of authority in the congregation."<sup>[42]:531</sup>

Churches of Christ hold to the [priesthood of all believers](#).<sup>[47]</sup> No special titles are used for preachers or ministers that would identify them as "clergy."<sup>[7]:106</sup> Many ministers have undergraduate or graduate education in religion, or specific training in preaching through a non-college school of preaching. Churches of Christ emphasize, based on Romans 1:7

and other passages, that each member is a minister and a saint, that no believer is more important than another, and that all should use the gifts he or she has to serve others.

## ***Elder in the Bible***

### **[[edit](#)] Terms**

The term 'elder' is used in various ways in the Bible. In many instances, particularly in the Old Testament, it has reference to the older men in a tribe, usually entrusted with the governmental affairs. Their counsel was frequently sought because of their age and experience. This was not necessarily a priesthood calling.<sup>[1]</sup> The Melchizedek Priesthood is listed as having ordained elders.<sup>[2]</sup>

In addition to the word commonly translated 'elder', there are two other words used in the New Testament to describe various aspects of this position of leadership: 'overseer' and 'shepherd' (or 'pastor'). In 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul drafts largely overlapping lists of qualifications for 'elder' and 'overseer', while Peter draws all three concepts together in one passage: "Therefore, I exhort the *elders* among you... *shepherd* [i.e., "pastor"] the flock of God among you, *exercising oversight*..." ([1 Peter 5:1-2](#)). Luke uses all three terms when referring to the same group of leaders in [Acts 20](#).

### **[[edit](#)] *presbuteros***

(πρεσβυτερος, [Greek word #4245](#) in [Strong's](#))

This is the most commonly used word in the New Testament with regard to the twelve apostles, the quorum of seventy ([Acts 15](#)) or others acting in a specific role of authority in a local assembly of Christians. It refers 28 times in the Gospels and Acts to the members of the Jewish Sanhedrin and 12 times in Revelation to the representatives of the redeemed people of God. The remaining 19 times the word is employed in Acts and the Epistles, it identifies a unique group of leaders in the church. The word itself means 'advanced in age' but in the first century context indicates a rank or office: among Jews, as members of the ruling council; among Greeks, as those who managed public affairs and administered justice; and among Christians, as those who presided over the local assemblies. While no specific age is given, this term emphasizes the nature of the position and the character of the person, implying maturity, dignity, experience and honor.<sup>[3]</sup>

### **[[edit](#)] *episkopos***

(επισκοπος, [Greek word #1985](#) in [Strong's](#)) This was a common word in the Greek culture for any official who acted as a superintendent, manager, controller, curator, guardian or ruler. It occurs only five times in the New Testament, once referring to [Template:Christ](#) ([1 Peter 2:25](#)) and the other four times to church leaders. The term

emphasizes the function of an elder as exercising authority and supervision "by divine placement, initiative and design".<sup>[4]</sup>

### [\[edit\]](#) *poimen*

(ποιμην, [Greek word #4166](#) in [Strong's](#)) This word means shepherd. It is applied only once in the noun form and three times in the verb form in the New Testament in the context of church leaders. The term emphasizes the heart attitude of an elder as one who tends, feeds, guides, protects and cares for his flock.<sup>[5]</sup>

### [\[edit\]](#) **Mandate**



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Together, the New Testament writers mention elders, overseers and shepherds in reference to church leadership more than twenty-five times in the Gospels and the Epistles. The basis, selection, office, character, functions, attitude and qualifications of elders are laid out and the pattern established early and often. Strauch writes, "In fact, the New Testament offers more instruction regarding elders than on any other important church subjects such as the Lord's Supper, the Lord's Day, baptism or spiritual gifts".<sup>[6]</sup>

For example, Acts [11:30](#); [15:2,4,6,22-23](#); [16:4](#); and [21:18](#) demonstrate that elders had a significant role in the Jerusalem church and the Jerusalem council. In reference to churches in [Antioch](#), [Pisidia](#), [Iconium](#), [Lystra](#) and [Derbe](#), [Acts 14:23](#) demonstrates Paul's pattern of appointing elders as a key step in organizing a new church. Paul spoke directly to the elders in Acts [20:17](#) and warned them in [20:28](#) to "(b)e on guard for (them)selves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made (them) overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Instruction about elders is given to the churches in [1 Thessalonians 5:12-13](#); 1 Timothy [3:1-7,10](#) and [5:17-22,24-25](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [Hebrews 13:17](#); [James 5:14](#); and [1 Peter 5:5](#). Instruction is given to elders about churches in [1 Thessalonians 5:13](#); [James 5:14](#); and [1 Peter 5:1-5](#). In the majority of the references, the word for elders is plural and word for church is singular.

### [\[edit\]](#) **Qualifications**

*(This list was developed by the leadership of [Grace Community Church](#) and can be found in the [The Biblical Case for Elder Rule](#))*

- Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6)
- Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)

- Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8)
- Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Apt to teach; able to teach; he can exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Not violent, not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick tempered (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- Rules well his own house; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4, Titus 1:7)
- Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- A lover of what is good (Titus 1:7)
- Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- Self-Controlled (Titus 1:8)

## [\[edit\]](#) Duties

- Shepherd the flock, setting an example for all (1 Peter 5:1-3)
- Feed and care for the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12)
- Teach and preach sound doctrine (1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:9)
- Rule and lead (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:2,4)
- Train and ordain others (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; Titus 1:5)
- Refute and rebuke the insubordinate (Titus 1:9, 13)
- Keep watch over and give account to God for the spiritual well-being of the church (Hebrews 13:17)
- Serve clothed in Christ-like humility (1 Peter 5:3-5)

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- McMillon, Lynn A. (1983). *Restoration Roots*. Dallas: Gospel Teachers Publications, Inc.. pp. 97.

## **[edit] Notes**

1. ^ [a b c d e f g h i j k l m n](#) [Batsell Barrett Baxter](#), *Who are the churches of Christ and what do they believe in?* Available on-line [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)
2. ^ "The church of Jesus Christ is non-denominational. It is neither Catholic, Jewish nor Protestant. It was not founded in 'protest' of any institution, and it is not the product of the 'Restoration' or 'Reformation.' It is the product of the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11ff) grown in the hearts of men." V. E. Howard, *What Is the Church of Christ?* 4th Edition (Revised), 1971, page 29
3. ^ [a b](#) [Batsell Barrett Baxter and Carroll Ellis](#), *Neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jew*, tract, Church of Christ (1960) ASIN: B00073CQPM (available [on-line](#)). According to Richard Thomas Hughes in *Reviving the Ancient Faith: The Story of Churches of Christ in America*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1996 ([ISBN 0802840868](#), 9780802840868), this is "arguable the most widely distributed tract ever published by the Churches of Christ or anyone associated with that tradition."
4. ^ [a b c d e f g](#) Samuel S. Hill, Charles H. Lippy, Charles Reagan Wilson, *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*, Mercer University Press, 2005, ([ISBN 0865547580](#), 9780865547582) 854 pages
5. ^ "On the cornerstone of the Southside Church of Christ in Springfield, Missouri, is this inscription: 'Church of Christ, Founded in Jerusalem, A.D. 33. This building erected in 1953.' This is not an unusual claim; for similar wording can be found on buildings of churches of Christ in many parts of the United States. The Christians who use such cornerstones reason that the church of Jesus Christ began on Pentecost, A.D. 33. Therefore, to be true to the New Testament, the twentieth-

- century church must trace its origins to the first century." Page 1, Robert W. Hooper, *A Distinct People: A History of the Churches of Christ in the 20th Century*, Simon and Schuster, 1993, [ISBN 1878990268](#), 9781878990266, 391 pages
6. [^](#) "Traditional Churches of Christ have pursued the restorationist vision with extraordinary zeal. Indeed, the cornerstones of many Church of Christ buildings read 'Founded, A.D. 33.'" page 212, Samuel S. Hill, Charles H. Lippy, Charles Reagan Wilson, *Encyclopedia of Religion in the South*, Mercer University Press, 2005
  7. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) Stuart M. Matlins, Arthur J. Magida, J. Magida, *How to Be a Perfect Stranger: A Guide to Etiquette in Other People's Religious Ceremonies*, Wood Lake Publishing Inc., 1999, [ISBN 1896836283](#), 9781896836287, 426 pages, Chapter 6 - Churches of Christ
  8. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) Carmen Renee Berry, *The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church*, Brazos Press, 2003, [ISBN 1-58743-036-3](#)
  9. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) [p](#) [q](#) [r](#) [s](#) Ron Rhodes, *The Complete Guide to Christian Denominations*, Harvest House Publishers, 2005, [ISBN 0-7369-1289-4](#)
  10. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) V. E. Howard, *What Is the Church of Christ?* 4th Edition (Revised) Central Printers & Publishers, West Monroe, Louisiana, 1971
  11. [^](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Lord's Supper*, *The*
  12. [^](#) ["Church numbers listed by country"](#). ChurchZip. <http://churchzip.com/statisticalsummary.htm>. Retrieved on 2007-09-11. This is a live country-by-country tabulation, based on the enumeration of specific individual church locations and leaders. While it is known to under-represent certain developing countries, it is the largest such enumeration, and improves significantly on earlier broad-based estimates having no supporting detail.
  13. [^](#) *Churches of Christ in the United States* Nashville: 21st Century Christian, 2006.
  14. [^](#) ["The Religious Composition of the United States."](#) *U.S. Religious Landscape Survey: Chapter 1*, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, [Pew Research Center](#), February 2008
  15. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Churches of Christ*
  16. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) Flavil Yeakley, *Good News and Bad News: A Realistic Assessment of Churches of Christ in the United States: 2008*, PowerPoint Presentation posted on the [Freed-Hardeman University](#) website [here](#)
  17. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) Monroe E. Hawley, *Redigging the Wells: Seeking Undenominational Christianity*, Quality Publications, Abilene, Texas, 1976, [ISBN 0-89137-512-0](#) (paper), [ISBN 0-89137-513-9](#) (cloth)

18. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [Rubel Shelly](#), *I Just Want to Be a Christian*, 20th Century Christian, Nashville, Tennessee 1984, [ISBN 0-89098-021-7](#)
19. ^ [J. W. Shepherd](#), *The Church, the Falling Away, and the Restoration*, Gospel Advocate Company, Nashville, Tennessee, 1929 (reprinted in 1973)
20. ^ [a](#) [b](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Slogans*
21. ^ [Thomas Campbell](#), *Declaration and Address*, 1809, available on-line [here](#)
22. ^ [O. E. Shields](#), "[The Church of Christ.](#)" *The Word and Work*, VOL. XXXIX, No. 9, September 1945.
23. ^ [M. C. Kurfees](#), "Bible Things by Bible Names - The General and Local Senses of the Term 'Church'", *Gospel Advocate* (October 14, 1920):1104-1105, as reprinted in *Appendix II: Restoration Documents of I Just Want to Be a Christian*, [Rubel Shelly](#) (1984)
24. ^ [J. C. McQuiddy](#), "The New Testament Church", *Gospel Advocate* (November 11, 1920):1097-1098, as reprinted in *Appendix II: Restoration Documents of I Just Want to Be a Christian*, [Rubel Shelly](#) (1984)
25. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [M. C. Kurfees](#), "Bible Things by Bible Names - Different Designations of the Church Further Considered", *Gospel Advocate* (September 30, 1920):958-959, as reprinted in *Appendix II: Restoration Documents of I Just Want to Be a Christian*, [Rubel Shelly](#) (1984)
26. ^ Within the [Restoration Movement](#), congregations that do not use musical instruments in worship use the name "Church of Christ" almost exclusively; congregations that do use musical instruments use the term "Christian Church" most often. [Monroe E. Hawley](#), *Redigging the Wells: Seeking Udenominational Christianity*, 1976, page 89.
27. ^ As, e.g., for listings in the [yellow pages](#).
28. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [Leroy Garrett](#), *The Stone-Campbell Movement: The Story of the American Restoration Movement*, College Press, 2002, [ISBN 0899009093](#), 9780899009094, 573 pages
29. ^ Examples of this usage include the [Gospel Advocate website](#) ("Serving the church of Christ since 1855" - accessed October 26, 2008); the [Lipscomb University website](#) ("Classes in every area are taught in a faith-informed approach by highly qualified faculty who represent the range of perspectives that exist among churches of Christ." - accessed October 26, 2008); the [Freed-Hardeman University website](#) ("Freed-Hardeman University is a private institution, associated with churches of Christ, dedicated to moral and spiritual values, academic excellence, and service in a friendly, supportive environment. . . The university is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees who are members of churches of Christ and who hold the institution in trust for its founders, alumni, and supporters." - accessed October 26, 2008); [Batsell Barrett Baxter](#), *Who are the churches of Christ and what do they believe in?* (Available on-line [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)); [Batsell Barrett Baxter and Carroll Ellis](#), *Neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jew*, tract, Church of Christ (1960) (available [on-line](#)); [Monroe E. Hawley](#), *Redigging the Wells: Seeking Udenominational Christianity*, Quality

- Publications, Abilene, Texas, 1976; [Rubel Shelly](#), *I Just Want to Be a Christian*, 20th Century Christian, Nashville, Tennessee 1984; and V. E. Howard, *What Is the Church of Christ?* 4th Edition (Revised), 1971; Website of the [Frisco church of Christ](#) ("Welcome to the Home page for the Frisco church of Christ in Frisco, Texas." - accessed October 27, 2008); website of the church of Christ [Internet Ministries](#) ("The purpose of this Web Site is to unite the churches of Christ in one accord." - accessed October 27, 2008)
30. [^](#) Hans Rollmann, "[In Essentials Unity: The Pre-history of a Restoration Movement Slogan.](#)" *Restoration Quarterly*, Volume 39/Number 3 (1997)
  31. [^](#) [David Lipscomb](#), 1899, as quoted by Leroy Garrett on page 104 of *The Stone-Campbell Movement: The Story of the American Restoration Movement*, College Press, 2002, [ISBN 0899009093](#), 9780899009094, 573 pages
  32. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) McAlister, Lester G. and Tucker, William E. (1975), *Journey in Faith: A History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* - St. Louis, Chalice Press, [ISBN 9780827217034](#)
  33. [^](#) [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *International Churches of Christ*
  34. [^](#) Paden, Russell (July 1995). "[The Boston Church of Christ](#)". in Timothy Miller. *America's Alternative Religions*. Albany: State University of New York Press. pp. 133–36. [ISBN 978-0-7914-2397-4](#).  
[http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA133&lpg=PA133&dq=%22international+churches+of+christ%22%7C%22boston+church+of+christ%22&sig=xJd6vwb-MYNOHOUFtE7pctlbxc&id=og\\_u0Re1uwUC&ots=FNRFOjJOvr](http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA133&lpg=PA133&dq=%22international+churches+of+christ%22%7C%22boston+church+of+christ%22&sig=xJd6vwb-MYNOHOUFtE7pctlbxc&id=og_u0Re1uwUC&ots=FNRFOjJOvr). Retrieved on 2007-08-07.
  35. [^](#) [Kip McKean Resignation Letter Wednesday, November 06, 2002](#)
  36. [^](#) Greeson, Timothy (2005). "[ICOC Update 2005: Is the Threat Resurfacing?](#)". New Covenant Publications. <http://www.newcovpub.com/icc/update2005.htm>. Retrieved on 2007-07-09.
  37. [^](#) Lee, Chris (2005 Sept). "[Three Major Factions](#)". REVEAL. <http://www.reveal.org/abouticc/factions.html>. Retrieved on 2007-07-09.
  38. [^](#) Robert Carrillo, "[The Church of Christ and the International Churches of Christ.](#)" *Restoration Press*
  39. [^](#) "Churches of Christ from the beginning have maintained no formal organization structures larger than the local congregations and no official journals or vehicles declaring sanctioned positions. Consensus views do, however, often emerge through the influence of opinion leaders who express themselves in journals, at lectureships, or at area preacher meetings and other gatherings" page 213, Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages
  40. [^](#) "Churches of Christ adhere to a strict congregationalism that cooperates in various projects overseen by one congregation or organized as parachurch

- enterprises, but many congregations hold themselves apart from such cooperative projects." Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, page 206, entry on *Church, Doctrine of the*
41. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) "It is nothing less than phenomenal that the Churches of Christ get so much done without any centralized planning or structure. Everything is *ad hoc*. Most programs emerge from the inspiration and commitment of a single congregation or even a single person. Worthwhile projects survive and prosper by the voluntary cooperation of other individuals and congregations." Page 449, Leroy Garrett, *The Stone-Campbell Movement: The Story of the American Restoration Movement*, College Press, 2002, [ISBN 0899009093](#), 9780899009094, 573 pages
  42. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Ministry*
  43. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) [Everett Ferguson](#), "[Authority and Tenure of Elders](#)", *Restoration Quarterly*, Vol. 18 No. 3 (1975): 142-150
  44. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) [Everett Ferguson](#), *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1996, [ISBN 0802841899](#), 9780802841896, 443 pages
  45. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Elders, Eldership*
  46. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) "Where elderships do not exist, most congregations function through a 'business meeting' system that may include any member of the congregation or, in other cases, the men of the church." Page 531, Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Ministry*
  47. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) Roberts, Price (1979), *Studies for New Converts*, Cincinnati: The Standard Publishing Company, pp. 53–56
  48. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) Ross, Bobby Jr. "[Who are we?](#)". *Features*. The Christian Chronicle. <http://www.christianchronicle.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=621>. Retrieved on 2007-10-29.
  49. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) "Whenever there are disagreements in the Churches of Christ, a 'reference to the scriptures is made in settling every religious question. A pronouncement from the scripture is considered the final word.'" page 240, Carmen Renee Berry, *The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church*, Brazos Press, 2003
  50. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) See F. LaGard Smith, "The Cultural Church", 20th Century Christian, 1992, 237 pages, [ISBN 978-0890981313](#)
  51. <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) <sup>^</sup> [^](#) Thomas H. Olbricht, "[Hermeneutics in the Churches of Christ](#)," *Restoration Quarterly*, Vol. 37/No. 1 (1995)

52. <sup>^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#)</sup> Douglas Allen Foster and Anthony L. Dunnivant, *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, Churches of Christ*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004, [ISBN 0802838987](#), 9780802838988, 854 pages, entry on *Hermeneutics*
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65. <sup>^</sup> [Dispensational premillennialism](#) is characterized by an emphasis on the [rapture](#), the restoration of Israel, [Armageddon](#) and related ideas.
  66. <sup>^</sup> A small group of congregations which in the first half of the 20th century took a premillennial view under the influence of [Robert Henry Boll](#) was, by the end of the century, largely back in fellowship with the mainline. Mac Lynn's 1997 *Churches of Christ in the United States* considered the premillennial congregations distinct from the mainline,<sup>[1]</sup> but Lynn, in his 2000 and later editions (see note above to the 2006 edition), eliminated that distinction and explained the reasons in his 2000 preface. See also the English Wikipedia article on [Foy E. Wallace](#).
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