

THE WORK of the ELDER

Discernment ~ Spiritual Nurturing ~ Encouraging Faithfulness

<i>Focus of Concern</i>	<i>Object of Support</i>	<i>Type of Work</i>
Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vocal ministry ● Travel in ministry ● Speaking engagements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private individual contact, incl. correspondence ● Companionship in travel ● Oversight of arrangements
Individuals	Personal spiritual faithfulness & growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private individual contact ● Correspondence
Other elders	Work of elders, individually and as a body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pray and worship together ● Reflect together on Scripture and other writings ● Share joys and problems in their eldering
Meetings	Gathered faith community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep open "inward listening space toward God" for the meeting ● Pray during meeting for its spiritual condition ● Provide for right order during worship ● Signal close of meetings for worship ● Keep principles clear during decision making ● Organize groups for prayer, healing, discussion, work, etc., as needed ● Discern and call out gifts for benefit of the community

Methods Used

In Words with Others	In Personal Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Affirming faithfulness● Listening● Questioning to draw out● Questioning to provoke reflection● Cautioning● Rebuking● Encouraging stepping forward when led● Clarifying distinctions● Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Testing and acting on one's own leadings (= Discernment and obedience)● Modeling corporate values and traditions● Prayer

- compiled by Susan Smith in Fifth Month 2001, from various sources including Fran Smith's "Applying & Adapting the Tradition of Eldering for Today" (Ohio YM, 1996), Kenneth Sutton's 6-11-98 comments in *Quaker Life*, and works by Jan Hoffman.