

## **Governance nuts and bolts – transcript of video**

Speaker 1

As Elders we're not just responsible for the spiritual and pastoral development of the church, but we've also got to be good stewards of what the church has. It doesn't fall just on our shoulders, and I think it's a fantastic opportunity to get the whole of the congregation involved in talking about things like the policies that we have to have in place to make sure that our churches are safe for everybody, that they're open, that they are accessible and as Elders, we are just part of that team enabling others to serve the church in the way that they can and just to make sure that all of these things are covered.

Speaker 2

It's a practical role in lots of ways. You help to keep the church afloat and encounter the problems with the buildings or things that you never even had to think about as a member of the congregation. But as an Elder, you have to deal with these things. It can be tiring, it can be a lot of responsibility and a lot of pressure. But you're never alone. That's the thing. You as an eldership with the Minister, you're always sort of together and you are always supporting each other. And especially as a new Elder, sometimes you can feel like am I qualified to be speaking about these sorts of things, do I know what I'm talking about? But I found very early on that just speaking my opinion and giving my thoughts was really valued by the other members of the eldership and overall, it's been hugely rewarding, even if sometimes it's a little bit stressful. But at the same time, the help that you're hopefully bringing to your community and to your congregation and to anyone who walks in through the church doors or in the local area is absolutely worth it.

Speaker 3

The nuts and bolts of church life are many and varied. I help out, for instance, by doing the minutes and duties at church like coffee and welcoming and making the odd reading. You don't have to take on a full time role if everyone helps each other it makes it much easier for everyone and makes our eldership a much more manageable job, especially when you've got a really busy life with work and volunteering, lots of other commitments that I'm sure you have and it's really important to remember at the end of the day, you're doing it to help the church, which is such an important role. So don't give up.