

## **God calls Elders – transcript of video**

Speaker 1

I've been an Elder now for a couple of years. And I first felt called when I came back from university, that was when I became an Elder. I think for me it was I've been away for a few years, came back to my home church and was going to be living in the area again, and I was already doing a lot of activities with the church, helping with youth club, things like that and it was almost sort of, okay, now it's time to make it official to take the next step and see what more I can give.

Speaker 2

Members of the congregation are often encouraged to consider serving as an Elder and at certain points during the year we're invited to express an interest in serving as an Elder or we are nominated to serve as an elder. And in my case, I was nominated, I accepted the nomination and I am now serving as an Elder.

Speaker 1

So I knew there was a lot going on behind the scenes that I wasn't really having to worry about. And it was sort of well, now perhaps might be the time I've got the ability I've got the time, and I've got the enthusiasm to step up and get involved in the Eldership and become part of that leadership team, helping things to run smoothly So for me, it was sort of a natural transition with my home church because I returned to it after studying, and what's the next step is to help, to give back as an Elder.

Speaker 3

As a member I had got involved in things the Church was doing outreach and projects for the community, and my minister just

said how do you fancy giving being an Elder a go? This was a few years ago now, and I've not stopped. It's really good to be part of the team that help make decisions in the church and do things to really help take it forward and make a change.

Speaker 4

I was approached by another elder in 2005 who asked me if I would consider being an elder. My initial thought was, wow, am I not too young to be an elder? But then I took time to think things through and reflect on it and prayed about it and realized it was actually a blessing. So here I am.

Speaker 5

I was asked to stand as an elder, but at that point in my life I had to say no because I had a small child, two small children. I was working on a higher degree at university. There were just too many things going on in my life. The second time that I was asked my children had gone to school, I had finished my degree. I wasn't teaching very much it was like God just opened this path for me. And, like Norma, I was like, who am I to say no then when God has paved the way for me to do it? So, I did.

Speaker 6

There is a recognition by other people in terms of your, I won't necessarily say suitability, but your, your consideration of becoming an elder, it isn't something which you actually put your name forward yourself as something you would like to consider and do. It's something which is recognized by other people and then you are approached to find out if you're of a mind to, to consider this and progress it from there.