

What is the primary work of the elder?

- To hold the container for the body
- To be a servant of God
- To support, to listen
- To always show up, be a consistent presence reflecting the light and love within the community in service to truth
- To lead by being a living example of the transformative power of love and of humility
- To nurture individuals and the body in living ever more fully into faithfulness to the call of truth and love
- To ground every encounter in/with integrity
- To be with those who minister – to listen, to be in constant prayer, to walk beside, to reflect back
- Grounding the group or individual, rooting to the Spirit
- To listen to the breath of truth breathing through the collective body
- To watch what comes/unfolds
- To love, hold in love
- To provide guidance to those in pain, those grieving, and going through hardship, but not to forget their own pain. An elder is kind of like a wise therapist that won't charge you money
- To behold another as God beholds that person – with love, love, love – tender regard and clarity
- To be used by God in creating space for encounters with the Holy – in individuals and in groups. To be used by God in God's ministry to us as the Body of Christ
- To strengthen through prayer, presence, holding in the Light – individuals in whom the Spirit is moving, the meeting as a whole, situations, questions alive in the meeting arising to more deeply call forth the Spirit within it
- To bring/feel/recognize God's presence and love and to hold others in it
- To hold my Pastor in a loving space, and to hold my meeting in a loving space – Light-filled, gentle, enveloping, and loving space
- To be midwife to ministry – accompany, comfort, watch the health of minister and message
- To hold the space, to hold the center, to channel love/energy, to reflect love/energy, to deflect other

- To mind the center and to aid in its revelation
- Holding a Holy Space – finding It, embracing it, in Love
- To lovingly hold and nurture the person or community that is seeking to do God's will
- To listen to God within self, group, other individuals and reflect that as needed
- To hold the Meeting in prayer
- To hold up the veil we imagine separates us from God, that we might see past it. To listen always for love
- To nurture and to guide; to be open and to love selflessly and self-fully
- To listen deeply; to love deeply; to be ever vigilant; to empty oneself of one's self, so that the Divine Presence flows freely within and without; being examples of love, light, truth, and compassion
- To love and to radically trust that the Divine Teacher intends to use you to draw love into the world and out of those around you and make it more visible
- Encouraging nurturer
- To midwife God's reality into the present, through creating a space, holding the vision and embodying the hope of the body she/he serves
- To bear witness to God's presence and to abide with those who suffer
- To love and to name and nurture gifts of the Spirit in others
- To encourage and facilitate growth
- To dissolve self into receptive prayer for, and discernment in, the Body – the living embodiment of Spirit
- To hold and lift up before God the gathered body and/or individuals within the body
- To be centered in The Presence, in God, and from that center to anchor the individual or group for whom he or she is being elder
- To listen; to spiritually discern, to seek guidance from the Holy Spirit
- To love the Meeting; this action will happen in a variety of ways, through prayer, listening, and being present, writing, teaching. At its basis, the command, gift and blessed work is simply and completely to love the meeting
- To channel God's love fully into the present moment