

Teleios recently conducted a survey of pastors who graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary to assess views of the leadership structure in their churches.

WHAT WE DID

We examined the type and effectiveness of church leadership in churches pastored by graduates of DTS.

- Surveys were sent twice over a 2-week period to a random sampling of graduates through the DTS Alumni Office.
- The survey was completed anonymously online at Survey Monkey.
- Of the 1000 invitations sent, we received **223 (22%) responses**.



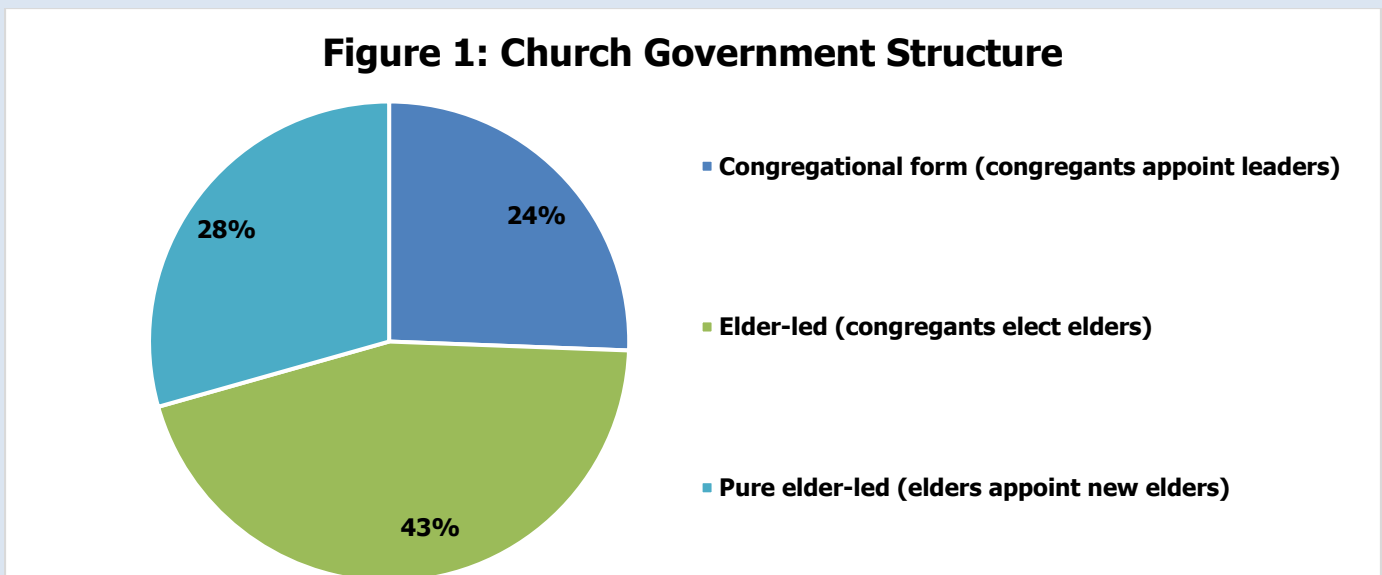
WHAT WE FOUND

The majority of respondents:

- Were located in the **south/southeast** portion of the United States.
- Served in primarily **non-denominational** churches.
- Met in a **free standing facility**.
- Served as **senior pastor**.
- Pastored a church for **10-20 years**.
- Had a **ThM degree**.
- Had an average weekly church **attendance of 200-500**.
- Had an average of **7 elders**.

Church Government Structure

Figure 1 shows the types of church government structures.



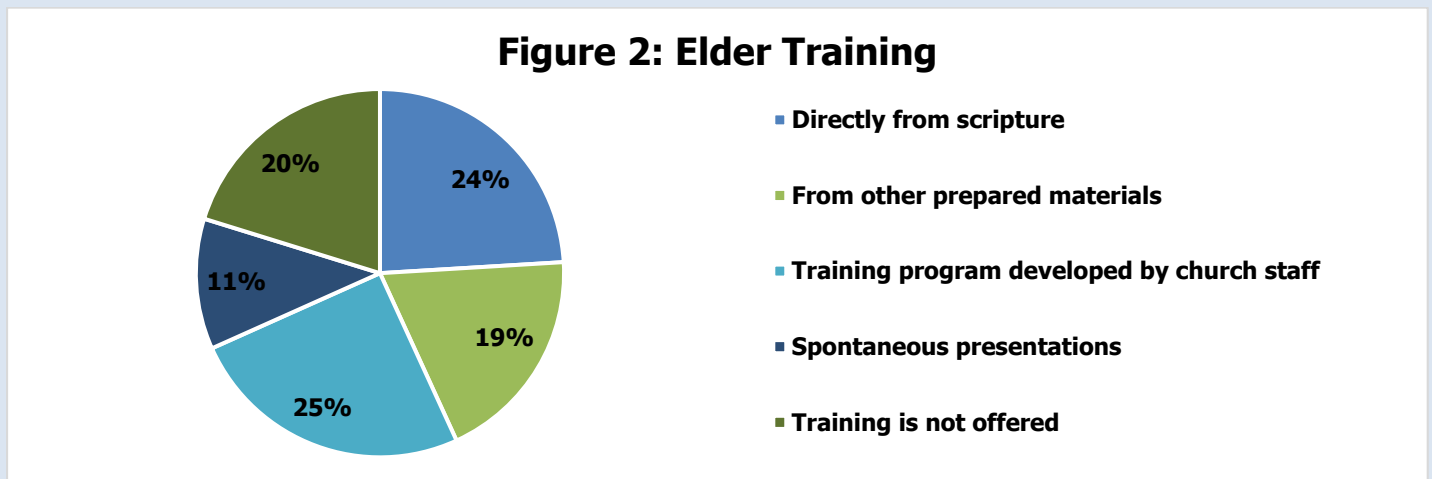
Elder Duties*

Figure 2 notes what duties are typically assigned to elders.

Figure 2	
Duties	Percent
Administrative/spiritual leadership	92%
Pastor oversight	62%
Teaching the church	53%
Leading/teaching small groups	51%
Disciplining individuals	47%

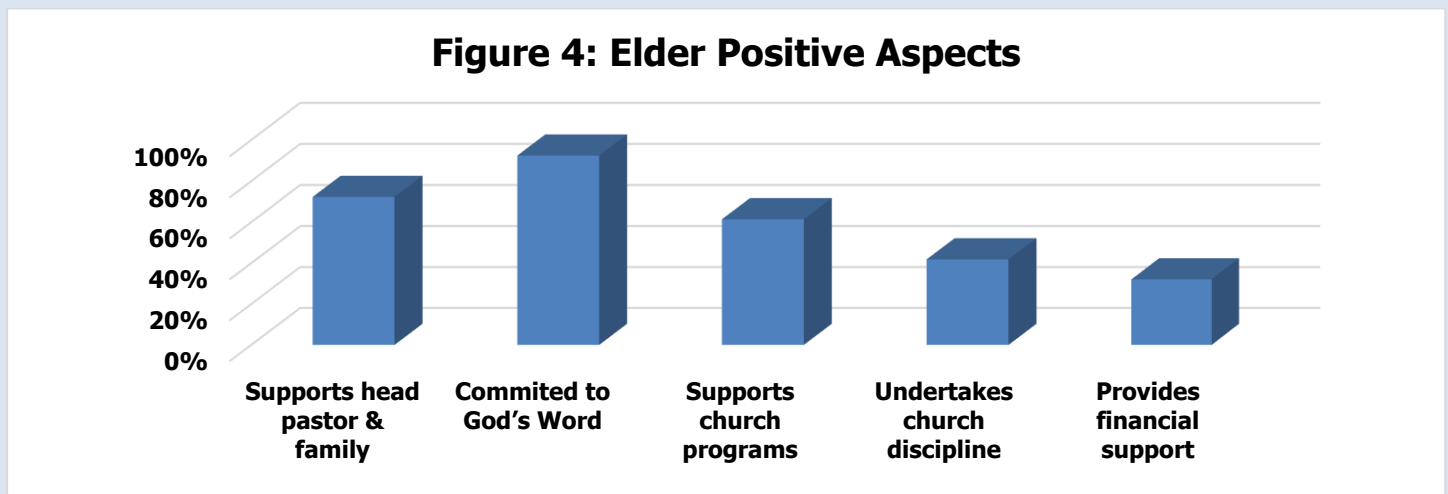
Elder Training*

Figure 3 displays types of new elder training.



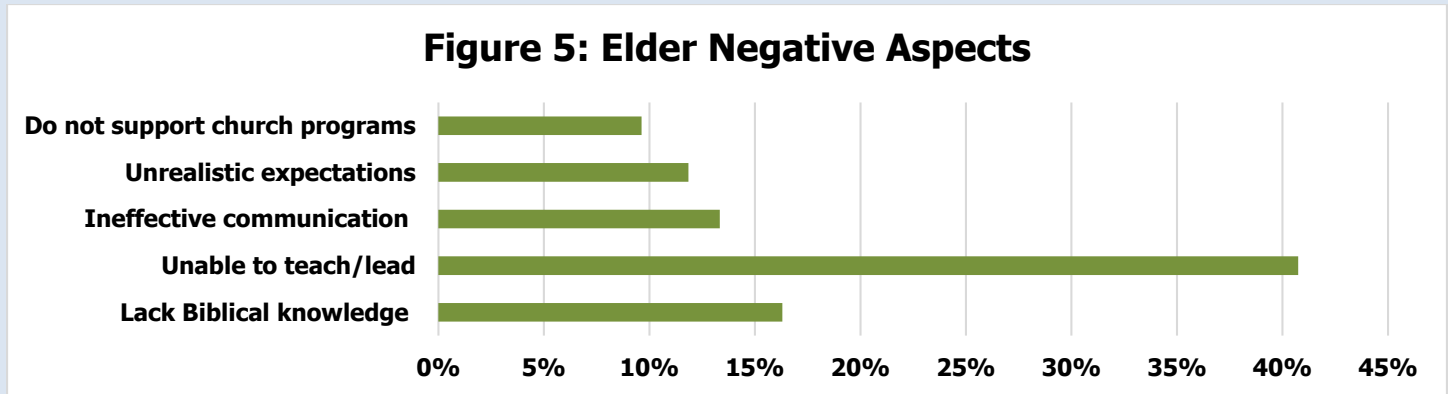
Positive Views of Elders*

Figure 4 shows pastors' perceptions of the elders' most positive traits.



Negative Views of Elders*

Figure 5 indicates the pastors' most negative perceptions about elders.



*Most common responses

WHAT IT MEANS

- Pastors have a strong dependence on elders, especially to assist leading the church administratively and spiritually.
- Most churches provide some level of training to their elders.
- Pastors are most grateful for elders' commitment to God's word.
- Pastors note elders often are unable to lead and lack of knowledge of the Bible.

Summary: There's room for improved elder training in leadership and biblical knowledge.