

Reporting

What is said at the consistory meeting

Not every question, concern or point raised during a visit needs to be reported at a consistory meeting. Reports should be brief but detailed enough to give some indication of what lives in the hearts of those visited and whether love for Christ and his church is found in the home. In reporting remember that you are to do everything to build the reputation of the individual and to gain his/her trust. Reporting on visits should not deteriorate into gossip. Furthermore, what is told to you in confidence should not be passed on to the other office-bearers unless you have made it clear that you must.

Unless there are difficulties and further concerns that need to be revisited what is reported should not be recorded. The minutes need only contain the fact that the visits were made. Recording visits in the minutes is strictly for the purpose of having proof that the elders have completed their duty.

Keeping track and getting back

Those who visit should keep track of the main points of the visit so that there is continuity from year to year. Keep a notebook in which you record the date of the visit, who was present and some of the highlights of the visit.

Most visits will require no further action. Some will call for follow-up visits. The office-bearers should not ignore these needs by failing to take further action or to give further assistance.