Contents

ix

xiii

Series Introduction

Acknowledgments

хi

in the Covenant Community8. Ruling and Having Authority

9. Disciplining for Life

Preface

Part 1: Introduction
1. An Overview of the Office 3
2. The Shepherd and His Flock 15
3. A Bearded Head 27
Part 2: Old Testament Origins
4. Elders as Leaders in the Old Testament 41
5. Elders as Judges in the Old Testament 61
Part 3: Continuity and Transformation
6. The Christian Congregation Inherits the Office 99
7. Elders and the Keys of the Kingdom 121
Part 4: Elders as Preservers and Nurturers of Life

Van Dam, Elder.indd 7 9/30/09 10:36:09 AM

vii

139

CONTENTS

Part 5: Maintaining and Building on the Heritage

- 10. Two Current Issues: Female Elders and Elders for Life 207
- 11. The Privilege of the Eldership 227

Questions for Study and Reflection 243
Select Resources on Elders 253
A Selection of Additional Specialized Resources 257
Index of Scripture 261
Index of Subjects and Names 279