

# Announcement

October 4, 2022

## FOR ELDERS IN ILLINOIS

1. **Required Mandatory Reporter Training:** Illinois law requires ministers (elders) to attend state-provided training on reporting child abuse. The training is available online or in-person. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and other educational service providers approved by the Department, provide the training. The training is to be repeated every three years. It consists of a pre-training assessment to determine the reporter's pre-training knowledge, followed by 60-90 minutes of self-paced interactive training, and a post-training assessment. At the conclusion of the training, the mandatory reporter must acknowledge that he understands his status as a reporter. He is also given a Certificate of Completion that must be retained until completion of the next mandatory training.

2. In view of the legal requirements, we encourage congregation elders to take the online training program at their earliest convenience. (Rom. 13:1-4) You may take the course online by entering the following Web address in your Internet browser: <https://mr.dcfstraining.org/>. Save your Certificate until the completion of the next mandatory training.

3. A document entitled *Questions and Answers* has been prepared to assist you. Please review this document *before* going online or signing up for an in-person training program. Also, please note that this training program does not change the direction outlined in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 14, paragraph 7. This direction still applies and should be followed.

4. If you have any questions please contact the U.S. Legal Department.

## FOR COORDINATORS OF THE BODIES OF ELDERS

1. Please ensure that all elders are assisted to personally comply with the training requirement.