

Tri-State Center

“On the Road” Training



Dr. Everton A. Ennis, Host

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Columbia Ephesus SDA Church



Agenda

- 1:00 – 1:05 – Greetings & Introductions
- 1:05 – 1:12 – Words of Inspiration
- 1:05 – 1:15 – The Tri-State Center for Community Action
- 1:15 – 1:55 – Doing Good, Beyond Food
- 2:00 – 2:20 – Interview: Collaboration for Ministry Impact
- 2:20 – 2:30 – Central Carolina Community
- 2:35 – 3:00 – SDA Nonprofit Community Engagement
- 3:00 – 3:25 – Organizing a Community Resource Center
- 3:30 – 4:00 - Dinner



Meet the Devotional Speaker

Cheryl P. Simmons

M.Ed., M.Div., D.Min., BCC



Cheryl P. Simmons is a Board-Certified Chaplain who graduated in 2017 with a doctorate in chaplaincy from Andrews Theological Seminary. With experience as a hospital chaplain, she now operates her own online business called Exhale Chaplaincy Service, LLC. Dr. Simmons is passionate about educating others, especially nursing staff, on recognizing the roles of the hospital chaplain as a vital part of the care team. She currently resides in Clinton, South Carolina, where she enjoys teaching, reading, going to church, watching animal shows, and spending time with her family. Her children and grandchildren call her "Grandma Gadget" because she loves tinkering with technical gadgets in her spare time.



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About the Tri-State Center for Community Action

Dr. Everton A. Ennis



Doing Good, Beyond Food

Food Pantry Ministry Considerations

Is It for You?

Food Pantry Pros and Cons

The Ethics of Food Pantry and Soul Winning



Doing Good, Beyond Food

ACTIVITY: Get into Groups of 4-5 and discuss and record other ways to do good (meet known needs) in your community.

Food Pantry Ministry & Beyond



Food pantry ministry is a gateway ministry or point of contact



Plan strategically to provide additional opportunities and resources for continuing contact and engagement



Food should never be weaponized for proselytization as the only motive



“Christ’s method alone” moves people naturally toward an invitation to follow Him... organically



Interview

An interview with Smiley Tynes and Cathleen Paxton

Collaboration for Ministry Impact

Central Carolina Community Foundation

www.YourFoundation.org





By Dr. Everton A. Ennis

SDA Nonprofit Community Engagement

The Purpose of the Church

Matt. 28:18-20 – Called to search for lost people and invite them to become His disciples (by teaching the holistic gospel – Matt. 24:14)

Luke 4:16-21 – Look out for those who need empowerment, justice, hope, and restoration

Acts 2:40-47 – Assembly of the saints for nurture, support, and fellowship

Galatians 6:10 – Doing good to everyone

Why Our Evangelism Isn't "Succeeding"

- We are attempting to “win” people who don’t “know” us
- We are getting the evangelism process turned around backward
- We are failing at following God’s freely available counsel



Why Our Evangelism Isn't "Succeeding"

- We are substituting shortcut methods for God's proven way
- We are losing ground to secularism and anti-religious sentiment



Rethinking “Ministry”

- Definition of ministry: _____
- SDAs have not typically been in the forefront of community engagement on pressing issues
- Ministry cannot be wholly effective if we primarily or singularly focus on the already saved

CONNECTING AND SERVING!
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

How to Reach the Community

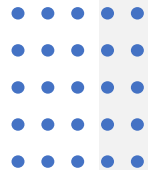
- The community does not care about how much we know, until they know how much we care!
- Too many SDA Churches are only open for services on Sabbath, but are locked up during the week, not being utilized or offering or providing any kind of program or resource that benefits the community.





Earning Relevance Through Community Engagement

By Practicing Christ's Method Alone



“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred [two thousand] years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is **only through the grace of Christ** that **the work of restoration**, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.”

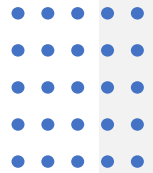
Ministry of Healing, p. 143





A “Work of Restoration” is Needed in Our Communities

- Physical
- Mental
- Spiritual
- There’s much work to be done (can we add social and legal too?)



“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

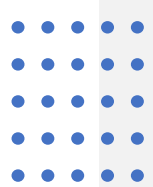
Ministry of Healing, p. 143



A man in a dark suit and light blue shirt is shown from the chest up, with his head bowed and hands covering his face in a gesture of distress or despair. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and hands.

The Key to Success: Christ's Method Alone!

- He mingled with them
- He showed them sympathy
- He ministered to their needs
- He won their confidence
- He urged them, “Follow Me”



“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

Ministry of Healing, p. 143, 144



Ministry Clues in the Ministry of Healing

- The poor are to be relieved
- The sick cared for
- The sorrowing and the bereaved comforted
- The ignorant instructed
- The inexperienced counseled
- We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice



Church S.W.O.T. Analysis for Community Engagement

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

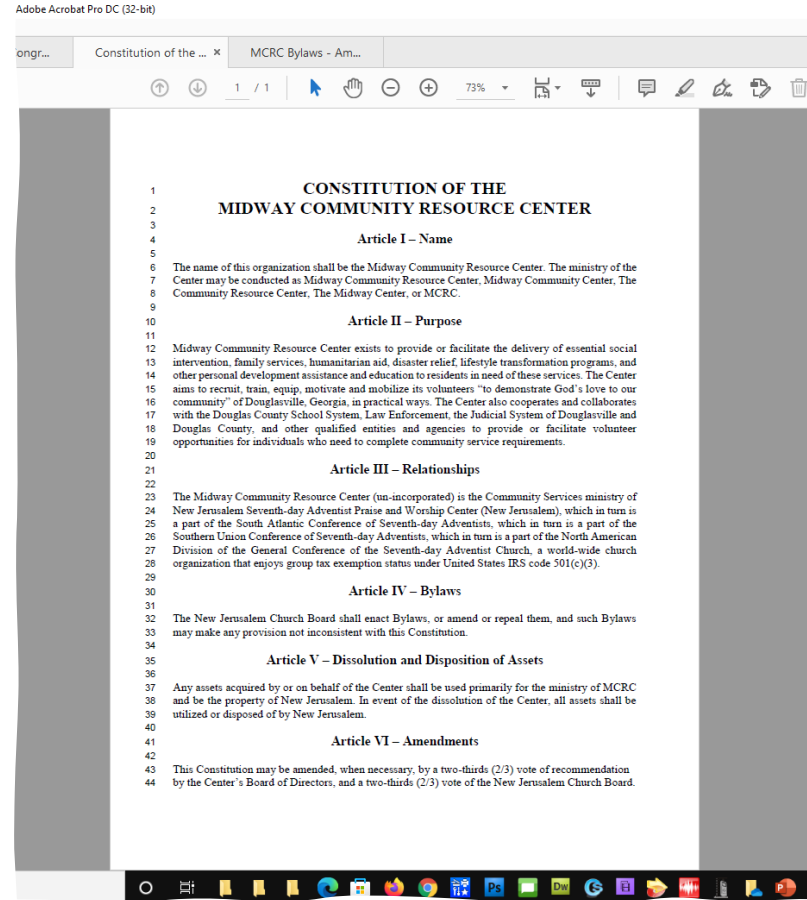
Threats



Structure and Benefits of a Community Resource Center

- New Paradigm: Adventist Community Services on another level
- Resource Centers curtail bias against our faith and enables congregations to provide innovative ministry
- CRSs provide opportunity for the community to know that we care
- Provides access to financial and other resources and opportunities needed for effective community engagement and ministry





A Model C.R.C. Structure

- Automatic Nonprofit Status – No need to be registered/ incorporated with the State
- Filing for separate nonprofit status is not in keeping with denominational policy (very good reasons why)
- An examination of the model Constitution and Bylaws (based on MCRC)



Community Resource Center Structure and Governance

- A ministry of the local church that votes to organize it (a structural reorganization of the Community Services Department)
- Governed by a Board of Directors (in lieu of the “Personal Ministry Council” that non-Adventists are unfamiliar with)
- Authority delegated to the Executive Committee that carries out the Center’s ministries through the Executive Director and other Directors and Coordinators of various departments/functions

Essential Features of the CRC

- Constitution
 - Bylaws
 - Policies
 - Copy of letter of 501(c)(3) group tax exemption
- EIN
 - Bank account
 - Website
 - Donation portal
 - Grant writer

Obtaining Grant Funding

Restructuring Local Church
Ministries as Fundable
Resources and Programs



In Summary

- Ministry – The process of identifying and meeting needs (physical, social, mental, spiritual, financial, judicial/legal)
- Christ's method alone (the **CMA model**) gives true success in reaching the people
- Remember, people do not care about how much we know, until they know how much we care
- S.W.O.T. Analysis will help you to narrow your ministry focus and strategic plan





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SDA Nonprofit Community Engagement

Organizing a Community Resource Center





Community Resource Centers in SAC

Discussion and Q&A





Dinner

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