

Seminar Descriptions

Request Dr. Everton A. Ennis for Your

Pastors Training Event

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PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

PLEAD-01: Church Board and Ministry Leaders Orientation

This workshop is designed to teach church officers how to operate as a unit, while discharging their individual ministry functions. It highlights the purpose of the Church, within the context of the official Mission Statement of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Subjects such as: Church Officers as Stewards of God's Business; the Fiduciary Responsibility of Governing Boards; the Importance of Teamwork; Principles of Spiritual Decision Making; Understanding Your Ministry Role, and; The Church Manual (Policy, Protocol and Program) are discussed.

PLEAD-02: Chairing Productive Church Board Meetings: What Pastors Need to Know and Do

Church administration is an integral aspect of pastoral ministry. This usually means having board meetings to create and apply policies and procedures, and to plan for the advancement of the church's mission through the ministry departments and their elected leaders. Church board meetings have the unenviable reputation of being boisterous, conflicted, redundant, and oftentimes un-productive. This seminar provides pastors with concepts and strategies for harmonious, productive board meetings.

PLEAD-03: Designing a Creative, Year-Round, Transformational Church Calendar

Many church ministry leaders start the year off with a bang, and then peter out toward the summer-time, with most completely running out of gas as the year moves into the fall season. Most plan one or two events for the year, offering nothing else to the church membership or the community for the rest of that year. Church boards may therefore have several officers who do no impactful ministry most of the year. This presentation examines how church officers may solve this problem, resulting in creative, year-round, transformational ministry, both inside and outside the church.

PLEAD-04: Dynamics of the Pastor-Elder Congregational Team Leadership

This course examines texts that outline the qualifications for the office of Elder, but do not offer a comprehensive description of what elders are expected to do in the context of the 21st Century Church. This apparent vagueness sometimes leaves elders vulnerable to assuming roles and attitudes that run counter to the well-being of the congregation. Elders are essential assistants in pastoral ministry, with the pastor serving as the leader among equals. Pastors should accept that no one person can effectively pastor a church! Elders and pastors need to properly understand the type of relationship with each other that is required to efficiently lead the congregation to accomplish its mission.

PLEAD-05: Local Elders and Congregational Conflict Resolution – The Jethro Plan

This vital workshop builds upon the plan that Jethro proposed to Moses to appoint capable and respectable elders and officers over the people as conflict ministers. Dr. Ennis' doctoral research and dissertation undergird his expertise in the area of congregational conflict resolution training. He has developed training systems to equip pastors, elders and church officers for more effective conflict ministry in the local church. This course will examine various types of causes of congregational conflict, and offer practical solutions that will both help participants to prevent avoidable conflict and successfully resolve those that occur.

PLEAD-06: The Nominating Committee and Church Elections (for SDA Pastors)

This powerful course teaches participants how the church election process works and why traditional approaches don't work well in too many churches. In particular, it reveals the power of the election process in transforming a local congregation, if done right and handled skillfully. The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual is a primary source of information, but the material is explained in more detail in this course, showing the nuances and the inherent flexibility of the local church in conducting the election process in a manner which best meets their missional goals and objectives. The course also teaches congregations how to apply the Bible and the Church Manual "Qualifications for Church Office" from the very inception of the election process. Students will see the value of utilizing holy boldness and the power of the vote to support the pastor and the mission of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church against unruly elements that do not desire the peace and unity in the church. This is a great seminar to have **in advance of choosing your nominating committee**. Choosing the nominating committee BEFORE doing this seminar will probably NOT help your cause.

PLEAD-07: Strategic Planning for Churches

Church is not simply going to just happen. Impactful ministry and kingdom growth occur when there are goals and objectives that the congregation understands, supports, and owns. Strategic planning is employed successfully every day in the secular world. The church can also benefit significantly from the process of a SWOT analysis, a Gap analysis, and the SMART method of establishing and writing goals. As the old adage says, "those who fail to plan, plan to fail." Learn how to craft a mission statement and a vision statement for the church. Understand how to engage the elected officers and the wider membership in the planning process to move the church to the next level of ministry impact in the community.

CONGREGATIONAL CONFLICT

PCONF-01: The 30 Second P.A.U.S.E.

The first 5-30 seconds of a confrontation or potential conflict are critical. How we handle the situation and manage our own conflict response in this abrupt and limited period of time could very well determine what our life will look like in the next 30 minutes or the next several years. Request the 30 Second P.A.U.S.E. for your congregation today!

PCONF-02: Famous Fallacies of Forgiveness – Why “Forgiveness” Isn’t Working for Most

One of the most talked about Bible teaching of Jesus is forgiveness. However, this course exposes several errors in the way this critical subject has been taught for generations, resulting in a state of unrepentance and allegations of unforgiveness in the church among Christians. An absolute shocker!

PCONF-03: Healing the Wounds, Part 1

This powerful seminar truly challenges every member of the church on the subject of congregational conflict resolution. It tugs at the heart, challenges the conscience of every participant, and inspires a new atmosphere of peacemaking and honesty in the church. The seminar is the first of a two part presentation (presented in sequence) that examines the roles and responsibilities of the offended and the offender in the process of congregational conflict resolution.

PCONF-04: Healing the Wounds, Part 2

The seminar examines the roles and responsibilities of observers in the process of congregational conflict resolution. Case studies are utilized to illustrate the pain encountered and the victory assured in the throes of congregational upheaval. Key concepts show how every member (not just the Pastor) is responsible for making the church a safe place where people can have a true encounter with God. A truly awesome and soul-stirring seminar that promotes healing!

PCONF-05: From Conflict Misery to Conflict Ministry

Like most pastors, I used to be frustrated by congregational conflict that hindered my ability to accomplish my ministry goals. Church conflict is mostly disruptive. While researching for my dissertation, I realized that conflict is not a distraction from or impediment to my ministry. I discovered instead, that dealing with conflict is my ministry! God calls pastors to the “ministry of reconciliation” between man and his neighbor, and between God and man. The moment I came to that realization, my outlook and attitude changed. This course shows the pastor how to acknowledge and release his or her fear of conflict and focus instead on perfecting the ministry of reconciliation. In many situations, the pastor’s own conflict style will determine the eventual outcome of the conflict in the church. A ministry transforming seminar that focuses on the pastor’s perceptions and attitudes toward conflict!

PCONF-06: Navigating the Obstacle Course of Congregational Conflict

Many congregations are suffering from recent or age old conflict which suffocates the growth of the church. Too often, pastors are unfairly blamed for these conditions. Truth be told, most erosive conflict situations pre-existed the current pastor, and when thoroughly investigated, it can be shown that several pastors have had to deal with the same issues by the same members in that same church. While pastors are by no means automatically or completely exempt from being catalysts of conflict, this course presents an even-handed approach to resolving the issues than what is commonly practiced today.

PCONF-07: Welcome the Sabbath

This powerful, eye-opening seminar shows how shifting from an occupational mindset to a worshipful mindset (before corporate Sabbath worship) promotes healthy relationships. The seminar is the result of Dr. Ennis’ Doctor of Ministry project, and provides an interesting perspective on why and how the Sabbath should be welcomed prior to sunset on Friday evenings. The seminar shows that welcoming the Sabbath, according to God’s will, results in better attitudes at home, and in the meetings of the church.

EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH**PEVAN-01: A Strategy for Nurturing and Keeping New Members and Guests**

It happens every week, every month, and every year in churches. New people join the church. In a short time, a large percentage of them go missing or attend inconsistently at best. While acknowledging the reality that every new member will not stay, regardless of the best efforts of the church, this seminar examines key principles of disciple making that can make a significant difference in new member retention rates. These principles are biblical and timeless, though grossly under-utilized.

PEVAN-02: Let's Transition the Church! – An Honest Look at Church Growth Issues

This thought-provoking seminar examines and answers pressing questions of evangelism and church growth today. Many churches are plateaued or declining. What are the contributing causes, and how can they be successfully addressed to bring about needed transformation? Most pastors and church members make a terrible, common mistake – they assume that Christians automatically know how to be a church! Nothing could be further from the truth. Many churches are failing to fulfill their missional purpose, and most don't even come close to fulfilling their potential to impact their community for Christ. Participants in this seminar will be challenged to be the change that will make the necessary difference in giving their local church renewed life.