

Seminar Descriptions

Request Dr. Everton A. Ennis for Your
Congregational Training Event

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

LEAD-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.

LEAD-02: Dynamics of Congregational Leadership: The Pastor-Elder Team

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 today's Church. This apparent vagueness may sometimes leave 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 need to accept that no one person can pastor a church! Elders and pastors need to properly understand the type of relationship with each other that is required to efficiently accomplish the mission of the church.

LEAD-03: Elders and Congregational Conflict Resolution: The Jethro Plan

This vital workshop builds upon the plan which 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 causes of congregational conflict, and offer practical solutions that will both help participants to prevent avoidable conflict and successfully resolve those that occur.

LEAD-04: Strategic Leadership for Church Ministries & Committees

Church officers will learn to appreciate and utilize best practices in servant leadership to empower and equip committee members to accomplish ministry goals harmoniously. The seminar exposes students to various leadership styles and concepts of teamwork, and addresses critical aspects of group dynamics as related to the church context. The role of communication skills, personal conflict style, visioning, planning, and evaluating are examined against the backdrop of ministry success.

CONGREGATIONAL CONFLICT

CONF-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!

CONF-02: Let's Talk About Forgiveness

The subject of forgiveness is one of the most misunderstood and incorrectly taught Bible teachings! This seminar explores and exegetes several Bible texts that have been misused and misapplied, bringing out the correct meaning and makes the subject more appreciated by seminar participants. Many are shocked by the truth about forgiveness when they realize how much misinformation has been preached and taught to them. Ignorance of this vital subject can be detrimental, leading to Christians losing confidence in God's grace toward them and the assurance of their salvation.

CONF-03: Deference Due to the Pastor and Officers of the Church

There is an aspect of Christian courtesy that is sorely lacking in many circles today, leading to the compromise of the church's witness to the world -- the spiritual discipline of deference to the pastor and other officers. Spiritual deference is a mission-critical characteristic of Great Commission congregations.

CONF-04: Handling Church Gossip

Gossip anywhere is a destroyer of relationships but tends to be much more destructive in the congregational setting. Through gossip, Satan causes the work of God to be hindered by crippling conflict. Participants are taught how to deal with gossip by: Verifying the Content; Verifying the Context; Conducting the Personal Investigation; Being Sensitive to Characterization, and; Confronting and Correcting Evil Communication. This is a course for every church!

CONF-05: 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.

CONF-06: 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!

CONF-07: 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, the blame is fixed, rather than the problem. Even more often, the blame is misplaced. This course exposes participants to the responsibilities of all concerned in biblical conflict resolution. Many congregations and pastors have benefited from this breakthrough seminar.

CONF-08: Resolving Family Conflicts

The family is the basic building block of both society in general and the church in particular. If the family is broken and divided by damaging conflict, the church family will be unstable and unsafe. Conflict in Christian homes is not uncommon, though often not given the level of treatment it deserves in sermons and other religious presentations. Brokenness in the home is bound to weaken the church. Emotionally paralyzed church members can hardly muster the courage to share their faith, love one another, or provide the consistent emotional, financial or participation support the church expects from them.

CONF-09: 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 attitudes of the church.

EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH**EVAN-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 workshop 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.

EVAN-02: How to Become a Disciple Making Church

Most pastors and church members make a common fatal mistake – they assume that church members automatically know how to be a church! Nothing could be further from the truth. Many churches are failing to fulfill their local mission and don't even come close to fulfilling their potential to impact their community for Christ. Yet, day after day and year after year, they pass time, continuing with the "same old, same old", with little or no thought or honest reflection on the congregational weaknesses that prohibit growth. This seminar turns over the stones that must be examined as part of a challenging introspection of congregational values. Five keys are presented for transforming the church.

EVAN-03: Soul Winning Strategies (for Busy People Who Want to Win Souls)

Busyness is often used as a justification for lack of personal effort in soul winning. Undeniable Facts: (1) We are living in a busy time (2) We are called to win souls today. This call is to every Christian, not just the pastor. Practical soul winning and time management techniques are suggested to busy participants.

EVAN-04: Let's Transition the Church! An Honest Look at Church Growth Issues

This thought-provoking workshop 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? Participants in this seminar will be challenged to make the necessary difference in giving their local church renewed life.

EVAN-05: Reclaiming Missing Members

There's a lot of emphasis on following Christ's admonition to secure the ninety and nine and reclaim the "lost sheep." This course sets forth a methodology for carrying out this important aspect of ministry. Reclamation sounds rather generic and noble at the same time, but did Christ mean for us to "reclaim" every person who leaves the church, regardless of whether they happen to be sheep or wolves dressed in sheep's clothing? What about those who left for serious reasons and whose lives have shown no evidence of repentance? Is there a need to seek God's will and wisdom regarding who to pursue? Was the admonition a blanket directive that includes everyone, regardless of individual issues and circumstances? This eye-opening seminar challenges long-held assumptions and clarifies and lays out a step-by-step methodology for fulfilling Christ's will for reclamation ministry.