

Session 01 - Course Introduction

Impetus for the Course

- The Seventh-day Adventist mission needs leaders.
 - The biblical instruction on mission is clear:
 - Christ's mission was to save the lost (Luke 19:10).
 - From the start, Jesus planned to send missionaries in an ever-widening circle of involvement (Luke 6:12; 9:1-6; 10:1-12, 17-20).
 - When he left earth, his one command was to take the gospel to a lost world (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:4-9; Revelation 14:6-12).
 - Jesus fully intended for all Christians to be missionaries (Matthew 10:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20).
 - In the tradition of the twelve apostles, God also calls some to lead the mission (Ephesians 4:11-13). This offers a definition of the pastor's role in the church.
 - The word translated as pastor is the Greek for shepherd (ποιμέννας) and it is a descriptive term for leadership (e.g. Numbers 27:16-17).
 - The job description of a pastor is to equip the church for ministry (Luke 10:2).
 - The present state of the mission is lacking:
 - Data from the Office of Archives and Statistics at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists reveals the following about the thirty-five years between 1970 and 2005:
 - The pastoral staff in the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is limited and shrinking:
 - The number of pastors decreased from 43 to 33, a loss of 23%.
 - The member to pastor ratio increased 81%, from 1:165 to 1:299.
 - The church to pastor ratio increased 26%, from an average of 1:2.3 to 1:2.9.
 - Mission expansion in Pennsylvania Conference is minimal:
 - The number of churches decreased from 99 to 96.
 - Membership increased 28%, from 7,102 to 9,860, but the percentage of Pennsylvania population that is Adventist is only 0.02% (based on the US Census population estimate and the Adventist population for 2006).
 - We are, in many ways, a disobedient church because we are not wholeheartedly following Christ's command to reach the world.
- This course is based on the idea that lay pastors are a central part of the solution, for several reasons:
 - They make a larger pastoral team affordable.

- They can help start new churches.
- They can pastor existing churches so fulltime pastors can start new churches.
- They can serve as associate pastors to partner with fulltime pastors in getting church members involved in the mission.
- The bottom line: Lay pastors help get more people involved in the mission (Luke 10:2).

Educational Philosophy

- The educational philosophy that guides this course includes three related principles:
 - The belief that each student already has certain elements of knowledge, experience, and natural skill that can be applied to the ministry task.
 - The belief that each pastoral competency has basic foundational elements that, if taught and practiced, will guide a natural and personalized development in that competency.
 - The belief that these competencies are best developed through practice in real ministry settings.
- These principles are applied in two ways:
 - By teaching the most essential principles that underlie each competency without requiring the student to do excessive reading or non-ministry productive busywork.
 - By assigning the student a practical ministry application exercise for each set of principles learned.

Basis of the Training

- Duke University study of what clergy do all week:
 - A 2002 Duke University report by Becky R. McMillan, called “What Do Clergy Do All Week?” reports the following about protestant pastors:
 - They spend 33% of their time preparing for preaching and worship.
 - They spend 19% of their time providing pastoral care.
 - They spend 14% of their time in administration and meetings.
 - They spend 13% of their time teaching and training people for ministry.
 - Part time protestant pastors spend 41% of their time preparing for preaching and worship.
 - We see that the areas of preaching and people skills emerge supreme.
- Pennsylvania Conference pastors surveyed:
 - In a phone survey, 25 of the 35 Pennsylvania Conference church pastors answered two open questions.
 - The first question was, “In your opinion, what are the skills necessary to pastor effectively in Pennsylvania?” The top five answers were as follows: people skills, spiritual leadership,

- If you serve well as a lay pastor, opportunities may arise for you to serve as a part-time or fulltime pastor.

Review of the “Lay Pastor Training Course Blueprint” (see document)