



MISSION

We believe that the South Central Conference Office exists to strengthen and support the mission and ministry of the churches in the South Central Conference. Therefore, the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department exists to assist pastors and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven. We do this by providing pastors and their church leaders with ministry coaching and support in five fundamental areas of Church Development: 1) **Prayer**, 2) **Mission**, 3) **Spiritual Gifts**, 4) **Small Groups**, and 5) **Ministries**. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and Mission-driven.

10 STEP

SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS

STEPS #7 & 8

Our SCC Vision for the next five years is focused on four major emphases: #1 Transformational Evangelism; #2 Christian Education; #3 Community Engagement; and #4 Youth & Young Adult Empowerment. The Church Ministries & Mission Development Department has been tasked with assisting pastors and their church leaders in moving their churches forward with #1 Transformational Evangelism and #3 Community Engagement. To do so, we recommend churches follow our 10-Step *Spirit-Led, Mission-Driven Process*. In previous editions we have presented the following steps: 1) Discover the Mission, 2) Describe the Vision, 3) Depend on God's Promise, 4) Draw a Fresh Slate, 5) Design Mission Strategy, and 6) Develop Ministries. This



month we move on to **Step #7 and Step #8: Detail Ministry Descriptions and Deploy Members**.

In last month's edition (September 2023), as we focused on *Step #6: Develop Ministries*, we saw that the New Testament Church developed its

first ministry in response to a mission-related need: "The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. So, the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, 'We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.' Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the

Continued on page 2

THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES &



10-STEP SPIRIT-LED, MISSION-DRIVEN PROCESS, *Continued from page 1*

Jewish faith). These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. So, God’s message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.” (Acts 6:1–7, NLT).

The story in Acts 6, however, doesn’t just reveal why the New Testament Church developed its first ministry, it also details how they went about doing it. **First**, the leaders detailed the exact ministry that needed to be created, outlining its purpose and detailing its parameters—the ministry task would be food distribution; the ministry target, the widows; and the ministry mission, to ensure all were equitably served while enabling the apostles to focus primarily on the ministry of prayer and the word. **Second**, a description was given regarding the kind of people that were needed to serve in this particular ministry—respected men who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. And **third**, individuals were selected to serve.

We should take note of their sequence. Essentially, the apostles crafted a “ministry job description,” complete with requisite skills and expertise, and then, only after all were clear on what needed to be done, and exactly what kind of people were needed to do it, were individuals selected to serve in ministry. Operating according to this progression during a nominating

committee process would both help to ensure that people are placed in ministry according to their spiritual gifts and enable those selected to serve to better understand exactly what they are being asked to do.

tions (Step #7) so that you might better **Deploy Members** (Step #8) for ministry, please contact me at ffordham@scc-sda.org 615. 416.1263

*Maranatha (Gulfport)SDA Church/
Unite. Ignite. Invite.*

Ministry Position Description

WHAT? (Ministry Name)	CONGREGATIONAL CARE Team Coordinator (Deacons/Deaconess)
WHERE? (Ministry Team)	UNITE Team <i>Maranatha (Gulfport)SDA Church/</i>
WHY? (Ministry Mission)	Providing members with spiritual, emotional, and physical support
HOW? (Ministry Tasks)	<p>Position Summary:</p> <p>This position exists to coordinate and provide direction for the church’s Congregational Care Ministry. This includes working with the Unite Director to develop and oversee a church-wide system of pastoral care and congregational support.</p> <p>Primary Responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon you and the church. 2. Serve on the Congregational Care (Deacon/Deaconess) Team. 3. *One of the Congregational Care Deacons/Deaconess will be selected as Head Deacon/Deaconess for Congregational Care and will serve on the Church Board. 4. Visit Sick and Shut-in. 5. Oversee Communion Service preparation and execution. 6. Execute tasks as assigned by the Head Deacon/Deaconess for Congregational Care. 7. Work to support the church’s UNITE, IGNITE, INVITE mission strategy.
WHO? (Ministry Gifts/Abilities)	<p>Shepherding; Encouragement; Helps; Counselor; Social Worker</p> <p>Minimum spiritual development desired for effectiveness in this position:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordainable as Deacon/Deaconess</p>
TIME (Ministry Commitment)	X hours
DURATION (Ministry Term)	X months

**Subject to Revision*

Above is an example of a ministry position description prepared by Church Ministries & Mission Development for one of our SCC churches:

If you believe your church would benefit from having a Church Ministries & Mission Development Coach to help you **Detail Ministry Descrip-**



**Pastor
Furman Fordham, II,
Director
SCC Church Ministries &
Mission Development
Department**



Compass is a monthly publication of the South Central Conference Church Ministries & Mission Development Department



MISSION DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

LIKE A TREE

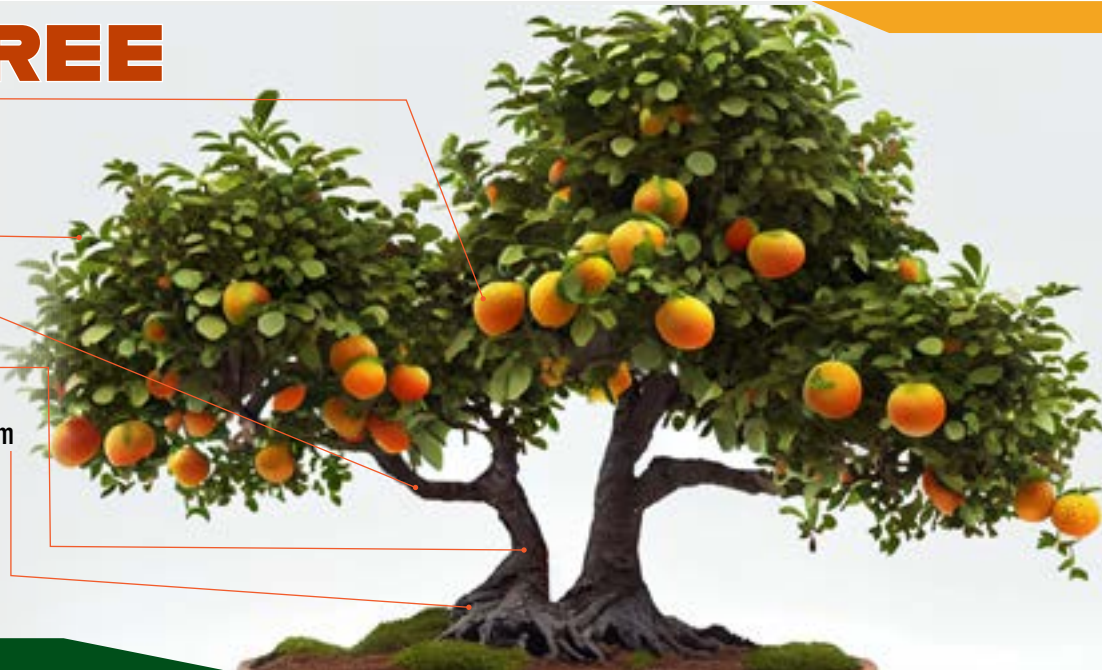
FRUIT—Ministries

LEAVES—Small Groups

BRANCHES—Spiritual Gifts

TRUNK—Mission

ROOTS—Prayer, Holy Spirit Baptism



Our Church Ministries and Mission Development (CMMD) Team is working hard to fulfill our mission throughout our conference territory. We are determined to accomplish this by sharing our “like a tree” vision. It is in the leaves where our ministries reside that we want to

*It is in
the leaves where
our ministries
reside*

make available the best coaches/consultants/trainers possible. We are already providing leadership in Health Evangelism (**Curtis & Paula Eakins**), Women’s Small Groups (**Dr. Freddie Jenkins**), Men’s Small Groups (**Pastor Reginald Robinson**), Message Magazine Consultant (**Pastor Alex Horton**) and Prison Ministries (**Pastor Rickey Wade**).

On September 17, 2023, the Executive Committee of South Central Conference voted to add four more ministry leaders to our Church Ministries and Development team.

We are excited to welcome our newest consultant/ coaches!



Pastor Curtis Hall is the pastor of the New Life (Fultondale) and Mount Zion (Talladega) church district. He has a passion for prayer and training churches to be Houses of Prayer. He has been asked to serve as our Prayer Ministry Leader.



Pastor Marc Raphael serves as the pastor of Children Ministries at the Oakwood University Church. He is admired for his Oaktown programming. He has been asked to serve as our Children’s Ministry Leader.



Pastor Troy Brand is the Senior Pastor of the Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga, TN. He is highly gifted in engaging the church in community initiatives like Social Justice. He has been asked to bring that expertise and serve as a Community Engagement Ministry Leader.



Pastor Cory Jackson is the Senior Pastor of the New Covenant Church in Memphis, TN. Pastor Jackson brings a wealth of experience in leading his churches to be engaged in the community. He has also been asked to serve as a Community Engagement Ministry Leader.



Pastor Jeffery L. Watson
Associate Director,
SCC Church Ministries
& Mission Development
Department

Connection



Human connection is the sense of closeness and belongingness a person can experience when having supportive relationships with those around them.

Connection is when two or more people interact with each other and each person feels valued, seen, and heard. There's no judgment, and you feel stronger and nourished after engaging with them.

Human connection can be a chat over lunch with a friend, a hug from a spouse after a long day, or a hike in the woods with a family member.

Connecting with someone doesn't have to always include words, either. Time spent in relative closeness and experience can also be a bonding experience.¹

In this life, in the present and even in the past, there has always been a need for connection even among men. Connection is a way for you not to feel lonely in a crowded world, a world where "I can do it all by myself" or "I don't need any help." The fact is that at some point during the day-to-day journey of our lives we all need someone to connect with.

We were made for connection. Community was intended for humanity right from the start. When we look back at creation, God said it was not good for man to be alone and thus created woman. And in that connection, there was compassion and there was love in the marriage relationship, but that is not the type of relationship I am speaking of.

What I am speaking of is a connection between man to man, buddy to buddy, homie to homie. Even though your spouse can connect with you on various levels and provide support

in multiple situations, both men and women need someone of the same gender to connect to.

Why, you may ask? The reason is there are certain experiences in life each gender will understand about each other without having to explain. In other words, you have that person you can call, text and they automatically understand. It is in community and connection that you can deal with the hard questions of life.

Men, we cannot do it by ourselves and no matter how strong we are, no matter how great we feel, we need somebody to connect with. At church we need someone to connect with. Also, this connection with other men will assist and keep you from making the wrong type of connection with the wrong individuals.

One of the greatest ways that I have discovered to connect is through small groups. Small groups provide connection and accountability, and they help you deal with the feelings of loneliness that are part of living in this broken world.

I end with this quote from John Schroeder in his article on ministry-matters.com:

To build a men's group takes faith and a partnership with God. It is an opportunity to Change lives within and

outside your congregation. It takes time, patience, prayer, and people working together in order to construct programs that benefit men and their families. It is an exciting opportunity because as you begin, you have no idea what great accomplishments will result from everyone's efforts².

¹Lawrenz, L., PsyD, & Stiles, K. (2021, November 15). The Importance of Connection. Psychcentral.com. Retrieved October 11, 2023, from <https://psychcentral.com/lib/the-importance-of-connection>

²This article is excerpted from How to Start and Sustain a Faith-Based Men's Group, by John D. Schroeder (Abingdon Press, 2003) Used by permission.



Pastor Reginald Robinson
Men's Ministry
Leader

NEW FROM ADVENTSOURCE

This 21-day devotional is designed for young men who desire to deepen their connection with God and navigate the world with confidence and purpose. Throughout this journey, you'll be challenged to examine your beliefs, face difficult truths about yourself, and embrace the transformative power of God's love.



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\$9.95

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Let me start by saying how grateful and appreciative I am to be selected to this position of SCC Prayer Ministry Leader. I do not take it lightly, because it's a privilege and not a right to be part of ministry. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve this conference and work with some great leaders so that we might hasten the soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

My mission statement is simple and that is to help churches grow in their prayer lives by incorporating prayer into every facet of the churches. Not only is this needed for the churches, but it is needed for individuals as well. How can a church have a successful prayer life when our individual prayer lives are in disrepair! If prayer is not given the importance that God has given it, then our ministry will not succeed as it should! In Mark 11:17, Jesus says, "My house shall be called the house of prayer for all nations." God invites us to pray and be linked with Him! The pen of inspiration writes,

"It is a wonderful thing that we can pray effectually; that unworthy, erring mortals possess the power of offering their requests to God. What higher power can man desire than this—to be linked with the infinite



God? Feeble, sinful man has the privilege of speaking to his Maker. We may utter words that reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. We may speak with Jesus as we walk by the way, and He says, I am at thy right hand. We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, we may breathe out our heart's desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost. Nothing can drown the soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.

"Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom,

courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your [8] need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good"
—G. W., p. 258.

I'm looking forward to working with you all. Thank you and God bless.



Pastor
Curtis Hall
Prayer Ministries
Leader

HEALTH EVANGELISM MINISTRIES



About seven years ago, the Holy Spirit inspired us to no longer present health solely within the confines of our Seventh-day Adventist churches, but to take it outside to the community! Due to this shift in our ministry, an additional name expansion was necessary...Health Evangelism Ministries.

God has truly blessed our registration attendance with anywhere between 50 to as high as 140 in community venues (hotel conference rooms, auditoriums, conven-

tion centers etc.) in cities across this conference. However, of the last eleven health conferences presented, our most recent one truly tested our faith!

At this particular Healthy Heart Conference, registration was live, advertisements were placed on social media, banners were sent, and registration remained at completely zero for a solid month! In fact, one week before our weekend date, I told my wife don't deposit the advance

Continued on page 6

*Walking Riding by Faith,
Continued from p. 5*

travel check we received from the conference, we may just return it! Moreover, even the personnel at AdventSource who have managed our registration over the years called wondering why nobody had registered and if we were going to postpone the conference until another time.

However, after hearing our pastor, William Lee, during Wednesday night prayer meeting talk about “Faith Over Fear,” coupled with hearing Pastor Furman Fordham’s prayer

for our weekend success during a zoom meeting, we decided to “Ride by Faith” and make the six-hour trip without having anybody registered!

Fast forward, on Sabbath afternoon, the day of our conference at the Foley, AL Civic Center, nearly forty (40) attendees were present, some driving from over 30 miles away! In fact, one community person arrived 1 1/2 hours early! Bible studies were distributed, and lives were transformed! On Sunday, day-two, the conference transitioned to the local host SDA church, and even more from the community were in atten-

dance, giving us the opportunity to actually walk all attendees through a bible study on healthful living! Precious contacts were made, and lives were changed for eternity!

As CeCe Winans sings, ...” I love you Lord, for Your mercy never fails me, all my days I’ve been held in Your hands, from the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head, Oh I will sing of the goodness of God. Cause all my life You have been faithful, and all my life You have been so, so good...”



Curtis and Paula Eakins
Health Evangelism Ministry
Leaders



In June 2017, one month after I was installed as the pastor of the Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga TN, I talked to the congregation about pursuing social justice in the community around our church in response to the acquittal of the police officer who killed Philando Castile. I explained to them that I was going to be a pastor who was heavily involved in the community working for social change. I explained that it is the responsibility of the church to also work in the community for social change. Since that time, we decided to engage our mission field as both salt and light, permeating society as agents of redemption. As salt, we have set a goal in our congregation to become so embedded in the community that there is nothing that happens in this city that we do not have direct or indirect influence over. We said that to obtain that kind of influence, our members must engage the community by joining nonprofit boards, volunteering with various agencies, joining various organizations, attending public meetings and participating in the political processes when appropriate. As light, we are intentionally spreading the gospel through preaching, engaging in one-on-one and group Bible stud-

We decided to engage our mission field as both salt and light, permeating society as agents of redemption.

ies, public evangelism, and running a quality church school.

Since that time, we've participated with Pastor Fordham and the Church Ministries and Mission Development Team to restructure our congregation's ministry delivery system so that we can involve every member, fulfill our mission more effectively, and realize our God-given vision. A team of our young adult leaders met several times with Pastor Fordham to affirm our core values and mission, learn and understand how to implement the Spirit-led, Mission-driven process for ministry delivery, and to create ministries that would facil-

itate our mission and vision. After our meetings with Pastor Fordham, a team of our leaders met to strategize about the most effective and simple ways to get every member involved in ministry according to their spiritual gifts. We designed a ministry delivery system that combines the old church election cycle for choosing officers with the Spirit-led, Mission-driven model. In short, we created a ministry delivery system that has four areas for member involvement at three levels. The areas of involvement are Serve, Lead, Grow, and Support. The three levels are L1 – short-term ministry initiatives, L2 – traditionally elected church officers, and L3 – paid church workers.

The ministry areas represent our disciple-making process. Serve is a connection point between the church and community. It is the ministry area where it's easiest to be involved. Ministries in this area should primarily be designed to connect with people in our community and congregation through relief and human development type ministries. Lead is a connection point for corporate experiences with God. It is the ministry area where most people are involved. Ministries in this area should primarily be designed to connect people to Christ through our worship and prayer services, and Bible studies. Grow is a connection point for small group experiences with God. It is the ministry area where fellowship is involved. Ministries in this area should primarily be designed to connect individuals with people who wish to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ through small groups. Ministries in the Support area are designed to steward the day-to-day operations of the church, and to facilitate quality outreach and worship experiences. This ministry area consists of the church board, ministry placement team, finance team, and other leadership teams and committees.

Continued on page 8

MINISTRY

Every Member In Ministry

Ministry Delivery System

SERVE

Level 1-3

LEAD

Levels 2-3

GROW

Levels 1-3



WE SERVE by partnering with people through ministries to help address their individual needs of distress.

Ministries in this area are primarily focused on designed to connect with people in our community and congregation through relational human development. Types of ministries include working in the pastor's ministry area can do so on all three ministry levels.



WE LEAD by appointing people to Christ through reading them in areas such as teaching and prayer.

Ministries in this area are primarily designed to connect with people through relational human development. Types of ministries include working in the pastor's ministry area can do so on all three ministry levels.



WE GROW by connecting with one another through building relationships that foster individual contribution to Kingdom Christ-Centered lives.

Ministries in this area are primarily designed to connect with people through relational human development. Types of ministries include working in the pastor's ministry area can do so on all three ministry levels.

SUPPORT

Levels 2-3



Ministries in this area are primarily designed to connect with people through relational human development. Types of ministries include working in the pastor's ministry area can do so on all three ministry levels.



DISCIPLING PROCESS

For Everyone

- **SERVE** - A connection point between the church and community & the ministry area where it is essential to be involved.
- **LEAD** - A connection point for ongoing experiences with God - the ministry area where most people are involved.
- **GROW** - A connection point for small group experiences with God - the ministry area where following is involved.



MINISTRY LEVELS

For Leaders

- **LEVEL 1** - Short-term ministry initiatives supported in short-term ministry initiatives.
- **LEVEL 2** - Ministries led by members serving in traditional church ministries.
- **LEVEL 3** - Ministries led by members serving in traditional church ministries.

Every Member, Continued from p. 7

Members of the congregation serve in the ministry areas at three levels. Level 1 ministries are led by members interested in short-term ministry initiatives. Level 2 ministries are led by members serving in traditional elected church ministries. Level 3 ministries are led by members who are serving as paid church workers. Members working in the Serve and Grow ministry areas can do so on all three ministry levels. The Lead and Support ministry areas are only for Levels 2 and 3 ministries.

In our new ministry delivery system, we still hold regular church elections on a two-year cycle. During the election, we vote for traditional (and some nontraditional) church offices that serve our context. These

elected offices are Level 2 ministries. We vote for people to serve on our Ministry Placement Team, also. The Ministry Placement Team has the responsibility and authority to put members into ministry at L1 at any time of the year, and at L2 as recommendations to the church board between election cycles. The church board puts members into ministry at L3 (the church votes the paid position in business session, the board hires the person).

Here is the reality: We already operated in ministry with short-term ministry initiatives and paid workers. Our ministry delivery system has formalized what was informal. For some members our reimagined ministry delivery system is strange and uncomfortable. Here is another

reality: “Christian churches are experiencing an erosion of confidence on the part of secular society that has diminished their credibility as the repository of moral authority and the model of moral leadership.” We have to regain that confidence. The only way to do it is, “to kill what makes us comfortable, in order to invest in what makes God known and changes lives.” Our reimagined ministry delivery system may be uncomfortable, but it is also an investment in what makes God known and changes lives. —Maranatha,



Troy Brand
Senior Pastor,
Orchard Park
Seventh-day Adventist
Church