



**W**e 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 De-

partment exists to assist pastors and their church leaders in leading their churches to become more Spirit-filled 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

Development, 2) Mission Development, 3) Spiritual Gifts Development, 4) Small Groups Development, and 5) Ministry Development. When engaged sequentially, these become one fivefold strategy for leading churches to become more Spirit-led and mission-driven.

## PRAYER DEVELOPMENT

### Upper Room Small Group Ministry Designed for Powerful Impact on Local Churches

**O**n this past weekend we concluded our virtual UPPER ROOM Small Groups—where for the past 8 weeks we have been studying “The Baptism of the Holy Spirit” by Dennis Smith. Those who had the privilege of participating



can testify that it was a Spirit-filled experience! The only thing that might top it is having an UPPER ROOM Small Group conducted at your own church! If you would like for our Church Ministries & Mission Development Team to assist your

church in facilitating an Upper Room experience for members to pray for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit, please contact our office at 615.226.6500 Ext 133 or by email at [ffordham@scc-sda.org](mailto:ffordham@scc-sda.org).

# THE SCC CHURCH MINISTRIES

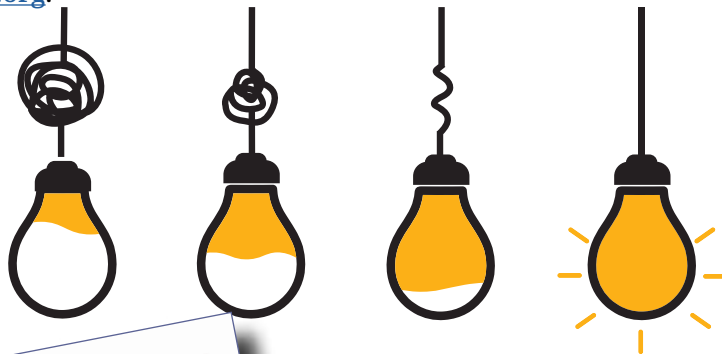
# DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES GUIDE



## MISSION DEVELOPMENT

### SIMPLICITY

**S**imple. Doesn't the word just sound relaxing? Let's be honest. How many of us benefitted from the "pause" that the pandemic created? And how many of us are fearful of returning to the hectic pace of our pre-pandemic schedules? It's not only individuals whose lives are too cluttered. According to Thom Rainer, author of *Simple Church*, many of our churches are also too cluttered, and could benefit from an "extreme makeover." Imagine having a "simple church," where everything that's done is clear, streamlined, and mission-driven. That is what our Mission Development process does—it simplifies church processes and structures so that everything is "Spirit-led and mission-driven." For more information about our Mission Development process, and/or to receive a free copy of "Simple Church," contact our office at 615.226.6500 Ext 133 or by email at [ffordham@scc-sda.org](mailto:ffordham@scc-sda.org).



### SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEVELOPMENT

**H**ow many ministers are there at your church? If you, as pastor, think you're the only one; or if you, as a member, think your pastor is the only one, consider these words from *Desire of Ages*, 822: "The Savior's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ."

The biblical vision of church is for every member to be serving as a minister according to their spiritual gifts. If you would welcome help in making this vision a reality, our Church Ministries & Mission Development team is here to assist.



### MESSAGE

**W**e are pleased to welcome to our Church Ministries & Mission Development Team **Pastor Alex Horton**, pastor of the Longview Heights SDA Church in Memphis TN, as our new South Central Conference MESSAGE Magazine Ministry Leader! Pastor Horton not only leads a congregation with a rich history of utilizing MESSAGE Magazine as an effective evangelistic tool, but he also has an amazing personal testimony about MESSAGE Magazine: "My passion for MESSAGE Magazine was created when Mama purchased the periodical from a colporteur long before I was born. As a result, she became a Seventh-day Adventist, and the truth is so relentless that today her seven children are now disciple-makers!"



In South Central, MESSAGE Magazine is not viewed as a ministry requirement, but as an effective ministry option—an excellent tool to aid in personal evangelism. Whether you send MESSAGE magazine to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers—or like the Longview Heights Church, to prison inmates at a nearby correctional institution—your MESSAGE Magazine subscriptions can be personally managed at [www.messagemagazine.com](http://www.messagemagazine.com) and shared digitally or physically. Now is the perfect time to prepare to take advantage of the MESSAGE Magazine Summer Sale beginning on May 1 and continuing through July 31. For more details watch the following promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVLU-Ijfm8jA>.

For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Alex Horton at [ahorton@scc-sda.org](mailto:ahorton@scc-sda.org).

## MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

**A**s our SCC Churches move further into the Spirit-led, Mission-driven organizational paradigm, we will begin to see less "one-size-fits-all" departmental structures within our churches, and more churches with contextualized and creative ministries based upon the unique needs present in their communities, and the spiritual gifts present in their churches. This means every church will not attempt to do everything—nor should they. Instead, the Spirit will lead each church to develop ministries that best execute their church's mission in their specific context. As ministry coaches, the Church Ministries & Mission Development Team will seek to identify and share ministry best practices, as well as provide ministry expertise, to assist pastors and their church leaders with the development and implementation of Spirit-led, Mission-driven ministries. Some of the recommended ministries will be traditional, others will be non-traditional—but all are to be viewed as ministry options rather than ministry requirements.

## SMALL GROUPS DEVELOPMENT

**E**llen White wrote: "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented to me by One who cannot err" (*Evangelism*, 115). If you want to implement small groups at your church, an excellent "first read" is *Building A Church of Small Groups* by **Bill Donahue**. It can then be followed with *Building A Life-Changing Small Group Ministry* and *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders*, also by Bill Donahue.





## MEN'S MINISTRY

**W**e are also pleased to welcome to our Church Ministries & Mission Development Team **Pastor Reginald Robinson**, pastor of the Vicksburg-Port Gibson MS District, as our new South Central Conference Men's Ministry Leader! Pastor Reginald Robinson is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in the Discipleship of African-American Males. Pastor Robinson says, "When I think of the men in South Central it takes me to a scene in the movie 300 where the Spartans were headed to war and another city joined with them. The other city's army said, 'we are farmers and blacksmiths,' but Leonidas looked at his men and said, 'what are we?' and with one cry they made one sound—the sound of an army ready and prepared for battle! What if the men of South Central became one army in the hand of God, working together to develop other men, spiritually,

mentally, physically, and socially to impact their homes, their churches, and the world around us." The vision is to disciple a small group of South Central men, who will then go back to their churches and use small groups to disciple more men, until we have a movement of men in the South Central conference discipling other men for the kingdom—until we have "the Men of South Central!"

The first training in our Men's Discipleship program will be conducted by Dr. MyRon Edmonds on Thursday June 16 during our SCC Camp Meeting. Mark your calendars now, and stay posted for more information.



## HEALTH MINISTRIES

### Why Jesus Fasted



We pray as you listen to each message that you will be inspired, empowered and renewed to have a closer walk with God. If you'd like to know more about this topic, click below:



**SEE VIDEO**

**Virtual Mega Impact II**  
Southern Union Conference  
Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Convention

**APRIL 29** **APRIL 30**

**THEME: A RELEVANT RE-CONNECTION**  
megaimpact2022.com

## Upcoming Events



- April 5, WHETSTONE, SCC Pastors Ministry Training Event**  
Zoom ID# 982-0140 6770, Passcode: 408329



- April 22-24, 2022, The Southern Union Men's Leadership Summit**  
[https://blueprintformen.org/?event=southern-union-mens-leadership-summit&event\\_date=2022-04-22](https://blueprintformen.org/?event=southern-union-mens-leadership-summit&event_date=2022-04-22)



### SUMMIT OVERVIEW:

The Southern Union Men's Leadership Summit is a training, equipping, and empowering weekend for men's ministry leaders from across the Southern Union and beyond.

### SUMMIT DATE:

April 22-24, 2022

### SUMMIT LOCATION:

Cohutta Springs Conference Center, 1175 Cohutta Springs Rd, Crandall, GA 30711

### A MAN BUILDING WEEKEND:

Whether you are a seasoned men's ministry leader or just dabbling with the idea of getting something started this weekend will equip you with the training and tools essential to your success.

- April 29-30, Southern Union Virtual Mega Impact II, Sabbath School & Personal Ministries Convention.** Go to <https://megaimpact2022.com> for access information. See ad on page 4.

SAVE THE DATE



**October 19 - 22, 2022**  
**Oakwood University**  
**Huntsville, AL**