



ACHIEVING COLLABORATION IN CHURCH MINISTRIES

GOD'S CHURCH

« God has a church and she has a divinely appointed message ».

Testimonies to ministers, p. 52

«Christ being the head of the church and its living lord, has a deep love for the members of his body in the church he is to be glorified» *Eph 3:21*

Through the church he will
reveal the «manifold» wisdom
of God»

Church Manual Chap. 2, p. 20

A CALL TO MINISTRY

A call to the gospel ministry must come only from Jesus. This is always a personal call.

SELECTED LEADERS IN THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH

«When they have appointed elders from them in every assembly, and had pray and fasting, they commended them to the lord, on whom they had beleived».

Acts of Apostles 14:23

« For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, that he not have to spend time in Asia ; for he was hastening, if it were possible to him, to be in Jerusalem on the day of pentecost.



*...From Miletus he sent to Ephesus
and called to himself the elders of
the assembly».*

Acts of Apostles 20:16, 17

*He(God) gave some to be
apostles ; and some prophets; and
some evangelists and some
sheperds and teachers...*

Ephesians 4:11

«The true minister of God is not self-called. As with the apostle Paul, the initiative is not the individual's, but the lord's».

Minister's manual p.17

Those in Christ's service who are called to leadership are to take care of the church .

1 Tim.3:5

*« The leader in the cause of God
must be more than a secular
leader. He must have more than
natural talent ...*

*Every Seventh-day Adventist leader,
be the church elder, deacon,
sabbath school superintendent,
preacher, business manager, office
worker, or field leader, must be
spiritual man and woman. God's
man, God's woman »*

*Robert H Pierson How to become a
succesfull Christian leadear, p 81*

« The ministers are colaborers with the lord in the acomplishment of his purpose ».

Gospel Workers p. 18

Research indicates that growing churches usually have strong pastoral leadership. Strong doesn't mean dominating or manipulating leadership.

ELDER'S IN THE CHURCHES

Scripture calls for the service of elders from the beginning of the New Testament Church. Leadership in the community of believers was accorded to «The apostles and elders» *Acts 14:23*

Elders are generally mature and experienced, it doesn't mean that only older individuals can serve as elders.

Titus 1:5

Even a young man was reconized as a leader in the early comunity, and it was the apostle Paul who said: « Let no one despise your youth but be an example for the believers.»

1 Tim 4:12

«Pastors and elders are partners in ministry. Church pastors are the team leaders, giving spiritual help and direction to the local church ...Both serve as leaders of the congregation by coordoning the activities of the church.



In districts with a large number of churches , where the pastor cannot frequently meet with the church, the elder in charge serves as representative of the pastor and maintaining contact with the pastor regarding church issues».

Elder's Handbook. chapter 4 page 61

PASTOR'S RESPONSABILITY

Train the elder's in the following area:

- Church organisation and administration
- Church growth-Care of new converts
- Worship leadership

- Preaching
- Visitation
- Function and leadership
- Pastor-Elder team
- Committees

ELDER'S CONTRIBUTION

The skills required to administer the church are too varied for any one person to possess them all. Elders should cooperate with their pastors to identify their strengths and help them organise the church to take advantage of those strengths, while providing service in areas where the pastor needs assistance.

Where the pastor is lacking, the elder can be gifted in that particular area of service. This cooperative effort creates the ideal pastor-elder partnership.

Elder's Handbook Chap. 4, p. 65

The advantage of the team ministry of the pastor and elder is that they build on each other's gifts and abilities while compensating for each other's weaknesses. Careful analysis of precisely what each member can contribute to the team is a work that is done in the context of openly sharing the gifts of the Spirit, recognizing that « the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills » (1 Cor. 12:11)

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MISSION

Through evangelism the Church grows and spreads his influence in the community and around the world.

Evangelism involves all of Christ's disciples to share, declare and live as recipients of God's grace.

Pastors and elders should motivate, train and assist the church in the fulfilment of the mission. To evangelize is to lead others to accept Jesus as their personal saviour.

God has called the Seventh Day
Adventist Church to proclaim His
last day message of love and truth
to the world.

Rev 14:6 - 12

STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM

- Spiritual Revival
- Bible study
- Prayer
- Witnessing
- Equipping and training

CONCLUSION

A divine challenge come with an unfailing promise. Fulfilling his promise will be the proof of your faithfulness. As you serve God and the church with a full heart, God will open the windows of heaven and bless you.



Remember what was the ultimate promise of Jesus before leaving the earth.

**«Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age.»**

Matthew 28:20