



Strengthening the Existing Ministries

There are five steps to strengthening the existing ministries of your church in the area of discipleship:

Step 1: Pastor meets with the elders, deacons, and deaconesses

It is important for the pastor to meet with the elders and deacons/deaconesses to review their responsibilities. The emphasis will be their role in visitation and discipleship. The Church Manual suggests that the deacons be organized in such a way as to visit the members in their homes once each quarter. Priority needs to be given to visiting the newly baptized members, the shut-ins, the sick, and the discouraged. It is at this meeting that a visitation schedule be agreed upon that can be presented to the Outreach Leadership Team at their next monthly meeting.

Step 2: Pastor or designated elder to meet with the superintendents and Sabbath school teachers

The meaning and goals of discipleship will be discussed and plans developed to implement the principles of discipleship as pertaining to the Sabbath school. This plan should be presented at the next Outreach Leadership Team meeting.

Step 3: The pastor or designated elder will meet with the leadership of the Pathfinders and Youth.

Ways in which Youth Ministries can incorporate discipleship principles in their program and network with the other departments of the church will be discussed and a plan prepared that can be presented to the Outreach Leadership Team at their next monthly meeting.

Step 4: The pastor or designated elder will meet with the Women's and Men's Ministries leaders.

Ways in which these ministries can strengthen family life in the church and network with the other church departments will be discussed and a plan prepared that can be presented to the Outreach Leadership Team at their next monthly meeting.

Step 5: The pastor or designated elder will meet with leaders of the Welcoming and Hospitality Team.

A review will be made of the responsibilities of the Welcome/Hospitality Team and a welcoming procedure be prepared to present to the Outreach Leadership Team at their next monthly meeting. It is at the door that first impressions are made, and it is at the door that a church is perceived by visitors as well as regular members to be hospitable and friendly. A positive impression is made on visitors when they are welcomed at the door and at the same time introduced to members of the church who serve as their hosts.

Remember, in an orchestra, although there are many instruments, they must be playing the same piece of music. The Scriptures refer to the contribution of each one in the church as being members of the body of Christ.