

# Men's Ministry Coordinator

## *Overview*

The objectives of Men's Ministries as outlined by the NAD Committee for Men's Ministries is to:

- Foster brother/hood friendship among men.
- Focus on men's role in the family--seek to restore family worship in homes.
- Develop Godly leadership in men for full participation in church life.
- Support and build up pastors in their ministry.
- Inspire men to life of integrity in the workplace.
- Encourage purity in body, mind and spirit.

The model for all men is Christ. As opportunities for men to come together are provided at the local church and through conferences like the Michigan Men of Faith, men will get to know Christ better, and will be challenged to become more like Him. They will encourage one another and be used by the Holy Spirit to shape and directing one another's lives.

## *Leadership*

The coordinator of men's ministry will be a man whose personal and public life demonstrates a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and one who seeks to encourage his brothers in Christ to maintain a close walk with God. The local coordinator will work together with the Michigan Conference men's ministry coordinator to juncture with conference-sponsored events. This person will chair a committee comprised of other men, representing different stages of life, i.e., never married, divorced, widowed, married, single parent, etc. who can provide insight into various challenges these groups might face. In addition, this committee should be supported by the pastor, elders and deacons.

## *Ministry to Men in the Local Church*

The spiritual maturity of men is a developmental process. It is therefore necessary to provide a variety of opportunities for Christian growth--opportunities that correspond to different stages of maturing in Christ. The ministry should focus on entry points, such as conference events, special gatherings, training seminars, church events, small groups, and outreach. Begin by taking a profile of the men in the church, develop a core group for leadership, and develop a purpose statement.

## *Resources*

The Michigan Conference Family Ministries department has a lending library with many resources to enhance a men's group. In addition, a packet of materials is available to help the leader begin a men's ministry.

# Adult Single Ministries

## *Stats*

America is changing. The singles phenomenon is a large part of this change. The statistic of over 70 million single adults is staggering, as it has many implications for the American culture. Trends predict that more than 50 percent of adults today will spend some significant time during their adult lives as divorced or widowed singles. One-fourth of all U.S. families are single-parent families. And there are over 11 million blended families in the U.S. today.<sup>1</sup>

## *Why Adult Single Ministries?*

Our concept of family is being redefined, reevaluated, and expanded to include singles, single parents, extended families, expanded families, and blended families. These individuals are looking for programs and ministries to assist them with the course and journey of their lives.<sup>2</sup>

While we seek to establish the principles of the family as outlined in Scripture, often events happen in the lives of individuals that place them in a situation contrary to their plans.

A careful examination of Scripture reveals a deep concern for the fatherless and also for widows and the unmarried. A church that is intentional about reaching out to those in its congregation and community who may need direction, assistance, care and compassion, will help to portray the God of the Scripture to these individuals in a tangible way. In addition, utilizing individuals who understand the wholeness they have in Jesus Christ to reach out to others in similar situations speaks hope in a way that married individuals cannot.

## *Leadership for Adult Single Ministries*

The nominating committee should look for an individual in their congregation who is single and is leading a productive, spirit-filled life who can provide direction for this ministry in the local church. The local coordinator will work together with other district leaders to develop a balanced program within the local district and will network with the Michigan Conference Family Ministries department to juncture with conference-sponsored events.. This person will chair a committee comprised of other singles, representing different categories of singleness, i.e., divorced, widowed, never married, single parents, etc. who can provide insight into various challenges these groups might face. In addition, this committee should be supported by the pastor, elders, deacons and deaconesses.

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<sup>1</sup>Douglas L. Fagerstrom, ed., *Baker Handbook of Single Adult Ministries* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997), p. 23-24.

<sup>2</sup>Fagerstrom, 23-24.

## **Adult Single Ministries**

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#### ***Ministry to Singles by Singles***

The talents of this group of individuals is unlimited. The Lord can use people in all situations for the glory and edification of His church. Because of the unique situations single adults are placed in, they can be a valuable resource in your church for various ministries of compassion. We encourage you to take a few moments to envision the impact that an Adult Single Ministries program can have on your church and community. The coordinator will work with the pastor, and others to develop a survey for the congregation and then begin to formulate plans to address specific needs and areas of opportunity for support, outreach and growth.

#### ***Involving Singles in the Worship Service***

The coordinator will look for ways to help the singles in the church to become part of the worship services and contribute to a spirit of commitment among the members of the church. They will look for ways to integrate them fully in the church family.

#### ***Planning Entry Events***

The coordinator will need to help the church plan entry events and build pathways that will attract new members, specifically single members, and plan for nurturing their developing faith. A survey of the community will highlight areas of interest to singles and lead to planning seminars, workshops, and other related opportunities for connecting with singles.

#### ***Educating the Church Family***

The singles ministry leader will help and congregation and its leaders develop a non-judgmental and open and accepting attitude. A shift in focus from what has occurred (What happened? Why did you do what you did to get yourself into this?) to the present (What can be done now?) will prove to be more effective in opening doors of communication.

#### ***Resources***

The Michigan Conference Family Ministries department has resources available to begin a dynamic ministry for adult singles. Books such as *Starting a Single Adult Ministry*, *Giving the Ministry Away*, and *How to Begin an Exciting Singles Ministry* are filled with information on developing specific ministries to reach the single adult population. In addition, the Michigan Conference Family Ministries lending library contains a variety of small group studies in areas of building safe relationships, *Boundaries*, helping children cope with grief associated with divorce and death, divorce recovery videos and much more. Additional resource ideas are available by contacting SDA PlusLine (800) SDA-PLUS.