

FAX TRANSMITTAL

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To: Paul Richardson

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From: Hannah Henry

Message:

NEEDS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
1997 North American Division
Survey of Conference Executive Committee Members

Dear Executive Committee Member,

There are two sections to this questionnaire—items 1-20 and questions 21-24. Read carefully all 20 of the items in the first section (including those on the back side of this sheet), and then check off seven (7) that you think are the most important. Please place an X by your selections and make sure you have not chosen more than seven (7). It is important you also complete the second section. — NAD Office of Information and Research

- 1. Attendance at Prayer Meetings — We need to update the traditional mid-week Prayer Meeting at the church, and have a strategic plan for getting members to attend.
- 2. Body Life — Church members need to interact with each other more. We need to be more genuine with each other, have more fellowship, and be of greater encouragement to one another.
- 3. Crisis Hotline — We need a toll-free Crisis Hotline for members to call when they feel the need for special prayer or someone who can be of encouragement during a tough situation.
- 4. Discipleship Training — We need a mentoring program in the Christian life that is easily understood and intentional. Members need to invest some time personally training other members in outreach and lifestyle.
- 5. Follow-Up Program for New Members — We need a program that allows for the continued nurture and training of a person once he or she joins the church.
- 6. Hospitality Ministry — Greater emphasis needs to be placed on how we treat visitors. We need to give more direction to the greeters, as well as the Hospitality Committee.
- 7. Involving Teens and Young Adults — We need to find ways to keep our young people interested. We need to strengthen the relationship between the youth and the adult membership. We need to explore what we can do to help youth recognize the relevance of the church and its mission in today's world.
- 8. Lack of Reverence — There is too little respect given to the sanctity of worship space. We should put some time and effort into training the membership, young and old, to be more reverent in worship and in the church building.
- 9. Marriage Counseling and Support — We need to have in place an organized strategy and program with steps that can be taken to help members whose marriages are falling apart.
- 10. Men's Ministry — In recent years much has been done to foster Women's Ministries in the local church. Efforts should be made to build up the community of men in the congregation as well.
- 11. More Focus on Families — A lot of resource material currently exists to help families, but we need more help. Given the diversity of family types represented in today's society we need to be broader in our approach to ministry to family-life needs.
- 12. New Zeal for Outreach — We need to do more to encourage the missionary spirit in our members. New and creative approaches need to be developed to help members share their faith.

Please continue on the back side.

- 13. Church Officer Training — In many places cut-backs at the conference office have resulted in less training available to local church leaders. Resources such as video seminars and self-help courses would help.
- 14. Outreach to Inactive and Former Members — Materials and programs that target those who used to be Adventists need to be developed. It would also be good to have materials that help our members understand how they might reach out to members of their own families in a redemptive way.
- 15. Restructuring the Traditional Worship and Sabbath School — Attention needs to be given to what we do on Sabbath morning. In many churches there has been little change in decades. This issue needs to be studied to see if optional approaches might help broaden the appeal of the local church to its community.
- 16. Sabbath School Teacher Training — We need to help our teachers more. We need more workshops and training opportunities, and they must be affordable.
- 17. Support for Single Parents — We need to be more intentional in helping single parents. Special programs and resources need to be developed for this group.
- 18. Strengthening Commitment to the Church — Whether we are talking about attendance, giving or volunteer leadership responsibilities, many members are not participating. We need to do a better job of sharing local church needs and member responsibilities.
- 19. Young Adult Ministry — There needs to be more evangelism targeted to young adults. We need to address their concerns and, where possible, make changes that will help make the church relevant to their needs.
- 20. Support for Members Married to Non-believing Spouses — There appears to be a growing number of these men and women in the church who need practical help in knowing how to maintain their spiritual life without destroying their marriages.

SECTION TWO

21. What is your gender? (Please circle one number.) 1. Female 2. Male
22. What is your ethnic background? (Please circle one number.)
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Asian or Pacific Islander | 4. White, Anglo |
| 2. Black | 5. Other |
| 3. Hispanic | |
23. When were you born? (Please circle one number.)
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Born in 1965 or after | 3. Born 1930-1945 |
| 2. Born 1946-1964 | 4. Born in 1929 or before |
24. Are you employed by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination? 1. Yes 2. No

Comments, suggestion?