Inter-America: Church finance staff undergoes further SunPlus software training

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June 23, 2011 - Miami, Florida, United States...Libna Stevens/IAD

Strengthening the management of finances throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America has been a priority for administrators responsible for the funds that come in from the many local churches and institutions in the fast-growing territory of 3.4 million members.

In order to better manage these funds, more than a dozen account managers and staff at the Inter-American Division (IAD) headquarters office in Miami, Florida, took part in two days of training last week on the church's SunPlus software. SunPlus is a financial management and accounting application that features analytical tools.

"We are committed to strengthening the financial system in the territory of the Inter-American Division," said Filiberto Verduzco, treasurer for the church in Inter-America, who took part in the training. "This seminar is crucial to better prepare our SunPlus team in assisting our treasury personnel so that we can optimize the use of the financial system."

"This new training gives us as administrators the opportunity to expand our vision and better understand the financial information that we produce," added Verduzco.

Mack Tennyson, CPA, PhD, director of the accounting software for the Adventist world church led the training session. He said that in the past, function of the SunPlus program was to retrieve financial data for preparing statements.

"This IAD training represents for administrators who need to get customized information out to assist them in their administrative roles," said Dr. Tennyson.

The IAD is the first division to receive this kind of SunPlus training with its finance team, according to Dr. Tennyson.

Administrators throughout the 21 unions or church regions in the IAD territory have been trained on SunPlus since 2008. The software was first launched in 2002 and is among the top church divisions in the world church to successfully implement the software throughout the territory, said Tony De La Mota, associate treasurer for the church in Inter-America and top implementer of the software in the territory.

"This software is more versatile and facilitates the analysis of financial information," said De La Mota.

De La Mota travels with a team of three IAD SunPlus specialists to train administrators and account managers to ensure the financial system is analyzed and reported accurately. Other software programs are in place to manage the internal financial information between unions and the IAD, said De La Mota.

Further SunPlus training will be implemented throughout the region in the coming months, said De La Mota.