Next week starting, Monday, March 11, 2013, Ministerial Directors in the North American Division will gather in Berrien Springs, Michigan at the Adventist Frontier Mission Center for a NAD Ministerial Summit.

The annual career fair will kick off the “Summit” beginning on Monday at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Tuesday’s Advisory will focus on pastor and church assessments, continuing education, pastoral maturation—from the call to retirement, and the 2015 NAD Ministerial Convention. On Wednesday we will take a trip to the Adventist Heritage Village in Battle Creek, Michigan. The trip will be hosted by the General Conference Director of the Ellen White estate, Jim Nix. Finally, on Thursday, the ministerial directors boot camp will be a training session targeted for ministerial directors serving with less than three years of ministerial service.

The Theology of Ordination-Biblical Research Committee of the North American Division.

In response to the request made at the 2010 Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Session in Atlanta, each division of the world church was asked to commission a biblical research committee to study the theology of ordination and its implications for church practices. To find out about the study process, the committee, and how to contact them.

Read more.

The Newstart Global-Empowering Health Evangelism Worldwide NEWSTART Global is designed to educate, inspire, and equip local churches, as well as schools and health organizations around the world to conduct health evangelism simply and effectively.

Read more.
MARCH
NAD Ministerial invites pastors to join us for the "Best Practices Webinars" every 3rd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. e.s.t. This month on March 19, 2013. Pastors will be able to participate and ask questions with each presenter through an online delivery. Please share this with your pastors and feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

This month’s presentation will be on March 19, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. e.s.t. Delbert Johnson, Director of NAD Retirement, will address, "Preparing Clergy for Retirement." In a time when retirement and uncertainty go hand in hand. Preparation and planning for retirement becomes most significant right now for the future. According to the NAD Retirement department, retirements will occur rapidly over the next 9 years, and because of the age demographics in the North American Division, 50% of all ordained/commissioned ministers in the NAD will be eligible for full time retirement. Del Johnson will present a timely, relevant, and pointed webinar that will address helpful tips and insights regarding retirement, along with your concerns. He will also answer your questions regarding this subject.

APRIL
Next month’s webinar presentation will take place on April 16, 2013 at 1:30 pm e.s.t. Arthur Blinci, Vice President -Chief Risk Management Officer for Adventist Risk Management, will present "Managing the Risks Between Pulpit and Pew."

In this litigious age, pastors deal with many challenges surrounding people, places, and things. Being aware of relational landmines and legal pitfalls is half the battle as you lead your congregations. Each year the Seventh day Adventist Church spends millions of dollars on employee issues. Arthur Blinci will provide pastors with a better understanding of the risks they face on a daily basis and provide them with resources that will assist in their ministry.

CALLED, A Digital Magazine for Adventist Clergy to Launch Soon

The launch of NAD Ministerial Department’s new digital magazine for Adventist clergy is in the final stages of development according to Dave Gemmell, Associate Director of NAD Ministerial. The magazine is currently being tested on iPad, Android, Kindle Fire and interactive pdf platforms. As soon as it passes those hurdles it will be submitted as an app and await approval from app stores. Once the apps are approved readers of Best Practices for Adventist Ministry will be alerted so they can download the app and magazine at no charge.

The first quarter 2013 edition features seven articles on the role of women clergy in the NAD. Wanted, More Female Pastors shares the NAD leadership’s desire to increase the number of women in
pastoral leadership in the NAD. Women of Influence traces the history of women clergy in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Judges, Seminary Deans & Deacons highlights some of the women who played a spiritual leadership role in the Bible. Finding Relevance in Ancient Writings gives some principles of interpreting the scriptures. Let the Women Keep Silent deals with some of the texts that appear to some to limit the role of women in spiritual leadership. Ellen White on Female Leadership takes a look at the teachings of the female co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist church on the role of women in spiritual leadership. Exceptional Pastors opens a window to see how women clergy are already making a difference in the NAD.

Read More.

The Southern Union Ministerium

Ministry is better when we’re connected.

January 2013, the Southern Union held its Ministerium. It’s a convention for pastors and families from the eight conferences that compose our union. The theme was: Connecting. To God. To family. To each other. It took Pr. Dennis Ross and Jackie along with the conference ministerial directors three years to prepare for the event, for close to 1,600 people. As I reflected on the event after its conclusion, one phrase described our objective: Ministry is better, when we’re connected.

Here are 4 principles we learned:

Ministry is better when we’re united.

Unity multiplies impact. That is one key lesson we wanted leaders to understand. We need each other. We can grow as we learn from each other. One of the most beautiful moments in the Ministerium was communion, where there were no conferences, no small or large churches, no titles or degrees, just pastors, washing each other’s feet. Ministry works better when instead of building silos we build his kingdom. In order to finish the work God has entrusted to us we need everybody. Traditional and contemporary, men and women, youth and adults, 1st and 2nd generation, accredited colleges and self-supporting ministries, lay members and paid denominational employees. We are one church. When we attack each other it creates confusion in our youth,
discouragement in our members, and delay in our progress. Among
the 1,600 pastors and families, we had a wide diversity. African
Europe. It looked a lot like heaven. It's interesting to note that
when Jesus selected his disciples, he did not chose 12 carpenters
from Nazareth.

Ministry is better when we strive for excellence.
Excellence honors God and inspires people. Someone has said that
good is the enemy of great. One of the greatest dangers in our
lives can be summarized in two words: Routine. Average. At the
Ministerium pastors were encouraged to never settle for good,
when best is available. Great attention to detail from the
organizing group, sought to model the principle of excellence.
Ministry is better when we're challenged.
The speakers not only inspired us, but also challenged us. One of
the most powerful messages was given by Pr. Alejandro Bullon. His
title was catchy: Pastors can also be saved. He related a story
about a young boy that wanted to work in a chocolate factory.
The first day of work, his boss told him he had one assignment. To
eat chocolate all day. Every ten minutes the boss would come to
check on the boy to make sure he was eating chocolate. After one
day, even while working in the chocolate factory, the boy never
touched the chocolate again. Pr. Bullon told us that the “greatest
temptation for pastors that work for God, is to neglect personal
communion with the God they work for”. We don't want to end up
like the people that built the ark, and then drowned in the flood.
We were challenged, stretched, and encouraged at the same time.

Ministry is better when we are connected to God.
As a kid, I loved flying kites. Living in Puerto Rico, a tropical
paradise, we were almost never short on wind. Once in a while,
however, there was a windless day. On those days, if you still
wanted to fly a kite you could, only it was much harder. First you
needed to go to a big field. Then, get a running start. Follow that
with run, run, and then run some more. Needless to say, kite
flying soon became a bothersome chore, instead of a pleasant
endeavor. Same thing happens in church. When you are running
around, doing things in your own strengths, eventually you will
wonder where did all the “pleasure” of serving the Lord go. Kites
fly with almost no effort when there is wind present. Is there wind
in your church? In order to fly a kite we need wind. In order to
pastor a church we need to stay connected. To God. To family. To
each other.

Access the presentations at the Southern Union Ministerium by the
link below: The password once online is: LEAD13
http://www.southernunion.com/MinisteriumSeminars
CALLED, A Digital Magazine for Adventist Clergy to Launch Soon

The launch of NAD Ministerial Department's new digital magazine for Adventist clergy is in the final stages of development according to Dave Gemmell, Associate Director of NAD Ministerial. The magazine is currently being tested on iPad, Android, Kindle Fire and interactive pdf platforms. As soon as it passes those hurdles it will be submitted as an app and await approval from app stores. Once the apps are approved readers of will be alerted so they can download the app and magazine at no charge.

The first quarter 2013 edition features seven articles on the role of women clergy in the NAD. Wanted, More Female Pastors shares the NAD leadership's
desire to increase the number of women in pastoral leadership in the NAD. Women of
Influence traces the history of women clergy in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.
Judges, Seminary Deans & Deacons highlights some of the women who played a spiritual
leadership role in the Bible. Finding Relevance in Ancient Writings gives some principles of
interpreting the scriptures. Let the Women Keep Silent deals with some of the texts that
appear to some to limit the role of women in spiritual leadership. Ellen White on Female
Leadership takes a look at the teachings of the female co-founder of the Seventh-day
Adventist church on the role of women in spiritual leadership. Exceptional Pastors opens a
window to see how women clergy are already making a difference in the NAD.

Also in the first edition of CALLED is a resource for small groups, prayer meetings, young
adult groups, entitled In The Beginning. At the core of this 13 week curriculum is a serial
documentary tracing the journey of two college students as they travel across the country
looking for clues as to the origin of the universe. Each episode also includes a study guide
to help the group discuss and react to what they see. All of the videos and pdfs can be
accessed from the CALLED magazine with a wifi connection.

First Quarter CALLED includes an article and video lecture by Dr. Stan Patterson where give
contrasts commonly held corporate views of leadership with the Biblical view of leadership.

The featured documentary in the first edition of CALLED looks at a new church plant in
Philadelphia. Andrews University students Josh and Sara Withers visit with Pastor Tara
VinchCross and see what all is involved in planting a new church while still leading out in the
mother church.

CALLED will delivery timely text articles, video, audio, and web interactivity. The new
delivery system will replace the Pastor’s DVD which has served pastors of the NAD for the
past ten years. Gemmell anticipates that CALLED will get pastors the resources they need
faster, and more economically. “With 60% of pastors currently owning iPads or other tablets,
the time is right to make the move,” says Gemmell.

Regular features in the new digital magazine will include articles on practical theology and
spiritual leadership, video documentaries of congregations and resources for pastors. Ivan
Williams, director of NAD Ministerial believes that CALLED can be one of the tools to help
“Empower the Ministerial Community.” The unique role that CALLED plays is “to serve as a
quarterly evergreen interactive media rich digital journal focused on the needs of the
Adventist parish pastor.”

Although the new digital magazine will be available at no charge, pastors will need to
download the app to their tabloid device. As soon as the app is approved information will be
released through Best Practices for Adventist Ministry, a weekly email newsletter for the Pastors of the NAD. Those not receiving Best Practices can subscribe by going to the NAD Ministerial website: www.nadministerial.org.

Discuss this on facebook.

Help! I'm having trouble viewing CALLED.
In response to the request made at the 2010 Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Session in Atlanta, each division of the world church was asked to commission a biblical research committee to study the theology of ordination and its implications for church practices.

Study Process

In October 2011, church leaders announced a process and timetable for studying the theology of ordination.

NAD DEADLINE
August 2013—Report due
October 2013—Revisions due
November 2013—Final report

Committee

The NAD appointed a 15-member biblical research committee to join with the world church in a study of the theology of ordination and its practical implications.

Contact Us

The study committee welcomes your thoughtful comments about the theology of ordination.
Messages of up to 200 words will be prayerfully considered.

Share your comments >

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

- Website: General Conference—Theology of Ordination »
- "General Conference Actions," Adventist Review 2012 »