

THE LAY PASTORS MINISTRY

A System Of Congregational Care By Laypeople

PARTICIPANT'S MANUAL

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
EQUIPPING MODULE 1.....CONCEPT AND THEOLOGY.....	3
EQUIPPING MODULE 2.....WHO NEEDS IT?.....	7
EQUIPPING MODULE 3.....COMMITMENTS.....	8
EQUIPPING MODULE 4.....THE CALL.....	10
EQUIPPING MODULE 5.....BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP.....	15
EQUIPPING MODULE 6.....ABOUT LISTENING.....	16
EQUIPPING MODULE 7.....“BEING” PRECEDES “DOING”	18
EQUIPPING MODULE 8.....KEEPING SPIRITUALITY FIT.....	20
EQUIPPING MODULE 9.....ANATOMY OF A VISIT.....	21
EQUIPPING MODULE 10.....BEING PROFESSIONAL.....	23
EQUIPPING MODULE 11.....CONFIDENTIALITY.....	24
EQUIPPING MODULE 12.....DIFFICULTIES INTO POSSIBILITIES.....	25
FINAL SEMINAR MOMENTS.....	29
SEMINAR EVALUATION.....	31
LAY PASTOR APPLICATION.....	32

"Excellence in all things and all things to God's glory."

Lay Pastors Ministry, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota Tel: 952-423-2449 Fax: 952-423-9245

Lay Pastors Equipping Seminar

Equipping Lay people with the basic principles, policies and skills to give one-on-one, grass-roots pastoral care to every member of the church.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Worship

Ministry Overview

The Lay Pastors Ministry is a system of Congregational care by _____. It is a one-on-one, hands-on, grass-roots, ongoing _____ ministry.

The Lay Pastors Ministry in brief:

* Lay Pastors are _____. They are equipped and commissioned.

* Members are _____. Each Lay Pastor is given a "flock" of between five and ten households.

* Lay Pastors are _____. Their task is defined by the acronym **PACE**.

P_____ for their people faithfully,

A_____ to their people,

C_____ their people regularly, and

E_____ of Christian faith and life.

* The ministry is _____. It is organized so as to make it an integral part of the life of our church.

This Seminar:

* Our text: *Can The Pastor Do It Alone?*

* Our schedule

* Our expectations:

* _____ – You will know how to be a Lay Pastor.

* _____ – You will know and relate to one another.

* _____ – Your call to be a Lay Pastor will be clarified.

* _____ – You will experience spiritual growth.

* The format: Lecture and LAB. Expect to participate.

Get Acquainted Event

Choose A Learning Partner

EQUIPPING MODULE 1

CONCEPT & THEOLOGY (PP. 25-44*)

A. NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

1. I Peter 5:1-4. The Magna Carta of the Lay Pastors Ministry.

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

I Peter 5:1-4

2. John 21:15-17. Peter was the first _____.

3. Ephesians 4:11-12. What kind of "works of service" (ministry) will:

a. _____ the Body (v. 12)?

b. Promote _____ (v. 13a)?

c. Advance _____ (v. 13b)?

NOTE: The answer is _____.

B. OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

THE MOSAIC MODEL, Exodus 18 (PP. 42-43)

1. The leaders will be able to use their _____.

2. The people will be adequately _____.

* Throughout the manual, page numbers (pp.) refer to pages in the text, *Can The Pastor Do It Alone?*

3. Moses is released to fulfill his task of spiritual leader.

- a. He is to _____ the decrees and laws of God.
- b. He was to show them the way to _____ and the _____ they are to perform.
- c. He was to select capable _____.
- d. He was to deal with the more _____ matter.
- e. The people will _____ _____ _____ with him.

NOTE: This is a general ministry description for the "_____" of every church.

C. LAY PEOPLE CAN PASTOR

Look, what the experts say (PP. 32–34):

1. **Robert Carcuff** (psychologist):

"For many purposes and problems, laypeople can be as _____ or more effective than credentialed helpers."

2. **Oscar Feucht** (Lutheran theologian and pastor):

"The church is a _____ of all who have Christ in their hearts."

3. **Samuel Southard** (Baptist seminary professor):

"Many persons can do _____ of what we pastors do The task of pastors is to _____ these persons for ministry and _____ them through administration and example."

4. **Alastair Campbell** (Scottish theologian):

"Pastoral care is not correctly understood if it is viewed within the framework of professionalism Pastoral care is a relationship founded upon the _____ of the individual. Such a relationship does not depend upon the acquisition of knowledge or the development

of skill. Rather, it depends on a _____ toward others which comes from our own experience of pain, fears, and loss, and our own release from their deadening grip."

D. YOU ALREADY HAVE THESE ESSENTIAL PASTORAL QUALITIES:

Empathy _____
Availability _____
Caring Attitude _____ (bearing with)
Genuineness _____
Ability to encourage _____

E. GOD WILL USE WHAT YOU DO

"Whatever he does prospers" (Ps. 1:3c).

* God uses what you can do to accomplish what *you* never could have done.

* God uses what you have to fill a need *you* never could have filled.

* God uses where you are to take you where *you* never could have gone.

* God uses who you are to let you become what *you* never could have been.

(Tim Hansel in his book, *Holy Sweat*)

F. DEFINITIONS OF PASTORAL CARE:

1. Love with skin on

"Mommy, I'm afraid!! I'm afraid!" cried the little girl who was awakened in the middle of the night by the storm. The rain beating against the window frightened her, the lightening and thunder terrified her. "Mommy, where are you? Where are you?"

Her mother hurried into her room. She sat on the side of the bed and held her daughter tightly to comfort her. "Honey, when you're frightened like this, you can know that God is with you and loves you," she assured her daughter. "Yes, Mommy, I know that," she sobbed, "but I need love with skin on."

2. _____ for another by _____ one's self in Christian _____
to a _____ in times of _____ and in times of
_____.

LAB _____

EQUIPPING MODULE 2

WHO NEEDS IT?

(PP. 45–52)

A. EVERYONE NEEDS PASTORAL CARE (P. 46)

1. WHAT DOES "PASTORAL" MEAN?

2. WHAT DOES "CARE" MEAN?

B. GOD WOULD HAVE EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN INTENTIONALLY _____, _____, _____, AND _____ BY ANOTHER.

SP #3

Agree? The "another" is the _____ in the traditional church. But the traditional way has never worked except for a _____ select members. The new and workable way is for _____ to give pastoral care. The following words should never be uttered by any member of our church:

"I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me, no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me."

(Psalm 142:4 RSV)

The church is in a new era, "The Second Reformation." In the 16th century Reformation, the church gave the _____ to the people. In this Second Reformation, the church is giving the _____ to the people. This is a new day for the church.

SP #4

C. PASTORING INCLUDES NURTURING (P. 50)

D. ANOTHER KIND OF NEED: PEOPLE WITH PASTORAL GIFTS NEED TO USE THEM. (P. 51)

EQUIPPING MODULE 3

COMMITMENTS

(PP. 63–68)

SP #5, 6

A. THE BASIC OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS IS TO P A C E

P _____ for five to ten households.

Be A _____ to your people.

C _____ each one on a regular basis.

Be an E _____.

P _____ – Lay Pastors commit themselves to pray faithfully for their people, the five to ten households. In addition to the fundamental purpose of prayer, prayer does four things:

1. Prayer builds concern for your people.
2. Prayer unexpectedly builds a relationship.
3. Prayer deepens your sense of responsibility.
4. Prayer is a creative time.

A _____ – Let your people know you are available by telling them you are available, and then follow through by being available.

Two cautions:

1. No one can be available all the time. Explain this to your people. It will make sense to them. Your commitment is to be available as much as you can. Often this will call for a _____ of your own plans.

2. Some people with great needs such as physical, financial, social, or psychological will take undue advantage of your "love with skin on." The solution is to be honest with them, be assertive, and explain that you cannot continue giving that much time. Decide what is reasonable and tell them you can give that much time but no more. You may need to refer some people with deep needs to a professional.

C _____ – This commitment is to:

a. Make a " _____ " within one to six weeks after receiving your list of households and being commissioned.

b. Make a minimum of _____, two of which are to be home visits in a year's time. The other ten contacts can be phone calls, faxes, e-mail, cards, letters, an intentional greeting at church or at the grocery store.

E_____ - God calls us to be _____. Being an example is one of the three _____ in the Magna Carta of the Lay Pastor Ministry (I Peter 5:3). Two additional scriptures are I Timothy 4:12 and Titus 2:7.

We can be examples in the same way Jesus was:

- a. One who _____ the Father.
- b. One who _____ people.
- c. One who _____ his or her church.
- d. One who _____ and _____.

B. SEVEN ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS (PP. 66-67)

1. Commitments of _____ to Jesus Christ.
2. Commitment of _____ and _____.
3. Commitment of _____ or _____ as long as the Lord leads.
4. Commitment to continue being _____.
5. Commitment to being _____ (pp. 71-77).

There will be three means of accountability:

- a. Regular reports
 - b. Telling about your ministry at the Lay Pastors meetings
 - c. Pastoral supervision
6. Commitment to the church and your _____.
 7. Commitment to the church and your _____ of the Lay Pastors.

SP #7

C. YOU ARE NOT COMMITTING TO DISCIPLING OR PROBLEM SOLVING. YOU ARE COMMITTING YOURSELF TO _____, AND _____ WITHIN THE BORDERS OF P A C E.

You are "_____ " not a discipler or counselor.

LAB

EQUIPPING MODULE 4

THE CALL

(PP. 79–92)

A. GOD TAKES THE INITIATIVE (P. 81)

1. Biblical examples:

_____ (Ex. 3 & 4) _____ (I Sam. 3) _____ (Matt. 4:18–20)

2. When God uses another's voice, as with Samuel. He will confirm it in the person's spirit by His Spirit (Rom. 8:16).

3. We must distinguish between "call" and send. In every case God first _____ a person to Himself, then _____ them out to do their ministry. Jesus _____ His disciples, _____ them, and then _____ them out as apostles.

4. No arm twisting (p. 82). Don't say _____ until you've _____ about it; don't say _____ until you've _____ about it.

B. GOD GIVES GIFTS WITH WHICH TO DO MINISTRY (P. 85)

1. He gives gifts to every Christian (I Cor 12:4–7, 11). Romans 12:6–8 informs us that each Christian is uniquely gifted for ministry. The nature of this uniqueness is illustrated by the following story:

THE ANIMAL SCHOOL

One time the animals had a school. The curriculum consisted of running, climbing, flying and swimming, and all the animals had to take all the subjects.

The duck excelled in swimming and he made passing grades in flying, but he was practically hopeless in running. Because he was having to stay after school to spend extra hours in running, he injured his webbed feet. This slowed his swimming to average.

The eagle was considered a problem pupil and was

SP #8

disciplined severely. In the climbing class he beat all the others to the top of the tree. He had used his own way of getting there.

The rabbit started at the top of the class in running, but he had a nervous breakdown and had to drop out of school on account of so much make-up work in swimming.

The squirrel led the class in climbing but his flying teacher made him start his flying lessons from the ground up instead of from the top of the tree down. He developed charley horses from over-exertion at the take-off and began getting C's in climbing and D's in running.

The practical prairie dog apprenticed her offspring to a badger when the school authorities refused to add digging to the curriculum.

2. Our gifts are to be used (I Pet. 4:10).

3. The two pastoring gifts are _____ and _____ (Read Rom. 12:8).

a. Mercy: An inward feeling of _____, sympathy for, and empathy with a desire to help another.

b. Encouragement: To _____ with courage, confidence and hope, _____, stimulate or help. The Greek word translated "encourage" combines (1) exhorting, (2) comforting, and (3) encouraging.

4. Six steps which help one to find his or her gift and place of ministry: (p. 86)

- * Open yourself to God as a channel for His use.
- * Examine your aspirations for Christ in service.
- * Identify the needs you believe to be most crucial.
- * Evaluate the results of your efforts to serve
- * Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit as He leads you into obedience to Christ.
- * Remain alert to the response of other Christians.

C. GOD CALLS ORDINARY PEOPLE TO BE LAY PASTORS

1. Ordinary Christians often think they are neither _____ nor _____ to minister to others.

a. No one is worthy. The greatest apostle, Paul, saw himself as "the least of the apostles," "undeserving," and even confessed, "I am nothing" (I Cor. 15:9, II Cor. 12:11). He did not see himself as a "trained speaker" (II Cor. 11:6). He accomplished what he did, not because he was extraordinary or perfect, but because of the _____ _____ _____ (I Cor. 15:10). So it is us with us!

WHO IS EQUAL TO SUCH A TASK?

A study of II Corinthians 2:14 through 3:12

THE TASK

Paul: Spread the Gospel (2:14-16a).

Me: Care for God's people (I Peter 5:1-4).

THE RELUCTANCE

Paul: "Who is equal to such as task?" (1:16)

Me: "Who is equal to such a task?"

THE INCOMPETENCE

Paul: "Not that we are competent in ourselves" (3:5).

Me: "Not that I am competent in myself."

THE COMPETENCE

Paul: "He has made us competent as ministers" (3:6).

Me: "He makes me competent as a Lay Pastor."

THE SUCCESS

Paul: Ministered like a man sent from God (2:17b). Ministered with boldness (3:12).

Me: I will care for God's people like a minister sent from God. I will be a Lay Pastor who is bold in ministry.

* If we do the task we are equal to, what we do will be far less than God expects. We will be "equal to such a task" to the extent we depend on the Spirit of God. We too can reach Paul's conclusion: "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart" (II Cor. 4:1).

b. No one is competent to do God's work. Again, Paul declares that he is not competent in himself, but attributes his competence to _____ - "Our competence comes from God" (II Cor. 3:5). His words are: "God has made us competent as ministers" (11 Cor. 3:6).

c. Jesus knows that, by ourselves, we are neither worthy nor competent, for he said that if we are to bear fruit we must _____ in him. He also taught, "Apart from me you can do _____" (John 15:4-5).

Ability to minister is neither an issue of worthiness nor competence, it is an issue of gifts, call, and remaining in Jesus. No Christian is without God's gifts and call. His Spirit enables us to "remain" in Jesus.

SP #9

2. God uses ordinary Christians to do the extraordinary.

a. Gideon was a "mighty man of valor," not because of his outstanding ability but because of his _____.

b. Amos was an ordinary shepherd when God called him to be a prophet. His effectiveness was not in his great insights and oratory, but in his _____.

c. A layperson, Robert Slocum, wrote in his book, *Maximizing Your Ministry*, "I am convinced the effective church for the twenty-first century will be the church that mobilizes, equips, empowers and supports _____ Christians in ministry" (p. 171 in *The Lay Driven Church*).

Ability to be a Lay Pastor is not an issue of being an extraordinary person, but an issue of discerning the call of God and being obedient to it.

3. There are standards of accepting ordinary people

a. Biblical models of required standards:

1) Moses was to select capable men who _____ God and were

_____ (Ex. 18:21).

2) The Jerusalem church was to "choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the _____ and _____" (Acts 6:3).

b. What would you suggest the standards for a Lay Pastor should be?

D. SOME PAY OFFS FOR GOING WHEN GOD SENDS YOU TO CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE ARE:

1. Accelerated spiritual _____.
2. The joy of new friendships and ever-deepening _____.
3. An inner sense of _____ which comes from using your gifts in significant ministry.
4. The caring person is _____ in the act of caring.
5. The future benefit: "the crown of glory" (I Pet. 5:4).

EQUIPPING MODULE 5

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP (PP. 33,48-49)

A. "PASTORAL CARE IS A _____."

Read again the full quote by Alastair Campbell on page 4 of this manual.(below)

B. HOW TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP

SP #10

C. RELATIONSHIP MAKES PASTORAL CARE POSSIBLE

1. Care is recognized as _____, _____, and _____.

2. It makes it easier to ask for _____.

3. Needs can be _____ before people have to bring themselves to ask for help.

Pastoral care is _____.

Alastair Campbell (Scottish theologian):

"Pastoral care is not correctly understood if it is viewed within the framework of professionalism Pastoral care is a relationship founded upon the Integrity of the individual. Such a relationship does not depend upon the acquisition of knowledge or the development of skill. Rather, it depends on a Caring Attitude toward others which comes from our own experience of pain, fears, and loss, and our own release from their deadening grip."

EQUIPPING MODULE 6

SP #11

ABOUT LISTENING

(PP. 114-119)

A. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF LISTENING

1. Passive: Not _____ only _____. This means that you must be present and interested. Give a smile, a friendly nod of the head, or other gesture of concern that tells people you are with them.

The Listener's Prayer

"God, keep your arm around me and
your hand over my mouth."

2. Active: Reflecting what you think the other person is intending to say by _____ what you have heard. This assures both you and the other person talking that you are understanding what he or she is saying. If you have misunderstood, the other person has a chance to correct you.

I know you believe you understand what you
think I said, but I am not sure you realize that
what you heard is not what I meant.

3. Both kinds of listening achieve these three ends:

a. People feel loved and helped because someone has _____ their struggles, pains, fears, joys, and problems. Listening is a _____ form of love.

b. People are _____ when you "hear" them. They feel that they have been taken seriously.

c. Acquaintance is transformed into a _____ when people feel they have been heard, thereby opening the window of opportunity for ongoing pastoral care.

B. THREE HELPFUL LISTENING SKILLS

1. Listen for what is _____ being said. Often these things are more important than what _____ being said.
2. Listen over _____. You will hear some topics repeatedly. This indicates that these are very important matters to the speaker.
3. Listen for _____ as well as words. Social communication is 7% words, 38% tone of voice, 55% body language. When you have "heard" the feelings, you are able to give pastoral care.

C. FIVE BASICS ABOUT LISTENING

1. While we are listening we can be giving ourselves to understanding what we are _____.
2. While we are listening we can be learning. Ask yourself, "Why is this person telling me _____ and why is he or she telling me this _____?"
3. While we are listening we can be thinking. We can listen to _____ or _____ words per minute, while a person can only speak _____. This creates what is called "lag time," time for you to be understanding what they are saying, to listen for what is not being said, and to listen for feelings.
4. By listening we are _____ the person to talk about what they need or want to tell. Our good listening assures them that we are interested in what they are saying. We all have a deep need to be heard, but there are more speakers than listeners in every community, even the church.
5. By listening we can be sure we are understanding what they are _____ to say. What they intend is often different from what they are saying.

LISTENING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPEAKING

SP #12

EQUIPPING MODULE 7

"BEING" PRECEDES "DOING" (PP. 97-102)

A. WE NEED TO BE EQUIPPED ON TWO LEVELS: _____ & _____

1. "Being" focuses on what we are. "Doing" focuses on what we do.

2. The following powerful thoughts establish the priority of "being":

a. Success in marriage is not so much finding the right person as _____ the right person.

b. People don't care how much you _____ until they know how much you _____.

c. God is more concerned about your relationship _____ Him than in your ministry _____ Him.

d. We cannot reach out to people until we first reach _____ to God.

e. "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless _____" (John 15:4).

f. "The things that come out of the mouth come from the _____" (Matt. 15:18).

g. The sequence in Matt. 22:37-38 establishes the priority: _____ _____ is first, then _____.

B. A SYNONYM FOR "BEING" IS _____ (See Psalm 101:2c RSV).

1. To possess integrity is to be _____ of compromising that which we believe to be true.

2. To possess integrity is to have a kind of _____ which prevents us from bending to the influence of what is thought expedient or fashionable.

3. It is to be _____ and utterly _____ because of

constancy of purpose.

4. It consists of _____ to an inner truth which cannot be denied whatever the cost.

5. It is the inner _____ and an outward _____, and suggests a wholeness upon which such consistency is founded.

From Alastair Campbell in *Rediscovery of Pastoral Care*

ASK GOD REPEATEDLY TO HELP YOU BE:

- * A loving person rather than just to love at times;
- * A patient person rather than just to show patience;
- * A compassionate person rather than just to project compassion;
- * A servant rather than just to serve at times;
- * A generous person rather than just to give conveniently.

NOTE:

Jesus is our model. He was a servant. He was not just performing a servant's task when He washed His disciples' feet. He was a loving person: He did not merely love certain people to a certain degree at a certain time.

EQUIPPING MODULE 8

KEEPING SPIRITUALLY FIT (PP. 102-107)

A. THERE ARE TWO IMPERATIVES FOR SPIRITUAL FITNESS

1. Spend time daily with God. This will include at least three disciplines:

a. _____ - The central purpose of reading the Bible is neither to achieve doctrinal purity nor to amass information, but to _____
_____.

b. _____ - This is a time of _____, sort of daydreaming on what was read, thinking of its connection to one's total life. It provides the opportunity for God's Spirit to speak to our spirit (Rom. 8:16).

c. _____ - We need to be intentional, rhythmic, specific, and persistent in talking with God, both in making requests and in expressing our gratitude. Visualizing how God's answer would look will give specificity, practicality, excitement, and expectancy to our praying.

2. Be _____ with the Holy Spirit.

a. Pastoring integrates human and divine participation. God is not going to do it without _____, and you cannot do it without _____.

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,"
says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6).

b. The Holy Spirit lives _____ you and _____ you (John 14:17b).

c. We are expected to be _____ with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

B. TO KEEP SPIRITUALLY FIT TAKES COMMITMENT, INTENTION AND _____.

LAB

Use SP #13

EQUIPPING MODULE 9

ANATOMY OF A VISIT (PP. 107-111)

A. THE PROCESS FROM NOW TO THE COMPLETION OF YOUR FIRST VISIT

1. Fill out an application form at the end of the seminar.
2. Be commissioned.
3. Receive your pastoring group.
4. Letter sent from the pastor to your pastoring group, informing them that you are now their Lay Pastor.
5. Phone your people for an appointment to visit.
6. Make your First Visits.
7. Turn in your First Visit reports (use SP #14 here).

B. THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST VISIT

1. It _____ the way for your relationship to develop.
2. It makes your following "light touch" contacts _____, contacts such as phone calls, cards, chance meeting at church, etc.
3. It provides the opportunity for you to _____ by explaining what you will do, especially **P A C E**.
4. It establishes a definite _____ of your relationship.

C. THERE ARE 12 COMPONENTS OF THE FIRST VISIT (PP. 108-109)

1. _____ prior to the phone call to set a time for the visit.

2. _____ prior to making the visit.
3. _____ yourself at the door and the purpose of your visit.
4. _____ about weather, pets, plants, pictures, etc.
5. _____ about family, community, church experiences, etc.
6. _____ common interests such as job, hobbies, church, etc.
7. _____ of the Lay Pastors Ministry, especially P A C E.
8. _____ before leaving, if appropriate.
9. _____ graciously, not overstaying your time (15 to 45 minutes).
10. _____ and sensitivity to their interests, needs, life situation, and spiritual state.
11. _____ the visit, making it possible to connect your contacts.
12. _____ your First Visit Report and submit it.

LAB

Use SP #7, 14, 15

EQUIPPING MODULE 10

BEING PROFESSIONAL (PP. 95-97)

Note that the unit is not titled BEING _____ PROFESSIONAL. You are non-professional people, doing your ministry with quality _____ and quality _____. Without being a professional you can be professional. The goal is, "_____ in all things and all things to _____ glory."

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.
6. _____.
7. _____.
8. _____.
9. _____.
10. _____.

EQUIPPING MODULE 11

CONFIDENTIALITY

(PP. 119–121)

After having read this Module, or having heard it read, discuss the following questions, making notes of what you want to remember as the discussion progresses.

1. What is the definition or description of "Confidentiality?"
2. Why is it essential to keep confidential those things which are told to you in private?
3. How and why is confidentiality broken?
4. What damage is done by telling confidential information to another (breaking confidentiality)?
5. What do you do about "grey" areas, uncertainties about whether some information can be shared with other people such as the pastor or a prayer group?
6. What part does relationship play in disclosing confidential matters?
7. What does the self-disclosure of private matters do for the person who trusts you to keep them confidential?

NOTE: In logging information after visiting with your people so you can connect the visits, never log any confidential information. Experts say there is no need to log this kind of data because you will have no trouble remembering it.

EQUIPPING MODULE 12

TURNING DIFFICULTIES INTO

POSSIBILITIES

(PP. 127–140)

No ministry is without challenges to its effectiveness and threats to its existence. If managed positively, challenges and threats become _____ rather than liabilities. Discouraging experiences, when prayerfully and intentionally managed, make one's ministry _____. A Lay Pastor may be challenged to deal with one or more of the following difficulties in such a way as to turn them into _____.

1. Some people _____ they do not need a Lay Pastor.

a. Every Christian needs pastoral care just as every pre-Christian needs the Gospel. _____ they do not need it isn't the same as _____ not needing it. Jesus mandates his Church go to all the membership with _____ just as He mandates his Church to go to all the world with the gospel (I Pet. 5:1–4, Matt. 28:19–20).

b. Until people open their homes and hearts to pastoral care, the formula MP/MC (maximum _____ minimum _____) is the formula.

c. You can **P A C E** people who do not receive you. God would have someone there for reluctant people as well as for receptive people. In fact, the reluctant may need your prayer, love, and care _____ than the receptive.

2. Some people are very _____ and therefore difficult to contact.

a. Realize that some people are very busy and respect that.

b. This calls for patience and persistence with sensitivity.

c. A balance between respect for people's time and obedience to being sent by God to "shepherd" (pastor) them needs to be struck.

3. Lay Pastor get busy and neglect their people.

a. You must distinguish between busyness and _____.

b. This is one reason for being held accountable by your ministry leaders. _____ helps committed Christians do their ministry faithfully.

c. Some Lay Pastors may need to prayerfully _____ their priorities so as to have time to use the gifts God gave them for the ministry He sends them to do.

4. People have problems you cannot _____.

a. Your task is not to save, rescue, and solve people's problems. Your ministry is one of _____ (to be there for them), _____ (to "hear" them), and _____ ("love with skin on"). Most people need someone who will _____ to them, not give advice.

b. By _____, most of us want to rescue people. Just being there, listening and caring, doesn't seem to us that we are doing anything.

Often the greatest appreciation is reserved for the one who was present through a person's struggle, rather than the one who offered advice or tried to solve their problem.

5. Lay Pastors experience differing degrees of acceptance and effectiveness.

a. These variances are the _____ of pastoral care whether given by layperson or clergy. Do not make the false assumption that _____ are to blame for their aloofness, lack of positive response, or outright rejection.

Lay Pastor: "I'm a failure. I get no response from two of my people."

Clergy Pastor: "Do they know that you care about them?"

Lay Pastor: "O yes, they know that very well."

Clergy Pastor: "Then you are a success."

b. Continuing aloofness by one, a negative response from another and resistance by another _____ our obedience to God who sent us to love these "wandering sheep." _____ kind of love is called for: desiring the

_____ for another, regardless of their response or cost to me.

6. There are no _____ needs or crises.

a. Your caring has to be in a non-crisis _____.

Let's compare a non-crisis mode with a crisis mode:

1) A crisis mode involves four ready-made elements:

* _____; in some way you were alerted to the state of affairs.

* _____; the situation is focused on a need.

* _____; you need to take action now.

* _____; what you need to do is clear.

2) A non-crisis mode involves the same four elements, but the _____
_____ has to create and initiate them.

* Notification: You cannot _____ for people to ask you to contact them. _____ must take the initiative.

It's like a young man in love. He doesn't wait for his girlfriend to request a contact. And you are in love with your people; in fact, you are "love with skin on."

* Purpose: _____ have to establish the purpose. It may be as simple as getting to know a person better, just to share some moments, or to make a phone call only to tell them you are thinking of them.

* Time: Without procrastinating, _____ have to decide when it is time to make the contact and what kind of contact it will be _____ contact each _____.

* Agenda: _____ will have to set the agenda, keeping in mind that love will lead you to their agenda. Logging your visits and other contacts will enable you to _____ at the point of _____ interests and

struggles, not yours.

b. Contacting your people in a non-crisis mode is the ideal way to build your relationship in a natural way. Know that the _____ of your lives in Christ is taking place in every contact, crisis or non-crisis. Know that Pastoral care is needed in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

7. Some people do not _____ pastored unless the ordained clergy contacts them.

a. Your genuine _____ in them and your authentic _____ for them, added to your faithfulness in regularly _____ them will bless them in such a way that they will _____ pastored.

b. The usual experience is that people, particularly older people, are "weaned" from the clergy pastor by the pastoral attention of the Lay Pastor.

c. To _____ rather than _____ some people, the Lay Pastor and clergy pastor may have to double-pastor them for a period of time. The two pastors will be able to discern together when the clergy pastor's frequency of contacts should _____.

FINAL SEMINAR MOMENTS

YOUR TASK AS A LAY PASTOR

P _____
A _____
C _____
E _____

COMMITMENTS:

1. A minimum of one contact each month, two of which are to be home visits each year.
2. First Visit report followed by a monthly report.
3. Meet for Pastoral Supervision regularly.
4. Attend the Lay Pastors' meetings faithfully.
5. Continue until the Lord leads you into another ministry.

STRUCTURE:

1. A Lay Pastor cares for five to ten households.
2. Each Lay Pastor has a Lay Pastor.
3. The Ministry Leadership Group leads the ministry.

NEXT STEPS (Time Line):

1. Be commissioned on _____.
2. Receive the names of your households by _____.
3. Phone to make appointments, then make your First Visits.

4. Turn in your First Visit report by _____.

APPLICATION FORM: Pray, then fill it out and leave it with the Seminar Leader.

EVALUATION FORM: Fill it out and leave with the Seminar Leader.

SEMINAR EVALUATION

ADMINISTRATION:

Room set-up _____.

Length (check one) _____ too short _____ too long _____ just right.

Lunch and refreshment breaks _____.

THE EXPECTATIONS WERE FULFILLED:

Trained: (Equipped to be a Lay Pastor)

_____ adequately _____ mostly _____ somewhat _____ not at all

Loved: (Felt cared-for, accepted, and that I belonged)

_____ perfectly _____ mostly _____ somewhat _____ not at all

Call clarified: (An inner sense of what God wants me to do)

_____ totally _____ mostly _____ somewhat _____ not at all

Growth: (Advancement in knowledge, skills, spirit)

_____ substantial growth _____ some growth _____ no growth

TEACHING:

Lectures: _____ too much _____ not enough _____ just right

Learning Partners: _____ too frequent _____ not enough _____ just right

Manual: _____ great _____ helpful _____ fairly helpful _____ not much help

WHAT I LIKED BEST ABOUT THIS SEMINAR: _____

WHAT I LIKED LEAST: _____

MY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT SEMINAR: _____

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: On a scale of 1 to 10 this seminar moved me to do the ministry God sends me to do.

Not moved 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Totally moved
(circle the appropriate number)

LAY PASTOR APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number of years as member of this church _____

Ministries and/or offices held in the past _____

Ministries and/or offices currently held _____

How I have been equipped for being a Lay Pastor _____

Briefly describe the history of your Christian walk _____

Because God's Spirit is at work within me

_____ I confess Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Saviour.

_____ I will be faithful in this ministry.

_____ I will seek ongoing equipping as it is available and to the extent that I am able.

_____ I commit myself to continuous personal spiritual growth.

Signed _____

(Spouse sign if joint ministry)

Date _____

LAY PASTOR APPLICATION

-2-

You may, if you choose, request up to 50 percent of your "flock." There is no assurance that your request can be honored but it will be given special consideration.

Names of people I (we) request:

The end