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John H. Cress

Objective

To use my passion and gifts in leadership to prayerfully implement the mission Jesus gave all Christians – “to go, make disciples” and, while we’re at it, “love one another.” With a proven track record of redesigning structures, developing new systems and creating cycles of training and evangelism, congregations have successfully grown both deeper with God and more in number for His Kingdom.

Experience

2016-Present Southern CA Conference Glendale, CA

Executive Secretary/Ministerial Director

- Managing the 65th Constituency Session including the organizing committee, along with the development of the necessary documentation and the creation of the Session website, www.2019sccsession.org
- Worked with the Bylaws Committee for the past 3 years to recommend possible amendments to the current SCC Bylaws.
- Work with AdCom to establishing/renewing the Conference Mission Statement, Vision, Values, and Objectives. We also established a separate Mission Statement for the purpose of our AdCom.
- Worked with the president in planning and organizing the General Pastor’s meetings and Pastor/Educator meeting.
- Personally facilitate the hiring process for each pastor and the Associates of Pastoral Care and Oversee the distribution of the credentials to the employees of the Southern California Conference.
- Responsible for creating the agenda for the Executive Committee, the Administrative Committee and the Personnel Committee and chairing these meetings when the President is not available.
- Keep the conference statistical data including records of the AdCom and Executive Committees indexing the Executive Committee minutes so they can be searched.
- Oversee the Human Resource Department chairing the H.R. Committee, reviewing the credentials, retirement and pay for each employee.
- As Ministerial Director I am the contact for the Union, NAD, the Universities and the Seminary. The daily ministerial oversight in the field is done by the Region Directors.
- As Ministerial Director I oversee the Pre-ordained training system for the Southern California Conference along with Gerard Keimery, concluding with a formal ordination process covering each new pastor before and after seminary, including leadership surveys and evaluations of their growth, and review by the Theological Competence Committee and the Ordination Committee.
- As ministerial Director I also help to facilitate the Spiritual retreat for all pastors each year in March.

2011-2015

Potomac Conference

Staunton, VA

Vice President of Pastoral Ministries

- Work with Conference officers in establishing strategic plans, initiatives and leadership development for members of the pastoral team.
- Reorganized the Pastoral Ministries Department, including hiring and training two Associates to provide monthly coaching for pastors as well as collaboration in hiring process of church pastors. Also hired third Associate to oversee evangelism and church planting for the conference.
- Supervise a department of five Associates and an Office Assistant, providing and developing systems for supervising pastors, including monthly visitation, coaching and oversight, using a Professional Base-line document and Pastoral Competency evaluation.
- Collaborate with the Pastoral Ministry Team to develop and provide Elders' Summits for leadership training, as well as regional lay ministry training events called EQUIP. To date, more than 3,000 laity have been trained in a variety of ministries. In addition, Pastoral Ministries is responsible for planning and implementing campmeeting.
- Supervise pastoral LEAD groups (Cluster groups) for leadership training and fellowship. Provide coaching to nine leaders of the LEAD groups in addition to the pastors of the largest churches (churches with 3 or more on the staff).
- Oversee a three-year intern training system for the Potomac Conference, concluding with a formal ordination process covering interns before and after seminary, leader evaluations of their growth, and review by the Ordination Committee.
- Vet, reference, and recruit pastoral candidates for the Potomac Conference, along with Associate Directors, and act as chairperson of the Potomac Conference Corporation Personnel Committee.
- Assist in providing focus and clarity for the mission, vision, and values of the conference.

2001-2011

LifeSource Adventist Fellowship

Denver, CO

Lead Pastor

- Increased attendance from 190 to 475. Initially provided leadership to a decimated congregation whose attendance had declined from 800+ to 190 over a five-year period. Led by promoting healing and growing in visionary focus on the mission of Jesus.
- By casting the vision that "individuals are more important than ideas," the congregation was encouraged to allow for change without destroying itself and thus reflect the church's motto, "to be a place where love for all leads all to Christ."
- Redesigned the functional structures of LifeSource by creating new systems such as.
 - A ministry Discovery Center
 - A new member assimilation system
 - A small group system,
 - A leadership training process
 - An evangelism cycle and

- A worship and technology system
- Promoted and encouraged a million dollar renovation of the church worship center including a significant technology upgrade.
- Led the congregation in developing its mission, vision and core values through a congregational assessment and board appraisals. Established an accountability system for strategic implementation of the mission via the church board and mission, boundary, and accountability principles.
- Led the congregants to be involved in their community through partnerships with twelve nonprofit organizations (with more than 93% participation from attending congregants) including partnering with local Adventist Hospitals for short term mission projects.
- Provided support and leadership for the “Worship and the Arts ” and the “iLead” Conferences sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Conference and North American Division. My wife, Karen, currently “Vice President of Leadership Development” at the Rocky Mountain Conference, led and organized both conferences.
- Developed a strategic Discipleship plan to encourage every member to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ in four specific areas: Belonging, Believing, Becoming, and Blessing (Blessing includes participating in the mission of Jesus to serve and share).
- Led and mentored a process to plant an additional church site of LifeSource Adventist Fellowship in Downtown Denver with the support of the Rocky Mountain Conference and the Mid-America Union. The Downtown church began weekly services on the weekend of September 10, 2010.

1992-2001 Seventh-day Adventist Church Placerville, CA

Lead Pastor

- Increased church membership from 400 to 760, including after spawning a Hispanic company of 40 members.
- Provided leadership in promoting a healing environment for a fragmented and shrinking congregation by creating a mission statement and casting a vision for the church to become a purpose-led church.
- Encouraged every member to commit to a ministry through the teaching and the discovery of spiritual gifts.
- Promoted a yearly evangelistic outreach plan to include entry events such as musical productions and dramas under the direction of my wife and follow-up programs including Revelation Seminars, health education seminars and “revival” speakers.
- Contributed as one of ten consultant-pastors to the editing of “Connections” (a spiritual gifts discovery resource) providing a resource for churches through Advent Source.
- Supported and promoted the expansion of the local junior academy to a 12-grade extension school. This included creating strong ties between church and school and helping to fund and facilitate building and remodeling several buildings on campus to house the expansion.
- Determined the need for additional church staff and increased staffing to include two associate pastors and one full time secretary.

- Improved crowded church facilities by facilitating the building of additional classrooms and storage buildings on existing property and purchasing additional property for new sanctuary.
- Developed and taught a weekly Pastor's Sabbath School class for new members called "Foundations." Also developed and used my "New Life" class for new member discipleship.

1986-1992 *Seventh-day Adventist Church* *Tracy, CA*

Senior Pastor

- Increased church membership from 180 to 275 including a Hispanic congregation.
- Developed a forgiving and healing atmosphere in a church fractured by disillusionment after the termination of the previous pastor.
- Increased pastoral staff to include my wife on a part-time basis. Her job description included facilitating support groups, developing the music and drama ministry, working with children's ministries and developing marketing materials for both the church and local elementary school. During this time she also developed a peer-counseling program under the direction of Dr. Siang-Yang Tan from Fuller Theological Seminary.
- Developed a chapter-by-chapter Daniel and Revelation Seminar to be used in evangelistic meetings and/or new member discipleship.
- Facilitated the purchase of additional properties to expand church buildings.
- Expanded the local elementary school from 19 students to 50 students, which included building another classroom and hiring additional teachers.

1981-1986 *Valley View & Chelan SDA Churches* *Wenatchee, WA*

District Pastor

- Expedited the fundraising and building of a church facility for a newly planted church in a "dark county" that would seat a congregation of 500. Completed, without debt, the entire outer structure, fellowship wing to seat 250 and the Sabbath School classroom wing.
- Implemented monthly training of church board leadership and elders. This training was directed specifically to grow new leaders in a newly planted church and the particular challenges faced.
- Increased church membership from 45 to 118 with church attendance at 150.
- Hosted weekly radio spots with a spiritual thought on the local radio station

1978-1979 *Seventh-day Adventist Church* *Yakima, WA*

Youth Pastor Intern

- Developed spiritual leadership among youth.
- Responsible for all youth activities, outreaches and programs

Education

1979-1981 *Andrews University* *Berrien Springs, MI*

- M.Div., electives in church administration, architecture and youth ministry

- Ninth quarter evangelistic experience included evangelism in Auburn, WA
1971–1978 *Walla Walla College* *College Place, WA*
- B.A., Theology Major and History Minor.
- Directed Student Missionary program and later Campus Ministries after serving as a student missionary in Irian Jaya for one year.

Interests

Reading, Skiing, boating, golfing, hiking, traveling, and people.