



2019 Nurture and Retention Summit

Disciplining, Nurturing, and Reclaiming

ECD

1. Our universities should integrate their curriculum and harmonize course offerings relating to evangelism and discipleship. Nurture, Retention, and Reclamation should be integrated into the discipleship curriculum.
2. This Summit has been an eye opener regarding the need to make discipleship the goal of our evangelistic endeavors. In one presentation, it was emphasized that efforts to make disciples should even precede baptism.
3. Develop concise and relevant resource and instruction materials on how to effectively implement discipleship programs within cultural contexts.
4. As ECD, we are leaving this place having decided on organizing our Division Nurture, Retention, and Reclamation Summit early next year.



ESD

1. To conduct annual auditing of church membership, make program “Come home” a part of local church life
2. Give a special attention to Children’s Ministries and Youth Ministries to nurture and retain children and youth in our churches
3. To have a multifaced approach to evangelism that should include different methods: small groups, personal evangelism, health evangelism, literature evangelism, etc.



EUD

1. Create an awareness in our unions, conferences, and local churches of the need to make disciplining, reclaiming, and nurturing a priority.
2. Encourage the organization of a special activities, with appropriate preparation, directed towards reconnecting and re-winning people who left the church.



IAD

1. There must be a permanent and continuous strategy to retain, reclaim and disciple former members.
2. Nurture and retention must be included in the curriculum requirements for all theology students.
3. Intercessory prayer must become an integral part of our discipleship, retention and reclaiming ministry.
4. Appoint a coordinator at the local church to be responsible for the ministry of retention, nurturing, reclaiming and discipling. And this recommendation is to be passed on to the GC Church Manual Committee for inclusion.
5. Major nurturing and discipleship initiatives be integrated into evangelistic strategies to facilitated balance between evangelism and discipleship.
6. To create a Sabbath School lesson series on Nurture and Retention.



NAD

1. Assure that retention is well covered in the core competencies in Ministerial training.
2. Set up a study group to dive into the 2017-19 Global Survey.
3. Build a framework from the grassroots through NAD office for a practical approach to Nurture and Retention
 - a. Study principles of Re-encounter program in SAD that can be applied and implemented in the NAD.
4. Prioritize for retention like we do for baptism.



NSD

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division affirm that the sole purpose of the church is to carry out the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as outlined in Matthew 28:19, 20. Therefore, we are committed to follow Christ's strategy in proclaiming the three angels' messages.

We affirm that soul-winning, retention and reclamation will be a natural result of making evangelism not simply as programs and events, but the lifestyle and culture of the church. Therefore, we are committed to promote total member involvement in every stage of the evangelism cycle, that each member of the church is Christ's disciple, using their spiritual gifts for evangelism.

We affirm that one soul is precious in the sight of God (8T, 73).

Therefore, we are committed to focus not only on the number of person but also on every person of the number.



NSD

Therefore, NSD is committed to the nurture and retention of the church members by:

1. Strengthening bonds between Adventist schools and local churches, connecting students to become active participants at local churches. In addition, we are to develop strategies for recruiting more students from Adventist families. This may be done through the following initiatives:

a. Collaboration between schools and local churches in utilizing all church resources such as Pathfinders and Sabbath School programs. Teachers, parents, and church leaders are all to be involved. In addition, other programs are to be developed to attract students, especially of other faiths, to visit our churches on Sabbath (for examples: Friendship Day, nature, and/or out-door experiences).

b. Involvement of local church pastors in spiritual activities at Adventist schools, such as: leading out Adventist student service teams or student club activities on campus, leading to a natural progression of these students becoming connected to the local churches.

c. Providing special attention to graduating students so that they will not leave the church when they graduate from their respective schools. Both the school and the local church will keep in touch with the student and follow-up by inviting them to attend church services

d. Evangelistic spiritual programs for soul winning to be done collaboratively by schools and local churches. This is done by operating campus churches like local churches. In this setting, weeks of prayer should be evangelistic in purpose, not only for the students but also for the parents.



NSD

2. Activating small groups or *Disciples in Action* groups to be the bases for discipleship program in the local churches, that includes good preparation of the soil, planting the seed of the truth, cultivating the seed to grow in the hearts of people, harvesting the fruit of souls for Christ, and preserving them in the faith.

3. Reaching out to children and young people and to make our local churches as their homes, providing for them adequate discipleship training, in order to prepare them not only to participate, but also to lead out in church evangelistic initiatives according to the spiritual gifts they have.

4. Implementing membership software such as ACMS, to portray the real picture of the membership structure of the Division, to help in the membership audit, that will result in an effective and fruitful discipleship program in the division.



SAD

1. **(Nurture)** To involve the recently baptized members in a process of discipleship that a) strengthens their knowledge of the Bible and Adventist lifestyle; b) amplifies the relationship with the church through the use of spiritual gifts; and c) brings a commitment for them to study the Bible with their friends so as to make new disciples.
2. **(Retention)** To develop intentionality in the care of members, where administrators care for pastors, pastors care for local church leaders and local church leaders care for their members. Throughout this process, it is essential to update membership data regularly so as to enable effective membership care.
3. **(Reclaiming)** To develop a collective consciousness in the membership to seek those who drifted away from the church through intentional reclamation initiatives, such as the ‘Reencounter project’.



SID

1. To capacitate educational institutions and encourage enrolment from SDA members
2. Facilitate leadership Nurture and Retention workshops
3. Mainstream discipleship in all departments



SPD

1. Focus of ministry must be Discipleship and not just Membership.
2. Methods of Evangelism must be relational and work through discipling in small groups.
3. All members must be equipped with simple, reproducible skills for becoming disciple makers.



SSD

1. That local pastors should conduct four seminars in nurture, discipleship, reclamation, and evangelism. Further he should preach in these areas in the local churches where he is pastoring.

2. That respective division/union/mission based on their context consider designing a nurture and reclamation strategies or approaches that would benefit the local churches.



SUD

1. To appoint special committee to work and bring in recommendations on how to care for the lost members.
2. To appoint leaders at different levels of the church to work in Nurture and Retention
3. To set two Sabbaths per year once in six months to focus and promote N & R and educate local churches to be intentional in their efforts to bring in the lost.
4. To appreciate and award leaders/ members who work on N &R plans
5. To create opportunities and train people and provide material in different languages for promoting N&R.



TED/MENA

1. To align structure, resources and finance at all levels of the organization to support in the local church to align with the nurture and retention vision.
2. Prioritizing relationship growth as Christian disciples so that everyone is connected – this needs to be a proactive focus.
3. To provide effective tools for dealing with conflict resolution in the local churches.



WAD

1. Empower local churches to implement a culture of comprehensive discipleship
2. Intentional plans to reclaim former members
3. Establish a research institute to study local facts and trends in Nurture and Retention



GC

Identity. Foster Seventh-day Adventist identity out of which a life-long sense of association and connection is based, nurturing **Friendships** and Christian affection and mission. Spend more time interfacing with those who have left the church; being vulnerable enough to bring people into our families. Include financial giving as a metric for monitoring retention.

Vision. Cast a vision for Evangelism coupled with Retention and Reclamation. Consider reclamation of missing members as significant as evangelizing for new members.

Teamwork around the core.

Foster teamwork across the various levels of the organization with a shared vision for systems that will convey warmth, recognizing that feeling loved, a part of the church and being retained and reclaimed takes place at the level of the local church. Ensure that systems are in place to facilitate collaboration and e.g., a hand-off in areas such as PCM where young adults leave their home church and go to university or the world of work.

Promote ministering to the core of the congregation using proven and familiar methods, e.g. Sabbath School, Pathfinders, the Adventist schools, places where we already have corporate competence. Ensure that departmental ministry is relevant to the needs of the local church (iCOR-Intergenerational Churches of Refuge) and cross-culturally appropriate.

