

Retention, Reclamation, and Church Administration

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**The foundation for all
retention and reclamation
efforts must flow from the
overarching principle of love.**



We recognize that Christ's love for the Church also needs to be manifested within the Church by His followers. True discipleship entails not only Biblical teaching (Matt. 28:20), but also a passionate commitment to **loving our fellow believers unconditionally**. This was **the heart of Christ's message** to His disciples as He faced the Cross (John 15:9-13). Christ's command to them applies to us: that we "**love one another**". Ellen White's powerful insight into this historical scene is still vital for us: "This love is the evidence of their discipleship" (DA 677-78)



We therefore affirm that ***building loving and Christ-like relationships within the local church must be an urgent necessity for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*** We recommit ourselves to God's vision of mission, which is founded on discipling, believing that this will enable us better to fulfill the prophetic mission of the Remnant Church.

<https://www.adventistarchives.org/nurture-and-retention-summit-statement.pdf>



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- We are church members ourselves so should intentionally **model loving and caring interaction with fellow church members and colleagues.**
- Administrators should actively **seek out material** on retention and reclamation and familiarize themselves with books, papers, research, and other resources that could be tested and implemented in their territory.



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- Similarly leaders can **learn from methods having success in other divisions** and unions.
- Administrators can **encourage membership audits and integrity with records**, as a stepping stone to the redemptive process of **winning back the members** deducted in audits.



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- Administrators are entrusted with **following through on recommendations** from the GC Nurture and Retention Committee, such as all unions having a N&R coordinator and committee composed of key departmental leaders.



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- Administrators should **hold conferences** on nurturing, discipling, retaining and reclaiming, in which data and good practice are shared with conference and mission leaders, pastors and elders.
- Promote the **Revival and Reformation programs** of Revived by His Word, Believe His Prophets, United in Prayer, and Total Member Involvement **to firmly ground members and involve them in outreach.**



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- Administrators should **regularly talk about N&R** in meetings and presentations so that **all programs and activities are filtered through its impact on discipleship, nurture, and retention**. Local church pastors play a key role in retention so emphasis on N&R should be given during pastor's meetings.
- **Adopt attendance counts** as standard, so that pastors and elders will know who is slipping away.



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- Show that you value progress in N&R by finding ways to **measure success and reward those who excel in N&R.**
- Include in every **ministerial training** program special emphasis on nurture/retention/discipling along with evangelism.



What role do church administrators have in retention and reclamation?

- **If it is not on the administration's agenda, nurture and reclamation will not happen.** Administrators need to **share plans** and **allocate time and money** for their accomplishment. The results of our N&R plans and emphasis may take longer than a single term of office. However, they must plan far ahead regardless of the evident fruit.

