

# The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God Sectional Council Tour 2006

Deacon/Pastor Relationship – Making It Work – Jim Ayers & Dary Northrop

Topics:

- I. ORIENTATION PROCESS
  - A. Meet with new deacons
  - B. Hand out notebook, job description, financial reports, etc.
  - C. Clarity with expectations and roles
  - D. Upcoming challenges and issues
  - E. Questions and discussions
  - F. Prayer

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II. TEAM CONCEPTS

- A. Honor: what are ways to honor leadership?
- B. Respect and valuing others: opinions, diversity, unity
- C. Time: discussion items vs. voting items, schedule of meetings, time frames
- D. Care: one for another, families, spouse and children, fun, laughter

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III. DEFENSIVENESS/CONFRONTING – HOW TO ADDRESS CONCERNS

- A. “There’s an elephant in the room”
- B. Proper protocol for complaints and feedback to deacons about church or pastors
- C. Not jumping to conclusions
- D. Peace and calmness
- E. Representation: who represents whom?

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IV. LISTENING

- A. To what is said and to what is unsaid
- B. To God, to each other
- C. To yourself...how do we sound to others?

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V. POWER/AUTHORITY

- A. Biblical authority must be earned and given
- B. Clarity about the final say on certain topics

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VI. IT'S NOT OK:

- A. For leadership teams to be at odds
- B. For churches not to be effective
- C. For pastors to ramrod things through because of selfish dreams
- D. For deacons to usurp authority over their pastor
- E. For our cities to be without a unified front in our churches
- F. For our church to be inward focused and consumed with itself

We are called by God to the greatest mission known to mankind...

You are here because you are a leader appointed by God and recognized by others...

We must be the church as God intended it to be...

This will change our people, our cities, our district, our nation and our world...

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The Rocky Mountain District Council of the Assemblies of God  
Sectional Council Tour 2006  
Deacon/Pastor Relationship – Making It Work – Vicky Dix & Ron Kee

- I. LOVING GOD AND HIS CHURCH - What do you think it means to love God and His Church?
  - A. Loving God means...
    - 1. Having and maintaining a personal relationship with God
    - 2. Learning more about God...reading the Bible, studying, praying, fasting
  - B. Loving God's Church
    - 1. Loving and caring for the people in our churches
    - 2. Supporting the ministry efforts in our church
    - 3. Working to maintain unity and peace in our churches
    - 4. Having both a local outreach and an international outreach to the world
    - 5. Working with other churches, to reach our communities

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III. THE CARE OF THE PASTOR - As deacons we have a responsibility to care for our pastors...What does that mean?

- A. Building healthy personal relationships
- B. Honoring and supporting the pastor through....
  - 1. Pastor appreciation
  - 2. Salaries and benefits
  - 3. Vacations
  - 4. Coming along side to help them carry the load

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IV. HOW TO BRING CONCERNS TO THE PASTOR AND DEACON TEAM

- A. Listen to and understand concerns
- B. Ask “Have you talked with that person or pastor directly about the issue?”
- C. “No” – Redirect to the individual
- D. “Yes” – Then meet to resolve
- E. Deacons – Bring issues, concerns and possible solutions to the team in a constructive manner

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V. IT'S NOT OK... We have found that a good way to address problem behaviors is to take an honest look at them, and if there really is a problem, we use the phrase, "It's Not OK"...

- i. For deacons to believe that they are representatives of certain groups in the church, and to use that representation to support their personal ideas and agendas
- ii. For deacons to not seek for unity in decision making...desire to have unity
- iii. For deacons to not support their pastors or to not work to understand their hearts/ministry
- iv. For deacons to withhold their support for a decision, because they were not in favor of it, and didn't vote for it
- v. For deacons to disrespect their position in the church
- vi. For pastors to think that the deacon opinions are not important
- vii. For pastors to push their ideas on the deacons as, "This is what God told me to do"

IT IS OK...

- A. To work together as a team
- B. To desire unity and gain team support for your decisions
- C. To seek to know God's heart for your church and your community
- D. To properly manage the financial affairs of your church
- E. To care for each other and your families
- F. To work to resolve conflicts and to help people mature in their relationships
- G. To model God's love to each other and to your congregations



