

What Pastors Can Do

- Pray for the Sunday School efforts of your congregation(s) that this ministry will prove to be a source of encouragement that will deepen the Christian spiritual growth and witness of many.
- Reflect and act on the potential of the Sunday School as an extension of your own teaching ministry with your congregation.
- Regularly pray for the ministry of each of the teachers in your congregation(s) and frequently remind the teachers that they are being held up in prayer.
- Shine a spotlight on the Sunday School by telling stories about its life-giving possibilities that come from the experience of your own congregation. Talk about what is happening and what is yet possible from the pulpit and through other media (newsletters, email messages, bulletin boards, etc.).
- Encourage teachers to take advantage of many opportunities for enrichment, spiritual growth, and skill development.
- Be visible, even for short periods of time, at the gatherings of teachers or the meetings of work related area planning groups in order to demonstrate enthusiasm and support for this vital ministry.
- Teach a class for a season or for a few sessions each year.
- Consider ways to enrich and attend to the spiritual life of all of the teachers and other leaders involved in your congregation's Sunday School.
- Work with the church's planning groups to set specific and measurable stretch goals for participation levels, the recruitment and involvement of persons who are not yet church members, and for starting new classes (short and long term in duration).

What District Superintendents Can Do

- Pray for the work of the Sunday School in the churches of the district and lead pastors in praying as well.
- Attend Sunday School when visiting district churches.
- Support district teacher training by regularly engaging training with energetic leadership that offers a variety of helps for teachers and organizers.
- Ask pastors about what students are learning in Sunday School.
- Have a district event for pastors focused on the Sunday School. Explore a variety of ways to envision the pastor's role in
 - ◆ Supporting faith development of teachers
 - ◆ Helping teachers focus on the faith development of the members of their classes
 - ◆ Creating a new Sunday School (in a church without one or a church with multiple worship services)
 - ◆ Starting new classes
 - ◆ Finding and developing new teachers
 - ◆ Seeing the congregation as a learning community in which the Sunday School is a vital setting for children, youth, and adults.
- Include inquiries about the congregation's Sunday School in conversations with pastors.
- Include the discussion of Sunday School as one of the congregation's vital areas of ministry in conversations at charge conference.
- Share Sunday School success stories across the district by posting them on websites, including an email distribution and newsletters.
- Support Sunday School work at Conference Council on Ministries, or alternative conference organization.
- Work with conference staff to be sure that pastors and leaders know about conference training opportunities and resource library support.