History and Purpose

SAL (Seminario Adventista Laico—Adventist Lay Seminary) was founded in 2005 by the Andrews University Institute of Hispanic Ministry (IHM) to instruct church members in the theory and practice of ministry. The disproportionate growth of the Non-Adventist (SDA) world population and the sluggish growth of the SDA church in some regions is an alarming fact that deserves attention. A solution to the evangelization challenge we face resides in the development of a professional lay training program, to equip church members to join fulltime pastoral forces in disseminating the Adventist message. Churches will not survive for long if its operation relies solely on the pastor’s work. “The idea that the minister must carry all the burdens and o all the work is a great mistake” (CS 68).

Jesus’ appeal to be “the SALT of the earth” (Matt 5:13) and his dedication to recruiting and equipping His disciples for ministry sets the tone for the mission and establishment of this training school. Ellen G. White suggests that every SDA church “should be a training school” where “experienced instructors” should teach members the theory and practice of ministry (CS 59). The involvement and equipping of church members for ministry is fundamental to preaching the gospel to “every creature” on our planet (Mark 16:15). To this effect, SAL offers a variety of professional certificates in key areas of ministry to prepare church members for evangelism and for the various leadership roles needed in the church. This document describes the nature of the program, the requirements for participants to obtain each of the certificates, and the suggested curriculum for each certificate available. More classes and certificates can be added to meet the immediate needs of the field.

Bible Instructor Certificate

The completion of this certificate prepares participants to become effective Bible instructors. Students receive instruction regarding the canon of the Scriptures, biblical theology, the history and doctrines of the SDA Church, and how to disseminate successfully our beliefs. Jesus’ words: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” (Matt 9:37) underline the need for such a program. The dissemination of the gospel cannot depend on the efforts of the minister alone. The biblical doctrine of the priesthood of all believers teaches that every church member has the responsibility to be involved as a witness for Christ.

Church Leadership Professional Certificate

The purpose of this certificate is to train lay leaders in the various leadership roles of the local church and to share the responsibilities of the local church pastor. The Christian church began as a Lay Movement, and only with the involvement of lay leaders the church will be able to disseminate the gospel throughout the world. “There should be a well-organized plan for the
employment of workers to go into all our churches, large and small, to instruct the members how to labor for the up building of the church and also for unbelievers. It is training, education, that is needed” (9T 117—1909). This statement by Ellen G. White, as well as Jethro’s counsel to Moses (Exo 18:1-12) underscores the importance of a leadership program for lay leaders.

**Small-Group Professional Certificate**

It is a known fact that small groups constitute a successful strategy for church growth. Jesus began the largest known religious church movement with a small group of twelve, which in a few decades managed to proclaimed the gospel “to every creature under heaven” (Col 1:15, 23). There is in every church member sufficient evangelistic energy, that well channeled, has the potential to inundate an entire community with the edifying gospel of Three Angels Message.

The purpose of this certificate is to instruct local church members in the theological, historical, and empirical foundations of small group ministry. Well-organized small-church groups not only have the potential to share pastoral ministerial tasks, but have the capacity to involve inactive church members in ministry. Small groups create new structures of participation and offer opportunity for the development of lay leaders. SAL is designed for baptized Adventist church members who have Adventism in their hearts and would like to use their individual homes as beacons of light to illuminate their neighborhoods with the light of the gospel.

**Marriage and Family Certificate**

The growing high rate of divorce and family problems in the Western World, including the SDA church, elicits a program to strengthen nuclear families in the local church and their communities. This certificate program begins with the application of tests and surveys among participants, to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of their families. The curriculum for this program is contextualized to the results of the tests and surveys. Requirements for the program include the completion of the course, theological Foundations for Marriage and Family, and reading Ellen G. White’s book: The Adventist Home. Some statements from this book lay down the importance of the family as a foundational unit in society and the church, here on earth and on the kingdom of God. “Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life both in this world and in the world to come” (AH 15, 43).

**Lay Preacher Certificate**

This certificate is very useful for ministers in multi-church districts where attending multiple church-districts require the aid of lay preachers. Ministers in multi-church districts cannot be simultaneously be in all churches they lead and thus need the support of capable lay preachers to nurture the grey and to evangelize the community. This certificates aims to prepared lay in the art of preparing and delivering solid Adventist messages.

Although the church of Christ is blessed preachers, who endowed with natural charisma and public appeal, attract audiences to hear the gospel, other members of the body can learn to be effective evangelists. Paul invites Christian followers to seek those gifts they may not have, which can benefit the church (1Cor 12:31). Jesus’ mandate to go into “all the world and preach the good news to all” (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Matt 24:14) it is not confined to fulltime preachers alone, it applies to every Christian believer. This
The certificate is designed for church members, men and women, who want to be involved in preaching the word from the church pulpit. The certificate reviews theological foundations for preaching and the art of preparing and delivering effective biblical sermons.

**Sabbath School Teachers and Superintendents**

This certificate aims to instruct adult Sabbath School (SS) leaders in the preparation of attractive SS programs. The course also prepares participants in the theory and practice of teaching adults. The certificate exposes participants to the history and purpose of the SS program and to concepts such as andragogy, teaching methods, and communicating the gospel effectively.

**Church Planting Certificate**

Church planting has long been considered “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven.” Jesus’ great commission as well as an array of biblical statements to “preach the gospel in all the world” and to “make disciples” imply the formation of churches (Matt 24:14; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 13:46-48). Students who register to this certificate will receive instruction regarding the biblical meaning and nature of the church, how church planting has been implemented in the Adventist church as well as by other denominations, and church planting models and strategies. In addition, students will understand the importance of the church as an organic whole possessing the structures necessary for the spiritual sustenance and development of each member of the body. To graduate, participant will need to plant a small group with the goal to convert it into a healthy church.

**Ministerio Juvenil**

Es un hecho histórico que la generación más joven reemplaza en el mundo social, político y religioso a la generación formada por sus progenitores. Consecuentemente, el futuro de nuestra sociedad y de la iglesia depende de la capacidad de los líderes actuales para formar una juventud dedicada al servicio de la sociedad y de la iglesia. El desafío de educar a la juventud ha sido discutido desde los días previos al nacimiento de Cristo con las siguientes palabras de Sócrates: “La juventud hoy ama el lujo, sus modales son malos, desafían la autoridad, son irrespetuosos y no se ponen en pie cuando los ancianos entran en la sala. Contradicen a sus padres, mantienen conversaciones triviales, comen ruidosamente con la boca abierta y tiranizan a sus maestros”. La certificación en ministerio juvenil tiene como fin preparar a los participantes en la teología y la práctica del ministerio juvenil. El currículo incluye estudios teológicos relacionados al ministerio juvenil, propone soluciones a los problemas más comunes que la juventud enfrenta en nuestra sociedad y sugiere modelos para ministrar efectivamente a la juventud adventista.

**Historia y desafíos de la IASD**

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1 Wagner, *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest* (Ventura: Regal, 1990), 11.
Este certificado prepara a los participantes en áreas importantes relacionadas con la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo-día. Las clases revisan la historia de la iglesia, el desarrollo de sus doctrinas, desafíos relaciones con movimientos separatistas y cómo enfrentar doctrinas falsas. Participantes recibirán ideas teóricas y prácticas acerca de la diseminación del adventismo convencional.

**Certificado de Salud y Nutrición**

La salud física y mental del ser humano está íntimamente relacionada con su salud espiritual. Mente sana y cuerpo sano son necesarios para una relación saludable con Dios, con el prójimo y para el cumplimiento de la misión de la iglesia. Nuestro cuerpo es templo del Espíritu Santo y la morada del “Dios viviente”, a quien debemos presentarle nuestros cuerpos como un lugar aceptable y digno de su presencia (1Co. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 2Co. 6:16).

Este certificado de salud prepara a los participantes en el conocimiento teórico y práctico balanceado de la salud humana con el fin de mejorar su salud física, mental y espiritual del participante, y con el fin de que integren los principios adquiridos en la evangelización.

**Program Curriculum and Delivery**

SAL is committed to serve the local field in their particular context and is open to the creation of new certificates and classes. New courses and certificates can be added in consultation with the IHM director. The courses can be offered on weekends on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis. So far, the most effective mode of delivery has been one weekend a month for a minimum of six months. Adding a seventh month is convenient to accommodate emergencies participants may have, which may impede attendance to one of the classes. Normally, the IHM director is present for the first and last course modules, introducing the program, teaching a class, and officiating during the graduation ceremony.

**Certification Requirements**

SAL can be offered at any site by just contacting the IHM office at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (SDATS) <www.hispanicministry.net>. Each professional certificate requires the attendance to 40 hours of lectures and 60 hours of practical work, that may include, preaching, giving Bible studies, teaching a Sabbath School class, or serving as a leader in the local church (e.g., small group, Sabbath School, youth, or outreach leadership). Participants do not need any type of academic background, unless they want to obtain graduate credits from the SDATS.

Several requirements are needed before a certificate from SAL can be granted at any of the sites where the school is adopted:

1) **A written petition by site coordinator with the following information**
   a) Site where the certificate will be offered
b) Name of the certificate (Bible instructor, leadership, etc.)
c) List of classes to be taught
d) Dates and professors for each of the classes
e) Graduation date

2) Participants’ registration
The site coordinator needs to create a registration form in which participants agree to meet all certification requirements. Currently, most sites charge a reasonable fee to cover for expenses such as food, handouts, certificates, graduation regalia, and instructors’ expenses.

3) Attendance and assignment control
Field coordinators need to keep attendance and monthly-assignment completion records of all students. This requirement is necessary to give the program the seriousness that it deserves. Before signing the certificates, a report including attendance and number of hours

4) Diplomas
Local site coordinators need to design a diploma for each student with the official Andrews University logo assigned to the Institute of Hispanic Ministry (IHM). A sample of the certificate with the official logo is available to local field coordinators after they provide the list of graduates’ names, the classes they received, and the names of the professors who taught each class. The diplomas are generally signed by SAL director at the graduation ceremony.

Accreditation
Two semester graduate credits per certificate may be earned through the SDATS at Andrews University upon the successful completion of all certificate requirements. Students who wish to receive these graduate credits must have a bachelor’s degree and must complete a “Permission to Take Classes” form and register for GSEM648 Workshop–2 credits, with the director of the Institute of Hispanic Ministry. The form must be completed and submitted with a copy of Bachelors degree, the recording fee, and a letter from the local SAL coordinator ascertaining the student completed all certificate requirements at the award ceremony. Workshop credits require the approval of the SDATS Dean’s office.
Financial Information

Host organizations—Local churches, Conferences, Unions or Divisions— are responsible for the operating cost associated with the delivery of all certificate courses. Some operating costs include travel expenses for instructors, duplication of materials, food, securing a meeting place, cost of certificate received by each student, promoting the program among church members, and other expenses. Host organizations may recover all or part of the expenses by asking participant for a reasonable registration fee. The IHM counts with limited funds to help local fields covering for the traveling expenses of the program director for the beginning of the certification and for the graduation ceremony.

Award Ceremony

An award ceremony for each certificate program will be organized for those who successfully complete the program’s requirements. Local Conference, Union, or division officials may be invited to take part in the ceremony. The attire used by students for the award ceremony will be determined by local field administrators.

BIBLE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATE

Purpose

Jesus’ words: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” (Matt 9:37), set forth the need for a program to provide church members with the basic theoretical and practical knowledge to become effective Bible Instructors. Students receive knowledge about the canon of the Scriptures, biblical theology, the history and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and how to disseminate and defend successfully the Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. To graduate, students to attend to all lectures and witness a minimum of 10 hours a month people in the community.

Curriculum for Bible Instructor

BIB101
Introduction to the Bible

Course Objective—To provide Bible Student Workers with overall knowledge about the history, nature, and chronology of the Bible. Students will learn about the history of both canons, about the background and times in with the writers of the Scriptures lived and other important facts about the Word of God. He who teaches the Word needs to be acquainted with the Word. Sample course topics include:

• The Old Testament Canon (History; Jewish, protestant, catholic canons; manuscripts; Bible versions; etc.)
• The Intertestamental Period (History, writings, etc.)
• The New Testament Canon
• Bible chronology

**BIB102**
*Introduction to Theology*

*Course objective*—To establish the divine origin of the Scriptures and to teach students the principles for the interpretation of the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White. Students will also learn how to teach the main Biblical prophecies. Sample course topics include:

- Revelation and Inspiration
- Hermeneutics—principles for interpreting the Bible and EGW
- Prophecies—study of the main biblical prophecies

**BIB103**
*The Adventist Church in History and Prophecy*

*Course objective*—To instruct students in the history and organization of the prophetic Seventh-day Adventist Movement. The course begins with a brief history of the Christian movement and then the Seventh-day Adventist Church is introduced in the context of biblical prophecy. The course includes remarks about the structure and scope of Remnant Church. Sample course topics include:

- Brief history of the Christian Church
- The Adventist church in prophecy and history
- The ministry and writings of EGW
- The organization and growth of the SDA Church

**BIB104**
*Seventh-day Adventist Doctrines*

*Course objective*—Students study selected Seventh-day Adventist doctrines to become knowledgeable and prepared to share them with the non-SDA community. The doctrines for this course are selected in consultation with local church leaders and administrators. Sample doctrines may include:

- The Sanctuary
- The Sabbath
- The Trinity
- The Spiritual Gifts
- Christian norms
• Stewardship

**BIB105**  
**Principles and Practice of Teaching**  
*Course objective:* This course analyses teaching principles to help students become effective agents of the Word of God. Insights on teaching from the Bible as well as from current Christian literature on the subject are presented to provide students with the knowledge they need to become effective Bible instructors. Sample course topics include:  
• Teaching principles from the Bible  
• Philosophy of Education  
• Teaching methods  
• Pedagogy and andragogy

**BIB106**  
**Bible Difficulties and Apparent Contradictions (Textos difíciles)**  
*Course objective:* The study of Bible verses and controversial topics used by unbelievers to question the inspiration of the Scriptures and to undermine the SDA beliefs. Sample course topics include:  
• “Eat anything sold in the meat market” (1Cor 10:25).  
• “The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking” (Rom 14:17).  
• “Did all species of animals fit in Noah’s Ark?”  
• “The Sabbath day as the seventh day was lost in the day of Joshua when God stop the sun for almost an entire day.”

**BIB107**  
**Principles and Practice of Personal Evangelism**  
*Course objective:* This course analyses the basic principles associated with personal evangelism and reviews different methods to evangelize the community. Sample course topics include:  
• Evangelism made personal  
• Jesus and personal evangelism  
• Principles for successful personal evangelism  
• Friendship evangelism  
• EGW and personal evangelism

**BIB108**  
**Comparative Religions**
Course objective: This course aims to teach church members how to defend our doctrines against the attacks of world religious movements. Opposing beliefs of different religions and Christian denominations are analyzed and ready-to-use answers are provided to students. Sample course topics include:

- The main world religions (Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, etc.)
- The Jehovah Witnesses
- The Mormons
- The Pentecostals
- The Catholics
- New Age and Post-modernism

BIB109
Christian Persuasion

Course objective: Persuading people to accept the good news of Jesus is fundamental to personal evangelism. This required course prepares participants in the art of leading people to accept Christ as their personal Savior and to join the Seventh-day Adventist church. Sample course topics include:

- Persuasion in the Bible
- Persuasion in the writings of Ellen G. White
- Persuasion in history
- Persuasion in marketing, today
- How to prepare and make persuasive appeals

CHURCH LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to prepare lay leaders to assume leadership roles in the local church. The Christian church began as a lay movement and only with the involvement of lay leaders the church will it be able to finish the task of disseminating the gospel throughout the world.

Participants receive instruction on the theological foundations for Christian leadership, how to manage conflict in the church context, how to instill change, and on other basic topics related to church leadership. “The minister should not feel that it is his duty to do all the talking and all the laboring and all the praying; but he should make it a part of his work to educate workers in every church” (RH Nov. 6, 1888). This declaration as well as Jethro’s counsel to Moses (Exo 18:1-12), underline the importance of a leadership program to train lay leaders.
“There should be a well-organized plan for the employment of workers to go into all our churches, large and small, to instruct the members how to labor for the upbuilding of the church and also for unbelievers. It is training, education, that is needed” (9T 117—1909). To graduate, participants need to attend to all lectures and become involved in leadership activities in the local church—small group leadership is highly recommended.

Curriculum for Church Leadership

LID101
Leadership in the Bible and EGW writings
Course objective: The purpose for this course is to lay the theological foundation for Christian leadership. Christian leadership differs from secular leadership in that church leaders depend on the work of volunteers, not paid workers, to accomplish their responsibilities. Sample course topics include:

- Biblical terminology on leadership
- Theology of leadership
- Leadership insights from Jesus
- Servant leadership
- Spirituality in leadership
- The traits of the Christian leader

LID102
Spiritual Gifts and Leadership
Course objective: Effective church leaders and volunteers are more efficient if they work in areas in which they are gifted. This course instructs students in the nature and purpose of Spiritual Gifts, and helps church member discover and enhance their personal gifts. Sample course topics include:

- The Bible and the gifts of the Spirit
- The gift of leadership
- The importance of leading according to gifts
- Gift discovery and development

LID103
Conflict Management
Course objective: Conflict is everywhere, and churches are not immune to conflict. This course studies conflict from a Christian perspective, and provides the knowledge and skills to manage conflict in the church setting. Sample course topics include:
• Biblical perspectives on conflict
• Types of conflict
• Conflict and culture
• Approaches to conflict management
• Steps to conflict management
• Dealing with ineffective volunteers

LID 104

Strategic Planning for the local church

Course objective: Planning, setting goals, organizing, and motivating are fundamental steps in leading any church department. Jesus said: “Which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?” (Luke 14:28). This course prepares church members in the art of strategic planning. Sample course topics include:
• Goal setting
• Recruitment
• Organizing for goal achievement
• Motivation
• Evaluation
• Budgeting

LID 105

Dealing with Change

Course objective: We live in an evolving society that constantly challenges the Christian church with new paradigms. This course teaches church leaders how to adapt ministry to a changing society without compromising the Christian moral principles. Sample course topics include:
• The nature of our changing society
• Factors affecting change
• Steps to change
• Dealing with criticism

LID 106

Leadership Models and Styles
**Course objective:** The successful church leader needs to know which leadership style is more appropriate for the group he or she is leading. This course studies different leadership models and styles in the light of the Word of God and provides insights on the factors that influence the way decisions are made. Sample course topics include:

- Leadership models in history
- Leadership styles
- Factor affecting the style
- Servant leadership

**LID107**  
**Leadership Authority and Accountability**  
*Course objective:* The purpose of this course is to study biblical sources of authority for the church leader, and the importance to be accountable to God, the family, and the church. Sample course topics include:

- The Bible and authority
- Power and authority
- Sources of authority
- Accountability in leadership

**LID108**  
**Spirituality and Leadership**  
*Course objective:* This spiritual formation course is designed to underline the role of the Trinity in ministry and to teach students about prayer, meditation, and personal devotion.

- The meaning of spirituality
- The role of the Holy Spirit in ministry
- Theology of prayer
- Praying for the sick
- Practical spirituality

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY CERTIFICATE**

**Purpose**

The growing high rate of divorce and family problems in the Western World, including the SDA church, elicits a program to strengthen nuclear families in the local church and their communities. This certificate program begins with the application of tests and surveys among participants, to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of their families. The curriculum for this program is
contextualized to the results of the tests and surveys. Requirements for the program include the completion of the course, theological Foundations for Marriage and Family, and reading Ellen G. White’s book: The Adventist Home. Some statements from this book lay down the importance of the family as a foundational unit in society and the church, here on earth and on the kingdom of God. “Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life both in this world and in the world to come” (AH 15, 43).

Curriculum for Marriage and Family

FAM101
Theological Foundations for Marriage and Family
- Biblical foundations
- Insights from EGW
- Foundations for a Strong Family
- Family Models and Theories

FAM102
Life Cycle of the Family
- Individual life cycle
- Family life cycle
- The evolution of the family
- Approaches to marriage
- Marriage types
- The family system

FAM103
Family Challenges
- Modernity and the nuclear family
- Power struggles
- Gender roles
- Abuse and violence
- Pain and stress
- Divorce and remarriage
FAM104
Managing Conflict in the Family
• Biblical teachings
• Types of conflict
• Sources/factors leading to conflict in the family
• Levels of conflict
• Constructive responses to conflict
• Self-conflict management
• Approaches to conflict
• Problem solving

FAM105
Work and Money
• Biblical insights
• Finances in the nuclear family
• Dual earner marriages
• Unemployment and poverty

FAM106
Marriage, Love and Communication
• Communication insights from the Bible
• Communication concepts
• Gender differences in communication
• Communication skills

FAM107
Family Ministry
• Steps to family ministry
• Women’s ministries
• Men’s ministries
• Family encounters
SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Purpose

Some of the fastest growing Christian churches in the world use small groups as the bases for their growth strategy. The Bible and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for centuries have provided biblical and historical principles concerning successful small groups. This professional certificate aims to prepare participants in the theory and practice of small groups. At the end of the instructional seminars, students will be able to establish and lead a small group. To graduate, participants need to attend to all lectures and develop a new small group in their home or community.

Curriculum for Small Group Leadership

GRUP101
Theological Foundations for Small Groups

Course Objective—Teach participants theological foundations for small groups. The course includes foundations from the Bible, the writing of Ellen G. White, and foundations from other theological books on the subject. It is important to teach this course as early as possible so students can have from the beginning a solid foundation of the nature and theology of the small group theory. Some courses suggested for this certificate are:

- Theological foundations from the Old Testament Canon
- Theological foundations from the New Testament
- Theological foundations from the writings of Ellen G. White

GRUP102
Historical Foundations for Small Groups

Course Objective—This course aims to provide students with denominational and non-denominational evidence related to the history and practice small groups.

- The origin of the synagogue
- Small group during the Roman and Chinese governments
- John Wesley’s class meetings
- Small groups in the history of the SDA church
- Branch Sabbath Schools
- Bible Sabbath Schools
- The twentieth century awakening
- Practical foundation for small groups
GRUP103
Small Groups Types and Models

Course Objective—The purpose of this course is to discuss with participants the different small group types and models used in the practice of ministry in the Adventist church as well as outside the church.

- Difference between small groups and teams
- Small group types
- Small group models
- A comparative study of types and models
- The Sabbath School classes as the bases for small group ministry
- Current small group models: David Cho, César Castellanos, etc

GRUP104
The Development of Small Groups

Course Objective—The course offers specific steps for the formation of small groups that follows established denominational protocols.

- Steps for the formation of small groups
- The dangers associated with the formation of small groups (Separatists)
- The importance to follow established denominational policies.
- Requirement: Students should write a one page report on how they would proceed in the development of a small group.

GRUP105
The Formation of Small Group Leaders

Course Objective—The key to the success of small groups is the recruitment and preparation of the leaders. This course builds on the curriculum for the certificate in leadership and adds the element of commitment to the task.

- The recruitment leaders according to spiritual gifts
- The characteristics of successful small group leaders
- The tasks and functions of small group leaders.
- Principles for small group leadership
- Teaching principles for small group leaders

GRUP106
The Preparation of Small Group Sessions
Course Objective—The longevity of small groups depends largely on the dialogue and fellowship that participants develop during the weekly meetings. Dialogue and fellowship is enhanced by fostering participative sessions, rather than by sermons. This course offers students practical instructions for the preparations of interactive group sessions.

- Suggestions for the group program
- Principles for the preparation of interactive Bible lessons
- Small group question to foster fellowship

LAY PREACHER CERTIFICATE

Purpose

This certificate is very useful for ministers in multi-church districts where attending multiple church-districts require the aid of lay preachers. Ministers in multi-church districts cannot be simultaneously be in all churches they lead and thus need the support of capable lay preachers to nurture the grey and to evangelize the community. This certificates aims to prepared lay in the art of preparing and delivering solid Adventist messages.

Although the church of Christ is blessed preachers, who endowed with natural charisma and public appeal, attract audiences to hear the gospel, other members of the body can learn to be effective evangelists. Paul invites Christian followers to seek those gifts they may not have, which can benefit the church (1Cor 12:31). Jesus’ mandate to go into “all the world and preach the good news to all” (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Matt 24:14) it is not confined to fulltime preachers alone, it applies to every Christian believer. This certificate is designed for church members, men and women, who want to be involved in preaching the word from the church pulpit. The certificate reviews theological foundations for preaching and the art of preparing and delivering effective biblical sermons. To graduate, participants need to attend to all lectures and become involve in at a small group setting or any other setting.

Curriculum for the Lay Preacher Certificate

PREACH101

Principles and Practice of Preaching

Course objective: Students learn the principles and practice that regulate effective preaching. The knowledge and skills learned in this course are especially useful in multi-church districts where pastors cannot be in all their churches for worship and depend on the help of able lay preachers. Sample course topics include

- Theology of preaching
- Sermon anatomy
- Homiletics
- Types of sermons and preaching
• Persuasion in preaching

**PREACH102**  
*Preaching Types and Styles*  
Course Objective—Students are exposed to different types of preaching, including narrative and didactic. Jesus was a master of narrative preaching who frequently used parables and other metaphors to convey the truth of the gospel.

• Narrative preaching  
• Didactic preaching  
• Principles to preaching from the parables

**PREACH103**  
*Biblical Preaching*  
Course Objective—This course provides participants with information regarding the history, theology, and practice of preaching, biblical mandates to preach, biblical terminology, and how to select and analyze potential biblical texts for preaching.

• Brief history of preaching  
• Preaching terminology from the Bible  
• The mandate to preach “preacherhood of all believers”  
• The selection a analysis of biblical texts for preaching

**PREACH104**  
*Homiletics*  
Course Objective—Homiletics is defined as the art of preaching. Preaching is an art regulated by theoretical and practical principles. This course instructs participants in how to prepare sermons, the anatomy and structure of sermons (introduction, body, conclusion), diction, and the sermon delivery.

• Sermon structure  
• Duration and nature of each sermon part  
• Articulating the word (pitch, volume, rate, pauses, speed, eye contact, and body language).

**PREACH 105**  
*Christocentric Preaching*  
Course Objective—Ellen G. White estates that is Christ who melts the hearts of sinners and that every presentation of the gospel; therefore, should have Him as the center. This course studies what Christ means to the gospel and to the Christian Church, and instructs students on how to prepare and deliver Christ-centered sermons. Some topics suggested for this seminar are:
• The Christocentric centrality of the gospel
• The role of Christ in the salvation of sinners
• Christ as the motivation source for Christian action
• The preparation of Christ-centered messages

PREACH106
Incarnational Preaching

Course Objective—The life of the messenger must be aligned with the contents to the message. The preacher, to be effective, needs to live in harmony with the contents of his/her message. The success of preachers depends on the measure that the Holy Spirit uses them; after all, it is the second person of the Trinity that convict people of sin, not the eloquence of the preacher. The lives of Jesus and Paul are examples of preachers who lived what they preached (Jn 13:15; 1Tim 4:12; 1P 2:21). Topic appropriate for this class may be:
• The life of the preacher
• The role of the Holy Spirit in the success of the sermon
• Incarnational preaching and preaching lessons from Jesus
• People benefit more from “seeing a sermon” (incarnated) than “listening” to a sermon. (EGW and incarnational preaching).

PREACH 107
Evangelistic Preaching

Course Objective—The purpose of this course is to teach participants how to make and deliver evangelistic sermons. The class also makes a distinction between evangelistic preaching and other types of preaching. Preaching to church members during the main Sabbath sermon differs to preaching to non-church goes in contents and style. The evangelistic sermon to be effective needs to be relevant to the needs and style of the listeners. Some topics suggested for this certificate are:
• The preparation of evangelistic sermons (inductive, deductive, abductive)
• The delivery of effective sermons (style, volume, pauses, pitch, etc.)
• Preparing the manuscript or the sermon outline
• Sermon duration and ensuring the audience’s attention
• Appeals in public evangelism

PREACH 108
Theological Foundations for Public Evangelism
Course Objective—This course studies the meaning of the word “evangelism” as is presented in the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White. The course also studies the traits of the evangelist and how the message should be lived by the messenger before it can be preached effectively to the listeners. Some topics suggested for this certificate are:

- Public evangelism in the Old Testament Canon
- Public evangelism in the New Testament
- Public evangelism in the writings of Ellen G. White
- The traits of the successful evangelist

PREACH 109  
Principles of Practice of Public Evangelism  
Course Objective—This course underlines some of the basic principles related to public evangelism. Evangelism is a process regulated by universal principles which find roots in the Bible. Each principle is explained and theoretical samples on how they can be implemented are shared. The principles elucidated during the course are:

- Preparation
- Penetration
- Attraction
- Persuasion
- Assimilation
- Retention

PREACH 110  
Evangelism and the Holy Spirit  
Course Objective—The Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity that convicts sinners of sin; thus, successful evangelism rests on the work of the Spirit through God’s messengers. True evangelists emulate the fruits of the Spirit and are impelled by the Spirit to preach and persuade sinner for Christ. Some topics suggested for this seminar are:

- The person of the Holy Spirit
- How to be baptized by the Holy Spirit
- Spirituality and how to be spiritual
- The reception of the Holy Spirit

PREACH 111  
Urban Evangelism
Course Objective—A great number of Hispanics live in urban areas where citizens face challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and crime. These challenges often make people receptive to programs and activities designed to meet their needs. Public evangelism to be successful in these areas should be relevant to the pressing necessities people experience in urban areas. The establishment of urban centers as attraction places to meet the needs of citizens can be a magnet to bring prospects to the church. Some topics suggested for this seminar are:

- The origin and challenges of urban communities
- The evangelistic opportunities provided by urban communities
- Contextualizing the gospel to urban citizens
- The development of urban centers

PREACH 112
Public Evangelism Practicum

Course Objective—One of the main goals of SAL is to involve students in active ministry. The purpose of this certificate requirement is to organize members for the execution of an evangelistic campaign. This campaign can be organized and presented by members or participants may be organized to help in a major effort where an evangelist is invited for a massive evangelistic program. Some of the areas that may be included in this course requirement may be:

- The organization of commissions for the evangelism (Music, ushers, sound, publicity, etc.)
- The training for each commission
- Preparation of the church (es) for the evangelistic effort
- Design and distribution of the flyers
- Etc.

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

This certificate aims to instruct adult Sabbath School (SS) leaders in the preparation of attractive SS programs. The course also prepares participants in the theory and practice of teaching adults. The certificate exposes participants to the history and purpose of the SS program and to concepts such as andragogy, teaching methods, and communicating the gospel effectively. To graduate, participants need to attend to all lectures and become involved in the teaching ministry—Bible studies, Sabbath School, etc.

S.S.101
The direction of the Sabbath School
Objective-This course reviews the origins of the Sabbath School in the Adventist church, the purpose for which this program was created and it offers practical ideas related to organization, management and creation of magnetic S.S. programs.
S.S. 102
Andragogy-How Adults Learn
Objective- It is a mistake to try to teach adults as you would children. This course makes a distinction between pedagogy and andragogy, examines some of the most popular theories of learning, and exposes the participant to practical concepts.

S.S. 103
Methods and models of instruction
Objective- The good teacher uses different methods to enhance teaching and facilitate student learning. This class suggests several methods to teach the lesson of the Sabbath School, methods such as collaboration, demonstration, direct chair, and participation.

S.S. 104
The Bible- Authority and Interpretation
Objective- The Adventist Church accepts the Bible as the infallible word of God and its 28 fundamental beliefs based on the writings of this holy book. Those who uphold the Bible, including S.S. teachers, build biblical-based knowledge, presuppositions and personal criteria. This course is intended to emphasize the authority of the Bible and study of hermeneutical principles to help the teacher understand the teachings of the Bible.

S.S. 105
Communication and Education
Objective- Education and communication are closely associated. This class discusses theories, models, and challenges of teaching. It also emphasizes the benefits of humor in learning.

S.S. 106
Education and relationships
Objective- Education in the context of the Sabbath School is an activity that involves relationships between participants and between the teacher and the participants. This class studies the importance of relationships in learning and presents Jesus as the master model.

S.S. 107
Fundamentals and principles of teaching
Objective- This class reviews philosophical and theological fundamentals of education. Additionally it studies the cycle, styles, and principles of education.

CHURCH PLANTING CERTIFICATE
Purpose

Church planting has long been considered “the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven.” Jesus’ great commission as well as an array of biblical statements to “preach the gospel in all the world” and to “make disciples” imply the formation of churches (Matt 24:14; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 13:46-48). Students who register to this certificate will receive instruction regarding the biblical meaning and nature of the church, how church planting has been implemented in the Adventist church as well as by other denominations, and church planting models and strategies. In addition, students will understand the importance of the church as an organic whole possessing the structures necessary for the spiritual sustenance and development of each member of the body. To graduate, participant will need to plant a small group with the goal to convert it into a healthy church.

Curriculum for Church Planters

CHP101
Theological Foundations for Church Planting

Course Objective—This course prepares students in the theological aspects of church planting. The course reviews biblical foundations for church planting and provides a list of church planting principles from the Word of God. Furthermore, participants review key church planting statements from writing of Ellen G. White. Sample course topics include:

- Biblical concepts, nature, and assumptions regarding church planting.
- Church planting and God’s plan for Israel in the Old Testament to reach the world.
- The church as a body of believers.
- The church as a living organism. Unity and synergism among each member.
- Church planting insights from Jesus.
- Biblical principles for church planting.
- Church planting insights from the writings of Ellen G. White.

CHP102
Church Planting Principles

Course Objective—In depth study of the best-known church planting principles. Principles such as expansion and extension growth, the church as a reproductive entity, preaching, knowing the context, Christian responsibility, fostering change in a conformist environment, involving members in ministry, prayer, vision, mission, etc.

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2 Wagner, Church Planting for a Greater Harvest (Ventura: Regal, 1990), 11.
• The church as a reproductive body.
• Expansion and extension growth.
• Fostering Christian responsibility.
• Discipleship and church planting.
• Training and motivation church members for extension growth.

CHP103
Church Planting Strategies and Methods

Course Objective—This course aims to instruct participants in church planting strategies and methods. Effective church planting strategies and methods considers the context and the available resources. The following are some of the church planting strategies to be studied:

• **Branch church planting**—Spinning off members from a mother church. As Church in Jerusalem grew, they met in house (Acts 2).
• **Colonization church planting**—Intentionally or unintentionally relocating a core group from another church to plant a new community. The church at Antioch (Acts 11:19-21) sprang from those “transplanted” believers.
• **Pioneer (missionary) church planting**—Starting a new church from scratch (Acts 13:1-3)
• **Adopting**—A larger church is approached by a group who wants to begin a church and needs assistance.
• **Partnering**—Several churches and/or denominational or mission agencies cooperate in starting a new church
• **Revitalizing**—A larger church assists a struggling older church to get on its feet again.  

CHP104
Church Planting Stages

Course Objective—Successful church planting requires an intentional and organized process that includes church protocols, demographic research, and a place to begin the new congregation. This class prepares participants in the ABCs of church planting. Following are some church planting stages based on a botanical metaphor.

• **Preparation stage**—Preparing the soil. Resources, type of church, target group, goals, recruiting founding members, etc.

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• Finding a barn—Finding a suitable meeting place is very important. If the place is too small, relocation will be imminent. Some people begin with a temporary meeting place which may affect attendance if meeting too far from the place.

• Planting the seed—Recruiting and attracting people to the meeting place

• Seedling stage—The inauguration stage should be done with a splash. The new church needs all elements of a healthy church—children’s classroom, etc.

• Sapling stage—The young church should show signs of health and growth within the first year. Requires watering and feeding.

**CHP105**

**Planting Churches Thought Small Groups**

*Course Objective*—The small group as the basis for church planting is one of the most effective strategies for church develop new churches. The key is not to hold regular church services on Sabbath until the group is large enough to have all Sabbath School classes and an appropriate worship place is secured.⁶

- Biblical foundations for small group ministry
- The synagogue in the context of the small group
- Small groups models
- The house-church in the New Testament
- The cell church
- The small group as the bases for church planting

**CHP106**

**Leadership for Church Planters**

*Course Objective*—Good leadership is the key to success in church planting. This course lays the foundation for small group leadership. Some of the areas studied for this class include.⁷

- Leadership insights from Bible
- Great leaders of the Bible—Moses, Joseph, Nehemiah
- Leadership insight from Jesus
- Servant leadership
- The importance of teamwork

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Leadership for small group leaders

**CHP107**
Nurturing and Growing the Church Plant

*Course Objective*—New churches as newborn babies require lots of time and tender care to maintain steady growth. This class prepares participants on how to foster church health and growth once the church has been planted.

- The church as a healthy living organism
- The marks of a healthy church
- How to detect and cure church diseases
- Becoming a healthy church

### Youth Ministry

It is a historical fact that the younger generation replaces the social, political and religious generation shaped by their parents world. Consequently, the future of our society and of the church depends on the capacity of current leaders to help mold young people dedicated to the service of society and of the church. The challenge of educating youth has been discussed since the days before the birth of Christ with the words of Socrates: "Young people today love luxury, their manners are bad, challenge authority, disrespectful and not put in up when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, engage in trivial small talk, eat noisily with his mouth open and tyrannize their teachers." Certification in youth ministry aims to prepare participants in the theology and practice of youth ministry. The curriculum includes theological studies related to youth ministry, proposes solutions to common problems facing youth in our society and suggests models to effectively minister to Adventist youth.

**Curriculum for Youth Ministry**

**YOUTH101**

*Theological basis for youth ministry*

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This class discusses theological criteria associated with youth ministry. The course examines biblical concepts that promote the importance of ministerial work among youth and the role of the family in the spiritual formation of youth. Youth ministry can never replace the role of the home in the formation of young people. Ellen White tips on youth ministry are covered.

Suggested Professor: Allan Machado
- Biblical mandates for youth ministry
- Youth as an indispensable part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).
- Home and spiritual formation of youth
- Youth Bible highlights
- Advice for Young People, Ellen White.

**YOUTH102**

**Youth Challenges, Practical Tips**
We live in a changing society that presents numerous challenges to youth. This course aims to identify the most important issues facing today's youth and provide viable solutions that can help young people to face their daily and spiritual challenges. Some of the challenges to be addressed during the course include drug use, educational costs, premarital sex, materialism, obesity, peer pressure, unemployment, divorce, and discrimination.

Suggested Professor: Alfonso Valenzuela.
- Social problems: Youth-dating and premarital sex
- Education-importance and challenges
- Antagonist Religious Philosophies- Post-Modernism
- The problem of drugs and narcotics

**YOUTH103**

**Youth Leadership, Principles and Practice**
This class aims to contextualize a leadership model applicable to youth where they work. The behavior and style of young people in our society are shaped by the intellectual philosophies, social, cultural and civil context in which they live. The successful Christian leader should use a model of leadership style and that galvanize young people in the mission of the church. The course explores biblical and theoretical concepts about leadership. Through inductive leadership, the course leads participants to identify the most pressing problems facing youth in the church and local area. Once identified, participants will be instructed on how best to diagnose and prescribe a contextualized plan of action.

Suggested Professor:
- Leadership in the light of the Bible
- Successful leaders of the Bible (Joseph, Timothy, etc.)
- Leadership Styles
Theories of Leadership
· Inductive Leadership

**YOUTH104**

*How to reach today's youth*

Through the centuries there have been formed many philosophies that militate against the integrity of God's Word and human morality. Philosophies such as humanism, scientism, modernism and postmodernism have opposed many of the cardinal teachings of the Bible and successfully derailed myriads of youth and adults with relativistic, pluralistic and secularist ideas. This class exposes contemporary philosophies to the light of truth and presents a practical strategy of evangelism to reach today's youth.

Suggested Professor: Ricardo Norton
· Philosophies and Movements that defy the gospel
· The Bible and the Truth
· Faith, reason and Truth
· In defense of Truth
· How to reach today's youth - strategy

**YOUTH105**

*Youth ministry among immigrants from second and third generation*

It is estimated that by 2020 the majority of hispanics in the US will be children of immigrants. Hispanics of the second and third generation make up a different culture known as "the third culture", with unique challenges and characteristics that should be considered when speaking of evangelism. This course aims to prepare participants in youth ministry among Hispanics of second and third generation.

Suggested Professor: Ricardo Norton
· Brief history of immigration in the US
· The evangelization of Hispanic immigrants in the second half of the twentieth century.
· The explosive growth of 2nd generation Hispanic - Fertility of Latinas
· Evangelistic Challenges among 2nd generation Hispanics.
· The ministry of 2nd generation Hispanics.

**YOUTH106**

*Youth councils on courtship and marriage*
Social relations between youth of the opposite sex lead frequently to premarital relations. Statistics of youth of in the U.S. indicate that only 3% of people who marry have refrained from premarital sex. Among evangelicals, statistics report that 80% of people who attend church in the US have had premarital sex. This course educates participants in theology and the problems associated with premarital sex. In addition, it presents important tips for the formation of social relationships that lead to happy marriage.

Suggested professor: Jorge Mayer
- Statistics and problems associated with premarital sex
- The Bible and friendships
- Friendship and Dating
- Guiding principles for engagement and marriage

**YOUTH107**

*Youth Sabbath: A model for involving the youth of the church*

This course presents different models for ministry and involve youth in the local church, focusing on the model created by Dr. Luis Fernando Ortiz. This model dedicates a monthly Saturday to young people, who organized a program of worship for the "Divine Worship". This class is taught by Dr. Luis F. Ortiz and requires two days-Saturday afternoon and Sunday all day.

- Christian Models to minister to youth
- Origin and Nature of Youth Sabbath
- Specific steps for developing and implementing the program

**YOUTH108**

*Youth discipleship*

Youth ministry is more than gathering youth for social activities, it includes training of disciples. This course presents biblical discipleship and youth discipleship models suitable for the local church.

Suggested Professor: Ricardo Norton
- Biblical discipleship
- Challenges of Youth Discipleship
- Biblical models of Discipleship
- Recruitment and training of young disciples

**HISTORY AND CHALLENGES OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**
This certificate prepares participants in important areas related to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Classes review the history of the church, the development of its doctrines, relations with separatist movements, challenges and coping with false doctrines. Participants will receive theoretical and practical ideas about the spread of conventional Adventism.

Curriculum for challenges and history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

**SDA 101**
*History and Development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*
- The Adventist Church in prophecy
- The Millerite movement
- The Great Disappointment—October 22, 1844
- The organization of the church
- Global statistics of the church (members, churches, schools, etc.).

**SDA 102**
*Core Beliefs*
- History of the doctrinal formation of the church
- Distinct Beliefs—Investigative Judgement, heavenly sanctuary, foot washing, the third angel’s message.
- Formation of the 28 fundamental beliefs

**SDA 103**
*Independent Movements*
- Independent ministries that support the church
- Separatist movements
- The Reformist
- The Shepherd's Rod
- Hartland Institute
- Other separatist movements
- EGW Independent Movements

**SDA 104**
*Controversial Doctrines*
- Anti-trinitarian theories
· Secular music in church, instruments, subliminal messages, etc.
· Vegetarianism

SDA 105
Theology and Sabbath observance
· The Sabbath in the bible
· The Sabbath in history
· The Sabbath in the history of the Adventist church
· The observance of the Sabbath
· The Sabbath in Prophecy

SDA 106
The Adventist Church in the world stage
· The Adventist Church in the Christian world stage
· The impact of the Adventist Church in the world
· The challenge of evangelization of every creature
· Strategy to impact the world

Certificate of Health and Nutrition
Physical and mental health of humans is intimately related to his spiritual health. Sound mind and sound body are necessary for a healthy relationship with God, with others and for the fulfillment of the mission of the church. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the abode of the "living God", who we present our bodies as an acceptable and dignified place of his presence (1 Cor 3: 16-17; 6: 19-20.; 2 Cor. 6: 16).
This health certificate prepares participants in balanced theoretical and practical knowledge of human health in order to improve their physical, mental and spiritual health, and to integrate the principles learned into evangelization.

Curriculum for Health and Nutrition

SAL 101 Theological principles for health
God wants his followers to prosper in everything and have health (3 Jn. 2). This class discusses the issue of health and nutrition in the light of the Bible and the writings of EGW. They will study topics such as:
· The original diet in Eden
· The effect of sin and the flood upon the human diet
• The ceremonial system and meat consumption
• Difficult texts: Quail, feeding of Elijah, Cornelius, Gn. 18, etc.
• EGW, vegetarianism and salvation

**SAL 102 Natural Remedies**
A study of the 8 natural remedies historically promoted by the Adventist Church, with special attention to water, rest, sunlight and fresh air. Other natural remedies will be explored in detail in subsequent classes.

- Water- importance, pollution, consumption, biblical symbol of cleanliness
- Rest-The need for physical rest, habits that disturb sleep, Saturday and spiritual and physical rest, etc.
- Solar light- Benefits and dangers of sunlight, Presentation of Christ as the Sun of Righteousness and true light source.
- Pure air- importance of breathing fresh/pure air and the introduction of the Holy Spirit as the *Ruah* of the soul

**SAL 103 Nutrition and Performance**
The quality and quantity of food affects the health and human performance. This course studies the properties and hazards of different types of food available for human consumption in supermarkets. Topics of study:

- Food groups- fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, dairy products.
- Carbohydrates and amino acid- Properties and how to identify them
- Basic vitamins for body-Properties and how to identify them
- Saturated fats- Dangers and how to identify them

**SAL 104 Mental Health**
Mental health problems are increasing considerably in the world. It is estimated that in the US There are 44.3 million people with mental disorders such as depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia and other mental disorders. Mental disorders are a leading cause of disability in North America. Topics of study:

- Anatomy and physiology of the mind- Illustrate content with graphs.
- Common mental disorders- identification, causes and treatment
- Diet and mental disorders- recent studies associated certain diets with mental problems.
- Religion and Mental Health- How God and the church can strengthen our mental health.

**SAL 105 Spirituality and Health**
This course emphasizes the importance of faith and hope as essential to human health. Practical ideas for developing faith and hope will be shared, including personal devotional time and family worship.

- The Bible and spirituality- Define, Who is a spiritual person?
• The quest for spirituality- How spirituality has been sought throughout history by means of solitude, monasticism, mysticism, etc.
• Disciplines associated with spirituality- Bible reading, prayer, worship, etc.
• Tips for training spiritual- family worship, personal devotion, etc.

**SAL 106 Health and work**
God appointed labor as a blessing to develop the physical, mental and spiritual faculties (PP 31, Ed. 18). This class discusses the importance of work as a means to engage the mind in beneficial matters and as a source of income for the purchase of healthy food and adequate medical services.

• Work and physical health - The work that demands the use of the physical body strengthens muscles and the heart. It helps people with arthritis.
• Work and Mental Health - Work distracts the mind from mental problems and concerns.
• The work as a safeguard of idleness - Study Bible texts on the subject.
• Work, money and medical care - The need of money for food, education and appropriate medical treatment.

**SAL 107 Evangelism health**
Historically, health and medical missionary work have been two of the most effective ways to bring the message of the three angels to non-Adventists. This course presents principles and practical ideas for integrating health with the gospel (eg, cooking classes, five day plan, seminars, personal testimony, etc).

**SAL 108 Drugs and stimulants**
Identification, damage, precautions and treatments.

**SAL 109 Preventive medicine**
Identification of diseases that are often incurred by inadequate diet and lifestyles (eg, cancer, diabetes, anxiety, etc.). Invitation to avoid products that are harmful to health.