

Conference to Revive Simple Church Movement

According to Acts 16, the first church planted in the West started in the home of Lydia of Thyatira, Macedonia. It was a house church. Today there are a growing number of persons expressing their faith and worship of God in gatherings of believers that meet regularly in homes or places other than a church building.

In light of this house church revival in America, the Ohio Conference has established an organizational framework for this very old New Testament practice to take root in the state. The Ohio Conference Executive Committee recently voted to establish what is being called a Simple Church—an umbrella structure within which numerous house churches can exist in Ohio.

By this action, the Ohio Conference will participate in the North American Division-endorsed Simple Church project led by Pastor Milton Adams. The project is based in Florida and will now be extended to Ohio. Pastor



Adams will provide training, coaching, and guidance to Simple Church start-ups in Ohio.

“The potential impact of Simple Church in Ohio is huge,” says Pastor Adams. “According to Dave Olsen,



Pastor Milton Adams baptizes Shawn Watson, who came to Adventism through house church meetings. Based in Florida, Adams will be providing, training, coaching, and guidance to those looking to start house churches.



who monitors religious trends in North America, in 2005 only 19 percent of people in Ohio went to church on a given weekend. With more and more people *not* going to public buildings for church, Simple Church takes Christ to them and meets them where they are—in your neighborhood.”

By definition, Simple Church is an organic, lay-led house church whose mission it is to reach unchurched and secular people with the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. Simple Church lowers the bar on what it means to “do church” and raises the bar on what it means to “go and make disciples.” The objective of Simple Church is not to “grow up” to be a regular or large church in a church building. Simple Church grows by dividing into new “simple churches” as new lay leaders are trained. Multiplication, not unlimited growth, is the ideal. The focus of Simple Church is mission rather than size, buildings, or complex governance systems. Simple Church is not a small group or a “branch Sabbath School” that is an extension of a specific congregation’s ministry. Instead, it functions as a Seventh-day Adventist entity under the umbrella of the Ohio Conference’s Simple Church structure.

Simple Church will be one of the featured topics at the 2010 Ohio Ministry University to be held February 6-7 in Columbus. “In 2010 we are looking for 50 people from Ohio who are willing to reach unchurched people and become missionaries. Give it some prayerful thought,” Adams urges.

For more information on Simple Church, visit simplechurchathome.com, or contact Monte Sahlin at montessahlin@gmail.com, or Milton Adams at miltonadams@adamsonline.org.