

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

The gift of sharing with others is known as the gift of hospitality. We are asked by God to care for others—those who Christ died to save.

In the early church, new believers praised God together and found favour with each other.

Their love for one another attracted those who observed their fellowship and “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

(Acts 2:47) Those that were added did not all have wealth, infact, the new believers met in one another’s homes, pooled their resources and shared what they had with those who possessed little or nothing.

Planning

The social committee plans for events to draw people closer to each other and God. A large or small gathering that offers warmth and friendship can fill a gap in many peoples lives.

- Assign host or hostesses to each activity or event to welcome people, provide instruction, connect people and watch for individuals who may be overlooked or appear left out.
- Create an event checklist to highlight tasks, resources and those assigned to care for them. This helps to prevent one or two people carrying all the responsibility. Check regularly on progress leading up to an event.
- Recruit and manage volunteers
- Aim for quality, creativity and beauty. Adding special touches can make an event more memorable. We honour God when we are creative.
- Ensure that all volunteers are thanked.
- Debrief after the event to identify areas for improvement and celebrate success.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at sspm.adventistconnect.org or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



THE MINISTRY OF THE **Social Committee**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as the chairperson or a member of the social committee? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what the social committee is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand the role of the social committee within your local church.

sspm.adventistconnect.org

The Role of the Social Committee

The social committee exists to enhance the atmosphere of fellowship and acceptance in the church. It helps to set the climate for a caring church by planning and organizing social events to help members and others feel loved and accepted. It provides opportunities for individuals get to know one another and enjoy being together.

Some ideas for creating fellowship:

- celebrate new members with a dinner once a year
- special birthday celebrations
- international festival with food, flags, costumes and entertainment
- "going-away" or "welcome" party
- Sabbath School picnic to get to know your class or children's division. This could also be adapted to breakfast followed by a community service activity.
- talent show
- life events and special occasions (births, graduations, weddings, anniversaries and deaths)
- age group events are helpful in larger churches
- singles events (often the singles ministry coordinator will plan for these)
- informal fellowship

Responsible to

The pastor and the Church Board.

Time Commitment

- This committee doesn't necessarily meet every month but the responsibilities of serving in this capacity shouldn't be taken lightly.



Term of Office

One year, and depending upon the church's structure, possibly longer. Experienced social committee members can help provide continuity by accepting the position for consecutive years. The social committee is elected by the church nominating committee on a yearly basis.

Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of social committee.

- **Administration:** The gift of directing or guiding the church (and its activities) toward a destination. Progress is best achieved with love and selflessness.
- **Discernment:** The ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the church and the needs of its various segments. This involves finding appropriate activities to involve as much of the congregation as possible.
- **Hospitality:** This gift provides the sense of an open house with a warm atmosphere. Being aware of how social events can contribute to a person's growth and happiness is a benefit.

