

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.

We are called to serve and witness in our local churches and to the communities we live in.

When we do this we are sharing Christ's love and the good news of salvation.

God calls every church member into ministry, to be servants of God sharing in and supporting the activities of the church. God promises to supply resources for ministry. These resources include scripture, spiritual power and gifts from the Holy Spirit. The Inner City Coordinator has an opportunity to grow God's church and strengthen the church community.

Activities and Events

A *community services centre*, supported by all of the Adventist churches in the metropolitan area, is an ideal base for inner city ministry in large cities. It would require a director and be open to the public several days each week, offering a full range of social services. A seminar room to conduct different kinds of classes, seminars and other meetings would be necessary.

Methods to meet inner city needs may include:

- *Health Screening*
- *Soup kitchens, feeding programs, homeless shelters*
- *Stress seminars and cooking schools*
- *Tutoring programs*
- *Summer camps, day camps, Bible clubs*
- *Support groups for the drug dependent*
- *Child care centres*
- *Medical clinics*
- *Family Counselling*

Connect these service ministries with a strong evangelism program.

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 **Inner City Coordinator**

Have you been asked to serve your local church as an Inner City Coordinator? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what an Inner City Coordinator is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

sspm.adventistconnect.org

The Role of the Inner City Coordinator

An inner city coordinator helps the church find a focus for the needs in city areas. The person in this position serves by helping other leaders from other churches and community organisations coordinate and integrate activities.

The Inner City Coordinator is responsible for:

- **identifying needs** by researching the demographic and social condition of the community (show sensitivity to self-identity and perceptions of each ethnic, socio-economic and life-style group)
- **guiding a strategy** for reaching out to serve various people: the poor, unemployed, illiterate, homeless and hungry, young professionals, wealthy, university students and government workers.
- helping to **improve community relations** by finding ways to establish a caring, healing relationship with each different group
- **being an advocate** for a process of inter-group cooperation and effective methods of community work
- **highlighting and promoting** the needs of the broader community to the church. (Speak for the poor, the oppressed, the victims, the discouraged and shut-out.)
- **project leadership**: the parameters to be agreed upon by church leaders and organisations. Clarify expectation with the church pastor to avoid confusion and an unreasonable workload.

Key steps for an inner city program

1. Leaders appointed and key volunteers recruited.
2. Contacts made with the government and other agencies to inform them of plans.
3. The availability of services must be communicated to the needy.



Responsible to

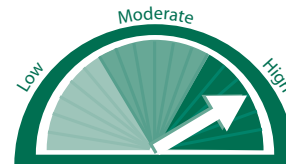
Cooperate with the pastor, senior elder, personal ministries leader, health secretary and community services leader.

Large churches may have a planning committee called the inner city committee. The coordinator may serve as chairperson of this committee or, if it is chaired by the pastor or an elder, the coordinator will be the secretary.

Plans must be shared with the Church Board(s) for review, understanding, support and action. These recommendations should be presented to the entire congregation(s) in general church business meeting(s).

Time Commitment

- You should be prepared to devote three to four hours a week to the role of the inner city coordinator.



Term of Office: One year, and depending upon the church's structure, possibly longer.

It has become apparent that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a role to play in ministering in a creative and healing way to the people groups who make up the large metropolitan areas. Some of these ministries have been long-established and need to be maintained. At the same time, new ministries need to be developed that will minister to people at their point of need (Ministry of Healing, page 143).

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 Inner City Coordinator.

- **Mercy:** is a loving response to the poor. A highly developed sense of compassion and willingness to minister to those in need, including those considered "outcasts" by society. The Holy Spirit gives a heart for the poor and oppressed and a vision of what can be done for them.
- **Hospitality:** is concern for the homeless and hungry. This means reaching out to offer friendship, food and/or shelter to those who need help.
- **Leadership:** is the ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the church. This involves communicating goals in a way that encourages and motivates others to work together to achieve them. It involves dealing with personnel problems equitably and having insight that helps resolve organization challenges. Leadership requires diligence and faith.