

Get Connected!

As people created in the image of a triune God, the need for community should not surprise us. Meaningful relationships are essential in the life of a healthy person and an effective pastor. Pursuing them is a healthy practice that assures sustainability in ministry.

Essential Connections:

❖ **Knowing God** *Time with the Lord*

There are many creative ways in which pastors stay connected with God in the midst of their ministry. A monthly personal retreat day has become the practice of many EFCA leaders.

In *For God's Sake, REST!* Jim Anderson outlines a day that provides a person with...

- A time to release concerns – prayer.
- A time to review one's work – evaluation.
- A time to remember the Lord – worship.

❖ **Deep Friendships** *Time with True Friends*

Prayer partnerships: Be supported in pray by a small group of friends who know you and your ministry. Create a way to communicate with them on a regular basis.

Mentoring friendships: Insights emerge from constructive time spent with friends who are committed to each other's growth and effectiveness in ministry. Consider connecting with someone who has gone before you or someone who is walking with you or someone who is coming along after you.

❖ **Ministry Associations** *Time with your Team*

Join the EFCA Ministerial Association: The association exists to provide benefits to its members and support EFCA Pastoral Care Ministries. Think of your membership as "team support".

Attend gatherings created for EFCA pastors:

- Districts host pastor clusters, ministerial retreats and training conferences.
- The EFCA National Office sponsors events throughout the year designed to bring together pastors of various size churches, pastoral staff serving in specialized roles and pastors wanting to interact on areas of common interest.

Obtain an EFCA Ministerial Credential: The value of a ministerial credential is the fact that it "belongs" to a group of peers who entrust it to you. In addition to securing legal status as a minister, a credential says you welcome accountability from others serving alongside you.

Learn more: www.efca.org/pastoralcare