The Good Minister: Practical Ministerial Training Opportunities

by Dan Woods

I am thrilled to have been asked to help create a series of Saturday gatherings designed to build our competence and confidence in such vital areas of practical ministry. As a start, we are planning to meet each fall to consider together what makes a "good minister" (1 Timothy 4:6):

- **"The Good Minister of Jesus Christ"** – To what are we called? What makes a good pastor? A good minister? A good leader? What happens when we're not so good? (This is not only the right place to start with new ministers, but it is also a topic that all ministers could revisit often with profit.)

In addition to an annual consideration of "the good minister," we are planning to offer a series of six more specific ministry seminars (two each year, repeated every three years):

1. **"Meeting Expectations"** – Conducting a good Local Church Council Meeting (and Church Business Meeting). Implementing a wise and visionary church budget (following the Manual, supporting the Conference). Building effective ministry teams that support each other (Local Church Ministries Council).
2. **"Meeting Family Needs"** – Conducting a good weddings, funerals, and other important family events. Conducting good pastoral counseling and conflict resolution in the church.
3. **"Meeting the First Responsibility" –** Building a healthy pastoral family. Modeling and maintaining a godly marriage. Developing good Sabbath rest and re-creation habits.
4. **"Preaching Effectively" –** Becoming a better preacher (in preparation, presentation, and pentecostal power). Resisting ministry fads and perpetuating all that is good in our Pentecostal Holiness heritage.
5. **"Imparting Doctrine" –** Becoming an effective teacher to all generations of our Statement of Faith. Countering current doctrinal drift and heresy effectively.
6. **"Engaging Culture" –** Becoming an effective teacher to all generations of our Covenant of Commitments. Maintaining a good social media presence (in a politicized and sexualized culture).

Please pray for us as we further refine these training opportunities. And pray for the people who need this training most will invest themselves in the process for the good of their families, churches, and communities.

The first session will be held on Saturday, September 17, at the Training Center in Dublin. We will begin at 10:00 a.m. The second session will be held on November 19.