

The Work of the Sunday School Council

Whether you realize it or not, you **have** a Sunday School council. This is simply a group of Sunday School leaders who provide strategic leadership for the



organization, forming a mutual support network to discuss, evaluate, plan, and carry out the work of the Sunday School. In the very smallest situation, the pastor and Sunday School Director can form the Sunday School Council. In a somewhat larger church, the Sunday School director and other general officers are joined by the Sunday School teachers. As the Sunday School grows,

the department directors and/or age group division directors form the Sunday School council.

In any case, the Sunday School director needs a group to serve as a sounding board, representing diversity in viewpoint and approach, to provide the most effective leadership. Try to enlist individuals in these leadership positions who have mature spiritual character, a real vision of God's plan for the church and Sunday School, and a real heart for Sunday School work.

Ideally, these representatives should not already be serving as teachers in their respective areas of representation. Rather, enlist persons to serve who have the gift of administration and are good communicators, good listeners. You'll need them to be able to build great relationships with all those who are teaching/working in the age group area they will represent on the council.

For example, a typical Sunday School council in a medium sized church might look something like this:

- Sunday School Director
- Assistant Director or records secretary
- Preschool Division Director
- Children's Division Director
- Youth Division Director
- Adult Division Director
- (possibly) Outreach Director
- (possibly) Training & Development Director



These individuals would work on Sunday Morning to ensure the teachers in their respective areas of responsibility were present and accounted for, had all the

supplies they needed, were remembering to make any agreed upon announcements to their classes, etc.

Then, when the time came for the monthly Sunday School Council meeting, they would bring reports to the council of needs, concerns, and help the council to plan for growth, etc. They would represent their workers in the council meeting.

It is best if these individuals are not currently serving as teachers so that as plans and decisions are made, they are not tempted to nor easily accused of making plans that favor their own class over another. Objectivity is crucial as they work to weigh the needs of the Sunday School. Especially the growing Sunday School.

DUAL Sunday Schools

In the case of a DUAL Sunday School, representation is needed on a SS Council from each Sunday School. Consider Co-Directors of your Sunday School. These should be individuals who can work together to plan and coordinate the (often competing) needs of the two Sunday Schools.

Representation from each age group, at each hour, is also crucial. So you would have, represented on your council, an Adult SS Division Director from SS 1, as well as an Adult SS Division Director from SS 2, etc. In each case, these individuals should coordinate their work on the council and be individuals who do not see their roles as in competition for resources.

The Sunday School council, then, working together, can bring recommendations to the church for planned growth, curriculum, Sunday School meeting times, promotional growth plans such as high attendance days and much more. The more people engaged in the planning of such events and plans, the more likely the Sunday School as a whole will become engaged and the purposes of the Sunday School fulfilled.

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