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Organizational Preference of Members in Historically Defined Homogeneous Conferences of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church: A Question of Organizational Identity [Dissertation Notice]

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the original Valuegenesis Europe questionnaire. In addition, four new faith development scales were constructed. These instruments were used to test a sample of 1,359 adolescents and young adults between 14 and 25 years of age in German-speaking Europe.

A thorough statistical analysis confirmed what anecdotal evidence already suggests: There are key factors of faith development in the area of family as well as in the area of church that influence the faith development of adolescents and young adults in German-speaking Europe.

Swanner, Joseph Thomas, IV (2014). *Two by two leadership: A model of Christian leadership*. D.Min., Liberty University.

A growing number of scholars are accepting the suggestion that shared leadership is preferred over individual leadership. The shared leadership model is proliferating into new fields, where it is being modified and improved. Biblically, there is a pattern of sending individuals two by two into leadership, as well. Christian leadership models of the future must also return to the two by two, co-leader ideal. There is room for strategizing the details of what this model will look like on a practical level. Utilizing a case study and surveys, this project examined the effects of this leadership model in a church plant context, with an urban small group network. This context provides insight on the details of how shared leadership might look in the modern church.

Stunkard, David R. (2014). *Organizational preference of members in historically defined homogeneous conferences of the Seventh-day Adventist Church*:

***A question of organizational identity*. Ph.D., Andrews University.**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America has a dual-conference system, an organizational structure featuring “Black conferences” that were established for the purpose of ministering with and for Black populations and “White conferences” tasked with caring for all other populations. Since this system was instituted, however, the constituency demographics have become so racially and ethnically diversified that questions have begun to arise about the identity and necessity of this organizational structure.

This study sought to examine attitudes of constituents toward three organizational identity options: (a) a homogeneous organization, (b) a multicultural organization, and (c) a synergistic organization. A survey was developed, with input from experts and focus groups consisting of members of both types of organizations (Black and White conferences). The survey was given to a sample of members in a White conference (Georgia-Cumberland) and a Black conference (South Central). There were 433 valid responses from randomly selected participants from both conferences who represented some 24 different racial/ethnic groups.

Results showed that none of the racial/ethnic groups and none of the age segments showed a preference for a homogeneously defined organizational identity. There was also no difference between responses from smaller or larger churches in both conferences. The highest preference in every racial/ethnic group, church size, and age category was to have a synergistically defined organizational identity.