

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHURCH: RENEWAL CHRISTIAN CENTER, MITCHELLVILLE, MARYLAND

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If the local church is to successfully fulfill its mission, it must have trained lay leaders who understand the biblical qualifications and responsibilities of church leadership as well as how to serve effectively as leaders in the local church. This need is even more acute for new churches, which typically are planted with a core group who assist the pastor. In most cases, such individuals may not have received any form of training to handle the responsibilities of church leadership. The absence of such training hinders effective service. Renewal Christian Center (RCC), planted in August 2001, found itself in that situation.

The purpose of this project was to design a nine-week “Leadership Development Seminar,” to train current and potential lay leaders at RCC. The training entailed two-hour sessions on nine Wednesday nights. Topics included: “The Purpose of the Church,” “Qualifications and Responsibilities of Church Leaders,” “Servant Leadership,” “How a Leader is Developed,” “The Need for Vision,” “The Value of Team Leadership,” and “The Leader and Conflict.” In addition, a retreat was held for prayer, reflection, feedback and teambuilding.

Thirty participants attended the seminar. Quantitative and written feedback indicated that participants benefited considerably from the seminar, with significant improvement in their knowledge, and that they felt better equipped as far as their leadership skills to handle their responsibilities as church leaders. The seminar validated the need for a deliberate process to be put in place for the selection and training of leaders for the local church. The project can serve as a resource for training leaders in any church. Such training will enhance the quality of leadership in the local church and serve as a blessing to the kingdom of God.