

Sierra Leadership Network Curriculum: Month 8, Year 3

Participation in the Sierra Leadership Network (SLN) is a process of adult learning. It is the responsibility of the participant to do their assignments and seek out the necessary accountability. It is the responsibility of the participant to schedule time with their mentor, not the other way around. Here is a checklist of this month's exercises and space for comments. All useful generated materials should be placed in your Sierra Leadership Network binder. The mentor will look over the exercises and be given opportunity to add their own comments. Be sure you take your binder to the meetings at Granite Springs Church to also be available to the SLN directors.

Month 6, Year 3

Date Completed

____/____/____ CRC Church History

[Estimated time: _____]

Mentor Comments:

____/____/____ Financial Resourcing

Mentor Comments

[Estimated time: _____]

____/____/____ Financial Accountability:

Mentor Comments

[Estimated time: _____]

Participant Signature

Mentor Signature

I. CRC Church History

1. If you are a participant in the SLN chance are at some point in time you will have to give some account for why the CRC is as it is today and how we got here. It is therefore important to know something about the history of CRC. Like everything in this world of time and space, action and consequence, the present shape of the church has clear bearing on its history.
2. For an overview of the history of the CRC read Larry Spalink's piece that can be found at <http://www.crchurches.net/resources/crcstuff/WhoWeAre/history/> . This piece was written for a class given in Japan by a CRC missionary under the supervision of a professor from Mid-America Reformed Seminary (MARS). It is important to note that MARS was created as an conservative alternative to Calvin Seminary and many United Reformed Church pastors are trained at that institution. The author clearly has his own positions on a variety of issues, especially as we get closer to the present time. The piece does do a nice job of hitting the main events of CRC church history and giving you some historical perspective.
3. After reading the piece chose ONE of the following activities for your assignment:
 - a. Reflect on this history of the CRC ministry you are working with in the light of the overall history of the CRC. How do they connect? What larger trends in the history of the CRC had an impact on your church?
 - b. Reflect on your personal history within the CRC in the light of CRC church history. How has the history of the CRC changed you?
 - c. If you aren't involved with the CRC and don't have a history of it, write a brief history either on the church you're working with or how trends in American church history have impacted who you are.

II. Financial Resourcing of Your Ministry

1. Interview a pastor of a church plant and let them know off the bat you want to talk about money. Find out the answer to the following questions:
 - a. How was the church plant supported in its very early stages?
 - b. What was the relative role of denominational money verses money raised for personal missionary support?
 - c. How did the church planter feel about money in those early years?
 - d. How did the church planter teach new believers about giving and stewardship?
 - e. What lessons did the church planter learn about resourcing ministry through their experience?
 - f. Anything else you might think is important?
2. Reflect on what you can learn from the experience of the church planter.

III. Financial Accountability

1. Take some time devotionally to read what the Bible has to say about money.
2. Meditate on the role money plays in your life and the impact it has on your heart.
3. Talk to your mentor about what you've found.