

Official press release from the  
World Headquarters of the  
Seventh-day Adventist Church



## Adventist News Network

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### **Backgrounder: Leadership Roles, Future Are Adventist Church Session Focus**

With Seventh-day Adventist Church global membership on an exponential growth track, the need to address key questions of leadership remains strong.

A series of five presentations and discussion periods will explore the essential qualities of Adventist leadership. Issues such as integrity, response to diversity, acting with responsibility and ecclesiastical authority will be discussed against this backdrop of extraordinary church growth, and the increasing need to have high-quality, committed leaders to serve a growing community.

This is a rare opportunity, says Pastor Jan Paulsen, world church president: "The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates in so many different cultures—in more than 200 countries around the world—and in many places it naturally takes on a local feel and 'flavor,'" he said. "And yet when it comes to Adventist leadership there are a number of essential qualities that transcend culture or geography. Whether it is a local church pastor or a world church administrator, there must be a continuity of ethical, administrative and spiritual standards. It is these essential values of leadership that we are seeking to clearly identify and nurture at every level of church administration."

With more than 25 million people attending weekly worship services in over 50,000 congregations around the world, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the fastest-growing mainstream Protestant denominations in the world today. In 2004, a new member joined the church every 29.46 seconds, on average, with a new congregation being organized every 4.33 hours. There are nearly 14 million baptized members of the church today in 203 countries and territories.

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