

Who Does the Pastor Talk To?



As a pastor, I learned that sometimes, you can get involved in rather unusual situations that catch you off guard. Late one evening, an older lady from our congregation called because she knew my number and needed help with a bat in her house!

Though I haven't had a repeat of that situation (Praise God!) many people in church come to me, as the pastor, with suggestions about worship, Biblical questions or to ask for counseling. It seems as if pastors are the people that you can go to if you aren't sure who you can talk to, and when you want someone who will love and pray with you through the good and bad times of life.

But here's an interesting question that church members don't often ponder. Who does the Pastor talk to? Certainly, church members can love and support their pastor; but, a pastor can get lonely and needs to find the support and encouragement of others who understand the ins and outs of ministry.

Recognizing this need, several years ago, ABCOPAD created Leadership Learning Communities. These small groups of pastors come together to love and support one another, but also to learn and grow in their ministry skills. As the Regional Coordinator for LLCs, it's my goal to provide resources to these groups and to help encourage the pastors that lead these groups. I am excited for this year as we are going to be focusing on a book, *Small Church Essentials*, which is full of both encouragement and also motivation to help our churches become healthy and vibrant congregations. In January, the LLCs will be studying this book. Plans are already in place to provide additional resources and discussion with the author Karl Vaters, to both our pastors and churches.

Pastors need support and others to encourage them and even laugh with them as we seek to minister to our congregations.

Your support to **Partners in Ministry** helps fund our Leadership Learning Communities and resource them, which in turn helps churches in our Region have leadership which will love and lead their congregation through all the situations they will face in life.

Though I'm now officially a Regional Ministry Associate, and will seek to serve our Region faithfully, if you've got bats in your church, I'd suggest you call someone a little more qualified. 😊



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