

HUNTSVILLE ASSOCIATION FOR PASTORAL CARE

The School of Applied Ministry (SAM) 1997 - 2006



The School of Applied Ministry (SAM) was born out of a conviction that congregational laity who serve as spiritual care-providers benefit from education and training to equip and sustain them in the caring ministries. It was founded on the following purpose and underlying principles:

- 1. We believe all God's people are called to minister according to their respective gifts.*
- 2. We exist to provide quality education to prepare God's people for more effective ministry.*
- 3. We exist to supplement existing programs of pastoral care training and provide resources to any without access to such programs*
- 4. We offer courses taught by excellent local and regional faculty from a non-denominational Christian perspective, while insisting on respect for all faith traditions.*
- 5. We offer courses with a solid theological foundation and a practical pastoral care emphasis.*
- 6. We provide curriculum that contains both basic and advanced courses.*

SAM continues to be one of HAPC's flagship ministry initiatives. Over 350 people have benefited from at least one of the many courses we have offered. Most participants have come out of congregational care ministry settings, but classes are open to ministers and ministry team leaders, helping professionals, parish nurses, social workers, and individuals seeking under-girding, skills and tools for spiritual care ministries, whatever they may be.

The classes we are now offering and planning will continue to represent a broad range of relevant themes, as have those in the past, including:

- *"An Introduction to Caring Ministry"*
- *"To Love As We Are Loved: Using Biblical Principles in Pastoral Care"*
- *"The Art of Caring for Persons with Depression"*
- *"Public Prayer and Pastoral Care"*
- *"Caring In Crisis: Building A Foundation for Intervention"*
- *"Ministering in Diversity: Caring in the Midst of Difference"*
- *"Violence: The Caring Church's Response"*
- *"The Biblical Foundation For Love: Wholesome Care that Leads to Sacrifice AND Fulfillment"*
- *"Prayer and Caring Ministry"*
- *"Listening: As Skill and Sacred Art"*
- *"Negotiating a Good Death: Quality Caring for Quality Living at the End Of Life"*
- *"Feelings: God's Grace, our Care-giving and Human Emotions"*
- *"Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Senior Adults"*
- *"Spirituality and Medicine: Making the Spiritual-Healing Connection"*
- *"Ministering in the Winter of Grief"*
- *"Inclusive Love: Human Disability and Service to God"*
- *"Addictive and Dependent Behaviors in the Church: How We Can Help Those Who Struggle"*
- *"Responding to People in Personal Crisis: The Basics of Helping People Cope and Grow."*
- *"Safeguarding the Children and Youth in Our Care"*
- *"Dealing with Human Emotions in Care-Giving"*

To reach more people with its quality programs, SAM needs increased congregational investment. Please consider helping spread the word – and we encourage you to also explore how your congregation might become an ongoing sponsor. Call us at 534-4462 or 880-2074. You can also e-mail us at hapchsv@yahoo.com. THANKS!