

Six Best Practices for Lifelong Learners

1. **THINK SMARTER THAN THE MINIMUM**

If you're focusing on how you'll complete 20 hours of lifelong learning over a year's time, you've missed the point of lifelong learning! Instead, focus on what you need to enhance your ministry and yourself as minister.

2. **STRETCH YOURSELF**

Look for lifelong learning opportunities that push you into a new area of learning, nudge you out of your comfort zone, and requires that you wrestle with new ideas or gain new skills.

3. **LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES, NOT EXCUSES**

In most settings, there are many opportunities for lifelong learning, whether in-person or online. Look for offerings by your nearest Nazarene college or university, your district or regional office, professional groups in your community, etc.

4. **AVOID LONELY LEARNING**

Whenever possible, learn with others. Learning as part of a group maximizes the benefits of the experience. As the African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

5. **PURSUE BALANCE IN YOUR LIFELONG LEARNING PLAN**

A balanced lifelong learning plan involves 1) engaging in a variety of learning activities, such as conferences, webinars, peer-learning activities, seminars, etc., and 2) selecting opportunities that connect with all four development areas: Content, Competency, Context, and Character. Although there are seasons when it is helpful to focus on one or two development areas, it is best to balance your learning activity over time.

REPORT YOUR LIFELONG LEARNING HOURS IMMEDIATELY

When you participate in a lifelong learning activity, note the event descriptions and schedules. This information will help you report accurately. Make it easy on yourself by reporting immediately after the event.