

SMALL MEMBERSHIP CHURCH CONFERENCE
Saturday, September 19, 2026, 8:30 am-3:00 pm
at Coopers Cove Baptist Church
1929 Coopers Cove Rd, Hardy, VA 24101

PURPOSE

The purpose of this conference is to help members/leaders of small membership churches better understand the characteristics of the small membership church, encourage them and provide guidance related to effective service in such a church.

FORMAT

The format of the conference includes five sessions (Effective Leadership, Corporate Worship Service, Fellowship and Member Care, Mission and Ministry, and Teaching and Discipleship). Each session will be facilitated by a presenter who has had experience serving in a small membership church and understands how to serve effectively in that setting. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attendees for the conference or lunch; however, registration is required so that adequate resources can be prepared for each attendee. To register, send name, phone number and e-mail address of each attendee to Bob Hetherington (hoge1946@gmail.com). Put "Small Membership Church Conference" in the subject line.

MEMBERSHIP SIZE AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

Probably, you have noticed that this is not called the "Small Church Conference." There is a reason for that! Some may assume that church size determines the quality, importance and impact of church ministry. That may be true in some cases; however, that does not have to be nor is it true as an overall characteristic.

Aaron Earls (a Lifeway researcher) reports that 50% of U.S. churches have approximately 65 or fewer weekly worship attendees. By experience, you are aware of some of the characteristics, challenges, factors, disadvantages, advantages and opportunities related to a small membership church. By design, this conference is being held at Coopers Cove Baptist Church, a small membership church.

A small membership church may think that they are in some way underpowered, unequipped and lacking in resources because of their size and/or situation; however, the Holy Spirit is the One who empowers, equips and resources the local church, no matter what size.

To learn more about this conference contact Bob Hetherington (540-520-7273 or hoge1946@gmail.com).