

Reflections on the Shared Journey-

This coming Friday and Saturday, members of the 2008 Leadership Council will gather for the 1st of the council's meetings this year. The Council is composed of those in leadership roles in the various ministry areas – administrative, nurture, outreach, worship. It is designed (1) to be a support system to those in leadership roles and (2) to provide leadership and direction for our life together. The Council is led this year by John Oberkrom, Council Chair.

In this weekend's retreat, the Council will initiate a re-visioning process that will guide our focus for the next 3-5 years. They will address the never-ending challenge of communicating within the larger body. (Insider thinking constantly limits our effectiveness.) And they will be introduced to a leadership model to reinforce the leadership training they have already had.

In any relational system, leadership – formal and informal – is the key. The leader's effectiveness determines (1) the quality of relationships within the group and (2) what the group will accomplish. To say it another way, the group is only as effective as its leader. Knowing the value of good leadership, we at SJA seek to invest in those who serve in leadership roles. We challenge them to lead and empower a team rather than do the work themselves.

I encourage you to be aware of those who lead our various ministries – staff and volunteer. Pray for them and encourage them. Work alongside of them as we partner with God in doing God's work.

On February 17, a new session of SJA's leadership workshop - *Leading the Way: Servant Leadership at SJA* – will begin. Consider participating whether you view yourself as a leader or not. Contact the church office to register.

I look forward to all that God will do in us and among us and through us in the coming year. I'll see you in worship this Sunday, expecting God's blessing.

Grace and peace, Steve