

# Healthy Congregations

## Workshop 1 • Creating Healthier Congregations

The New Testament speaks of the church as a living system—"the body of Christ." Paul makes clear that this body is made up of many parts, yet functioning as one. In biology the mark of organic life is the continuing struggle of balance and imbalance. If balance fails, there is sickness. Gross imbalance results in death. Health, therefore, is the drive for life, what an organism does to preserve itself, how it responds to challenges to its integrity, and how it adapts to changes. The same is true for the congregation. Its health is its response.

What responses create health in congregations? What kind of interactions and relationships happen in healthy churches? What type of functioning advances, rather than impedes, the mission of the church in the local congregation? Health is a multidimensional phenomenon.

In this workshop we will primarily look at three health promoting responses:

1. Healthy congregations accept differences (rather than deny)
2. Healthy congregations focus on their strengths (rather than weaknesses)
3. Healthy congregations focus on mission (rather than "getting along," the past, survival, "the minister," or some other thing or issue)

### 2-Day Workshop

**January 6 & 7, 2010**

Wednesday & Thursday night

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Almond Valley Christian Reformed Church**

**Optional Workbook: \$15 (strongly encouraged)**

*\$25 if purchased at the workshop, as available.*

**Registration Deadline: Monday, December 21**

Registration must be received by December 21 (address below). You may also deliver to Almond Valley CRC if you'd prefer.

cut here

cut here

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Workbook (circle one):    yes            no            (payable to Almond Valley CRC)

*Send completed registration and payment (if ordering optional workbook) to:*

*Rev. Lloyd Wicker, 240 Sun Valley Court, Ripon, CA 95366.*

*If you have questions, please call (209) 629-0333 or e-mail [Lloyd.Wicker@gmail.com](mailto:Lloyd.Wicker@gmail.com).*