

No to the Status Quo!

by David Dillon

“To be or not to be? That is the question.” Perhaps Shakespeare’s question should be worded differently for the pastor who desires to move beyond the way things are to the way things can be, for both himself and the organization which he leads and serves. To that one, the question to be answered is, *“To learn or not to learn?”*

Living and learning go hand-in-hand; they are inseparable in every arena of life. All of us “learned” how to do everything needed to function as human beings. As infants we learned that crying out with a loud, high-pitched sound was the means to get the attention of someone who would give us something to eat, change our diaper, or just cradle us in their arms when we felt the need to be held. Later we learned the motor and relational skills that enabled us to feed ourselves, take care of our own personal hygiene, and have satisfying personal relationships.



As life went on, we acquired the knowledge of those things necessary to function at a basic level in society. Ultimately, what we learned through the education process played a major role in determining our lot in life and the degree of success we would have in our chosen vocation, whether secular or sacred.

For a pastor the call of God to the divine task of shepherding His people is the motivating factor for Christian service. The call is God’s part. The appropriate response of the called—our part—is two-fold: to respond in the affirmative and to do all one can to be best equipped for the task to be done.

Continuing education for the man or woman of God ensures that personal growth and forward progress will take place. It also increases the likelihood that staleness and repetition of doing the same, the status quo, will be avoided.

Remember, pastor, the status quo is *always* the path of least resistance for any leader and should be avoided at all costs by the shepherds of Christ’s church. “Just say no” to the status quo! Learn and lead on!



David Dillon serves as the network pastor and superintendent of the Appalachian Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God covering portions of Virginia and West Virginia. He also serves as president of the Association of Assemblies of God District Schools of Ministry, a ministry training concept he pioneered in 2000-01 and which has been adopted by 32 districts of the denomination with nearly 4,000 students nationwide. He and his wife Lisa have two children and one grandchild.