



Lisa G. Simmons
Director of Discipleship Ministries

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Dear Pastor,

Please give this letter a complete reading! It can change lives inside and outside your church!

Greetings to you and blessings as you continue to work for the honor and glory of our Lord. I appreciate you and your love and care for your congregation as well as for those who God has placed in your path! Prayers for continued guidance from God as well as wisdom that comes only from Him.

The Discipleship Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is pleased to announce the 2018 theme for discipleship is **Faith in the Workplace**. The commission has studied and planned for over a year in light of the theme and is very excited about the possibilities of our convention focusing, studying and being "workplace" (wherever you find YOUR workplace) Christians and missionaries.

Our hope is that each West Virginia Baptist Convention church participate in this emphasis for all of 2018. Let's make **Faith in the Workplace** more than just a study. Let's make it a movement in our churches and places of work. Studies have shown that churches who focus regularly on encouraging, supporting and training workers benefit in many ways and the kingdom of God is honored and grown. This is discipleship! It is equipping workers to grow in spiritual maturity and in their ability to reflect Christ even in an environment that may be closed to "religious" matters.

There are many resources available for you to use. Marketplace ministries is one of the fastest growing sectors in discipleship today. After much research and testing, the Discipleship Commission recommends materials from **WorkLife** (WorkLife.org)

WorkLife is a premier organization that has had decades of building practical tools and strategies for churches, businesses and organizations to answer the question, "Where is the God who was with me on Sunday?" **WorkLife** is Biblically based. Its core beliefs are that every Christian is a minister, every person must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ from which flows a fruitful ministry, work is ordained by God and there should be no division between the "sacred" calling and the "secular" calling as all are for the glory of God.

WorkLife includes materials for ALL size churches and all church personalities. It is fresh, relevant, insightful, thought-provoking and adaptable, and cost effective! Videos, books, study guides, a church planning manual, weekly texts, weekly discussion emails and handouts are some of the materials offered. The book, **Monday Morning Atheist**, is the first step in this exciting movement. It is given **free** to you by the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

BUT WAIT! There's more! The West Virginia Baptist Convention in partnership with **WorkLife** is offering a **free** subscription to the **WorkLife Switch Tool** which provides additional, weekly online materials for continued study and learning throughout the year. YES, a subscription for every person in your church who chooses to subscribe. These are your mission dollars at work for the empowerment of your congregation.

The following page explains in more detail how your church can get started! Please take the time today to check out the resources and materials. There is also a registration form for those who would like to receive the **WorkLife Switch Tool**.

I am happy to answer questions you may have and help you plan a year of **Faith in the Workplace** for your church. Please contact me at Lsimmons@wvbc.org or call my home office at 304-273-9693.

Join the Movement!

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Simmons
Director of Discipleship Ministries/Associate in Mission Support

Suggestions For Using WorkLife in Your Church

1. Learn about the **WorkLife** and its resources. Read the Monday Morning Atheist (provided by the West Virginia Baptist Convention).
2. Go to the **WorkLife** website, www.worklife.org and learn about what **Worklife** has to offer. Be sure to check out the tabs for workers and for the church. There is a doctoral thesis online too!
3. Order and download the PDF file titled, Church WorkLife Guide. Read the guide in light of the personality and situation of your congregation.
4. Schedule when you will begin the six-week **WorkLife** study titled The Switch. We encourage each church to start as early as January 2018.
5. Order a Switch Kit for each person participating in the study. Kits can be ordered online through WorkLife.org for bulk pricing.
6. Those participating can also sign up for six weekly texts free from **WorkLife**. Instructions are in the Switch Kits.
7. Order Thrive Guides (see online). These can be used as bulletin inserts or given out at services. You also have them sent via email to those participating. Prices are online.
8. Recruit participants for the **FREE** online **WorkLife Work Tools**. A registration form is included.
9. Plan when you will be delivering messages or having small group studies focused on workers, the theology of the work, work as worship, thriving at work, facing challenges at work, etc. **WorkLife** materials can give you many suggestions. Again, this is a year-long study and focus!
10. Schedule and plan an event celebrating the ministry of work and how it can change your community.