Title: The nature of the church and ministry in the theology of John Calvin and John Wesley and its implications for the Adventist church

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Abstract:

This dissertation is a comparative, historical, and theological evaluation of the nature of the church and ministry in the theology of John Calvin and John Wesley, and its implications for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The study is significance in the sense that the impact of Calvin and Wesley concept of the church and ministry on the Adventist Church has not been explored.

The introductory chapter examines the lack of consensus among Christians as to what ministry means and who the ministers are. Chapter 2 espouses the nature of the church and ministry in the Bible and the history of the church to help ascertain why there was a need for a clearer ecclesiology and ministry from Calvin and Wesley.

Chapters 3 and 4 expound the church and ministry in the theology of Calvin and Wesley. They defined the church as any place where the Word is preached and the Sacraments are properly administered. The priesthood of all believers is a hallmark in their concept of ministry.

Chapter 5 compares Calvin and Wesley's views on the church and ministry to help identify views in their thoughts that can or have impacted the Adventist Church. Both theologians share similar and unique views on the church and ministry.
Chapter 6 synthesizes the ecclesiological views of Calvin and Wesley and their implications for the SDA Church. While the SDA Church shares many views in common with Calvin and Wesley, they also hold unique views.

Chapter 7 is a summation and conclusion of the study. The priesthood of all believers when practiced carefully provides opportunity for all believers to play meaningful roles in the ministry. Mission determines our ministry. Calvin developed a fourfold ministry to fulfill his mission of nurturing the believers. Wesley with a balanced understanding of the church and ministry gave opportunity in ministry to the laity as a fulfillment of his mission of spreading scriptural holiness in the world. The driving force in ministry is mission. The ministry is the lot of all believers.