DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER

Event: A Leadership Formation Conference for Local Church Elders in Poland
Date: 19–20 September 2026
Place: Campus of Polish College of Theology and Humanities
Presenter: Dr Tihomir Lazic

'Different, but Together' is a journey of leadership formation for local church elders navigating growing diversity, polarisation, and change. Beginning with the life of communion for which we were created, we explore what can hold us together amid genuine difference, how the other might become a gift in our continuing quest for truth, and how we can discern together what God is doing. The journey culminates in a practical challenge: how can we participate faithfully and creatively in God's mission in Poland today?

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Saturday · 10:15 | SABBATH SERMON

MADE FOR COMMUNION: Why Community Matters

Key question: *What kind of life were we made for?*

In a culture shaped by individualism and the quest for an authentic self, faith and spirituality are increasingly imagined as something we can pursue on our own. Yet the biblical vision of *koinonia* points to a different way of being: a shared life with God and one another in which we become more fully who we were created to be.

Saturday · 14:45–15:45 | LECTURE 1

DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER: Adventisms within Adventism

Key question: *What holds us together when we see things so differently?*

Adventism is becoming increasingly diverse and polarised, with competing visions of what it means to be Adventist. What lies beneath these differences, and what can help us resist becoming competing tribes and continue the journey together?

15:45–16:15 · Q&A / Workshop — Where do we experience the strongest differences in our churches? When does difference become polarisation? What could help us remain in genuine relationship and continue the journey together?

Saturday · 16:30–17:30 | LECTURE 2

PRESENT TRUTH AS A COMMUNAL QUEST: Why We Need the Other

Key question: *What if we need the other to see what we cannot see alone?*

Adventism was born as a community on a continuing quest for present truth. But such a quest raises a deeper question: what kind of community must we become to discern truth faithfully together? If no single perspective can exhaust the truth, perhaps otherness is not a challenge to be overcome, but a gift that can help us see what we cannot see alone.

17:30–18:00 · Q&A / Workshop — Whose perspectives are easiest for us to dismiss? How can we listen across difference without surrendering conviction? What practices could make the search for truth genuinely communal?

Saturday · 19:45 | Q&A / INTEGRATION

DIFFERENT, BUT TOGETHER: Digesting the Day

Key question: *What would it take to make this possible in our churches?*

An open space to revisit the day's questions, raise practical concerns, and explore how communion, difference, and the communal quest for truth might be embodied in local Adventist communities.

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Sunday · 09:15–10:15 | LECTURE 3

DISCERNING TOGETHER: How Do We Discern What God Is Doing?

Key question: *How do we discern together what God is doing?*

Difference alone does not produce wisdom. We explore a communal practice of discernment rooted in the Word, attentive to the Spirit, and awake to what God may be doing within us, through us, and around us.

10:15–10:45 · Q&A / Workshop — Where might God already be at work within, through, and around our communities? How do we test what should be adopted, adapted, abandoned, or advanced?

Sunday · 11:00–12:00 | LECTURE 4

FAITHFUL IMPROVISATION: How Do We Participate in What God Is Doing in Poland?

Key question: *How do we respond faithfully when there is no ready-made script?*

Mission begins with God. Faithful improvisation asks how a church deeply rooted in Scripture and its Adventist story can recognise where God is already at work and participate creatively and courageously in God's mission within the changing realities of Poland.

Practical application within the session — Where do we recognise God already at work in our local context? Where might God be surprising or unsettling us? What might faithful participation require from our churches? What should we preserve, challenge, reimagine, or begin?

THE JOURNEY

COMMUNION → OTHERNESS → DISCERNMENT → PARTICIPATION