

Thoughts from one PWM --

About six years ago, we did away with the "team" format and became a collaborative group. Our churches are spread so far apart that a traditional "team" was ineffective. So, the "president" became more of a Coordinator, who polls the leadership of every church to get a consensus on decisions to be made. This has transformed our ministry and increased participation.

We planned and implemented a successful retreat this way. Our goal was to knit us together as a community of faith across the miles. We didn't have a speaker, but divided up at round tables to discuss our unique ministries. Each church brought a different craft and we divided up again according to which craft we wanted to do. Each church was asked to plan table decorations unique to their area and our lunch room was resplendent with local pride. We held a book raffle and gave away women's ministry resources. It was a wonderful way to connect!

We have a one word mission statement: "CONNECT." We are constantly trying to implement it in practical ways. When a minister in one of our churches had a catastrophic injury and his wife was struggling, we showered her with Walmart gift cards, and sent in cards of encouragement. When another dear pastor's wife lost her husband, we rallied around her with shows of support over long miles. I travel around the state every two years to meet with ministry leaders and find out how best to assist them. We have a women's room at every presbytery meeting especially for elders' wives. It's just tea, cookies, and warm conversation.

We are blessed to have a presbytery that supports our women's ministry. There's a line item in the budget especially directed toward women's ministry, and I am invited to give a report annually.