

Church Case Studies

How could your ministry approach these problems in a way that is consistent with the Doctrine of the Church?

1. Women's ministry, every year, has a tea and speaker for the women of the church. Its purpose is for fellowship and Biblical inspiration. The church has gone through some changes over the years. The neighborhood is changing from families to mixed yuppie and low income, but most members now live further away. The new pastor and session have an overall view towards a church of the community. As a women's ministry team, in order to be a helper to the church as a whole, what plans would you make concerning this tea, tweak or replace?

 - Group 1: Defend and describe tweak
 - Group 2: Defend and describe replace
2. Your women's ministry planned an event that was purposeful in including working women of the community using a supper format. The event was carefully planned and put on the church calendar months ahead, reserving the multi-use sanctuary. As the date grew closer, the women's team learned that the dates for the Christmas Dramatic Musical had been changed and conflicted with the women's event. Both events had been publicized. The rumor was that the music director was being uncooperative.

 - As a women's ministry, how would you solve this dilemma while remaining supportive of other church ministries?
3. You are in a young church plant in a college town with many para-church organizations but few evangelical church options, let alone reformed churches. The church has just been particularized. There has been a lot of work put into the total ministry. The women's ministry has organized with a team member for bible studies, mercy projects, events, and discipleship groups. However, the new pastor has not had a good experience with organized women's ministry and immediately disbands it.

 1. What and how do you respond to the pastor?
 2. Where do you and your team use their gifts?

4. You are in a large church with several women's bible studies. Each class is responsible for their material. Some studies are small with an evangelistic emphasis, some are intense studies, and some are book studies. The session has charged the women's ministry team to ensure that the women's bible studies are being taught in accordance with the church's reformed doctrine as well as reflect the church's mission.
 1. How would you approach the classes?
 2. How would you have the material chosen?
 3. How would you unify the different formats to reflect the mission and purpose statement of your church?

5. You are in a very large church. Your church planted most of the PCA churches in the area. The women's ministry is planning the yearly women's retreat that would probably involve hundreds of women from your church. In your mailbox in the church office you find an invitation for the women of your church to attend a Presbytery-wide event with a speaker that will be held at one of those churches your church planted. The date is the one you had been looking at for your retreat.
 1. How could you bring the gifts and graces of your women to the presbytery?
 2. What picture would this bring your women?
 3. Is it worth it? Why or why not?

6. There is an underlying division among your women because of the schooling choice they have made for their children. That same division is seeping its way into the youth and children's ministry. Some of it is because the women are passionate about the choice they have made for their children, but some of it also is because of the way that choice affects their time and the scheduling of their day. The youth especially, but also the children, are having difficulty relating because their days and the things they are dealing with look so different.
 - What are some practical ways you could pursue unity rather than division?