

Planning Notes for Restructuring Your Women's Ministry

Faith Area

Leadership for Women's Ministries

Vision

- A group of mature women of strong, godly character would take ownership of leading Women's Ministries in such a way that it would bring glory to God.
- They would willingly take on responsibility for looking honestly at where the women of our church are and search the Scriptures for God's heart for where He wanted them to be.
- They would be prayer warriors for our church and for individual women.
- They would each maintain contact with a portion of the congregation and prayerfully be looking for ways to involve them in the life of the church—especially those who might otherwise fall through the cracks.
- Young women in the church would have access to role models who could help them live godly lives.
- The women in leadership would constantly be evaluating what Women's Ministries is doing to see if we are accomplishing our purpose.
- They would seek to stay aware of the purpose and goals of the church leadership and would do everything they can to help the women of the church move in that direction.
- They would see how Women's Ministries fits in with the total ministry of Covenant, and would seek to serve other ministries when needed.

Present Situation

Resources:

- God
- very diverse women
- great, flexible facilities • finances
- supportive Session
- supportive staff

Barriers:

- not enough ownership of vision
- busy-ness of women
- diversity of opinions and preferences
- not enough understanding for other life-stages
- not enough willingness to get involved in other people's lives
- it is easier to have a critical spirit instead of a desire to be part of the solution

Faith Goals

- Formation of a leadership team with a servant mindset toward facilitating ministries of women in the church.
- Provide vision and structure in such a way that it can be passed on, but not so rigid that it hinders developing individual ownership for new members or is not adaptable in the future.
- Increase individual contact with women in the church to the point that they feel connected, cared about and needed.
- Develop leadership training that helps those women in leadership develop their gifts and feel confident in stepping out in faith.

Responsibility: God's Part

- To raise up leadership women.
- To focus our vision for what His desires are for Women's Ministries.
- Change our hearts where needed.
- Give wisdom in maintaining healthy relationships with all people involved--leadership women, staff, Session, families involved, etc.
- Specifically lead women to accept responsibilities for areas needed.

Responsibility: My Part

- Pray.
- Read and study Scripture and other books on leadership for women in the context of the church.
- Record ideas and vision on paper to pass on to others.
- Help support those who follow in the Servant Team Coordinator position in any way possible.

Critical Events:

1. Women must accept challenge to be faithful members of the Servant Team.
2. Women on the Servant Team must take responsibility for specific areas of ministry and coordinating certain aspects of the overall task.

Ministry Description:

- Prayer would not just be talked about; it would be taking place.
- On-going training of Servant Team members would be taking place when possible to prepare them for taking on responsibility.
- Yearly Servant Team retreat or training day to help focus vision and purpose together.
- Ongoing communication constantly taking place between current, former, and future Servant Team Coordinator and the other members of the team to aid in maintaining vision and purpose in the midst of ministry tasks.

Intermediate Goals:

- Establish the Servant Team.
- Develop training material that will help provide needed perspective on leadership as pertains to women in a local church.
- Present leadership training material to Presbytery Women's Ministry representatives to gain perspective from variety of situations. Use this to refine material.
- Develop a document that describes the ministry of the Servant Team and Women's Ministries that is clear in purpose and vision. However, it should be flexible for the future to allow continued development and clarification when needed to allow for continued ownership of this ministry to future members of the team.
- Divide the congregation among the Servant Team members for contact.
- Encourage leadership women to not be boxed in by the way we have done it in the past, but to always look to the Lord through Scripture for vision and direction.

- Cathe Cleveland