

Michigan Conference Women's Ministries Leader In the Local Church

Job Description

Bible Principles

As a woman, you are an important team member in the church. You influence the future and shape the present with your attitude and actions toward family, fellow church members, and friends. When women are ministered to, the family, church, and community are ministered to as well. As a women's ministries leader, it is your responsibility to use your talents to give direction to this important ministry of the church.

The women's ministries leader will serve as chair of the women's ministries committee. Her function is to encourage the development of ideas and plans that emphasize the mission of the church. She will put together an agenda for the meetings, guide the discussion, and encourage group unity through personal sharing, prayer, and fellowship.

Women in Bible times were homemakers, judges, and Bible teachers, to list only a few. Today's Christian women can have the same objective in their work for the women in the community surrounding the church as well as those in their church. The examples in the Bible allow for great potential in the development and use of your abilities in this important ministry.

"Let a woman realize the sacredness of her work and in the strength and fear of God, take up her mission." *Testimonies For The Church*, vol. 3, p. 565.

"They (women) can do a work that men cannot do. They can come closest to the hearts of those women whom men cannot reach. Their labor is needed." *Evangelism*, p. 465.

Jesus ministered not only to women. He also needed and accepted their ministry to Him. In this way He affirmed their worth as children of God. Christian women seek to be:

- A. Compassionate, with Godly wisdom,
- B. Active in a ministry,
- C. Committed to changing the world through prayer and sharing their faith.

Women are called to use the talents and opportunities God has given them to fulfill His eternal plan. Women's Ministries encourages women to discover and use their gifts, including sharing their faith with those around them.

Duties of the Women's Ministries Leader

Establish a Committee

The women's ministries leader should be elected a member of the church board. She will work with the church board to establish a local women's ministries committee. The committee will be composed of individuals interested in women's needs and concerns and will be chaired by the women's ministries leader. The committee will work together to develop strategies, network, and assist in planning and implementing programs and activities relevant to women's specific and various needs.

Conduct A Needs Assessment

The women's ministries leader and committee will work together to identify the needs of women within the church and community. This includes identifying what the female population is in the area, ethnicity, educational level, marital status, etc.

Plan For Program Development

The women's ministries leader will work with the committee and pastor to develop and implement women's ministries programs, projects, or seminars. She will also network with various women's groups in the church to assess their special needs, such as: support groups for abused women, senior citizens, single parents, substance abuse, empty-nest syndrome, child abuse, and any other segment of the population that could be included in women's ministries. Activities could include prayer breakfasts, literacy programs, daycare, and programs for the elderly.

Be An Advocate of Women's Concerns, Needs, and Contributions

It is the responsibility of the women's ministries leader to keep the church informed of women's ministries activities and their contribution to church life. This can be done through announcement periods in church and Sabbath School, or the church newsletter and bulletin. She is also the liaison between the women of the church and the church board and church ministries council.

Pastor's Role In Women's Ministries

The pastor should be a facilitator in establishing the office of women's ministries leader in the church. He should assist the leader in implementing programs for women in the church and community, and can serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Ministry of Women's Ministries Leader

The ministry of the women's ministries leader is vital to accomplishing the mission of the local church. Your ministry is given meaning and effectiveness as you fit into the overall mission that Christ has given your congregation. The Holy Spirit calls you to teamwork and cooperation with others in your church. It should be the goal of women's ministries to reach the community of women with meaningful activities, establish a strong public awareness of the church, win people to Christ through the help of the Holy Spirit, nurture Church members, and inspire other women to work for Christ.

Training Resources

The conference women's ministries director is a resource person for leaders in the local church. She will direct them to a source for training and developing their gifts and talents for ministry. The Michigan Conference Women's Ministries director, in consultation with the conference women's ministries board, will develop training materials and provide training seminars for the local church leaders at area or district seminars around the state, at camp meeting, or women's retreats.

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Family Ministries Leader

Overview

The over-arching objective of Family Ministries is to strengthen the family as a discipling center. The family was established by divine creation as the fundamental human institution. It is the primary setting in which values are learned and the capacity for close relationships with God and with other human beings is developed.

Family Ministries is a ministry of grace which acknowledges as normative the biblical teachings relating to the family and holds high God's ideals for family living. At the same time, it brings an understanding of the brokenness experienced by individuals and families in a fallen world. Thus Family Ministries seeks to enable families to stretch toward divine ideals, while at the same time extending the good news of God's saving grace and the promise of growth possible through the indwelling Spirit.

Family Ministries focuses on people in relationship. It is concerned with the needs of married couples, parents and children, the family needs of singles and all members of the wider family circle as they pass through life's predictable stages and contend with unexpected changes in their lives.

Family Ministries reinforces and encourages wholesome families. It helps individuals build and maintain strong family relationships because it recognizes that healthy Christian families make strong members for the kingdom of God and present a winsome witness to the community around them. Family Ministries promotes understanding, acceptance, and love within the family and in the larger family of God and fosters the reconciliation and healing between the generations promised in the Elijah message of Malachi 4:5,6. It extends hope and support to those who have been injured and hurt by abuse, family dysfunction, and broken relationships. It provides growth opportunities through family life education and enrichment. It encourages individuals, married couples, and families to avail themselves of professional counseling when necessary.

Leadership

The family ministries ministry in the local church is preferably led by a married couple, whose personal and public marriage and family life represent a growing relationship with Jesus and demonstrate an understanding and practice of the biblical principles given for families. The couple will work in conjunction with the pastor, church board and family ministries committee to meet the needs of the families in the church. Although this committee should not be too large in order to remain effective, appropriate church leaders should be included as well as persons who understand the varied needs of families within the church. Persons who have faced traumatic life and family experiences and have grown spiritually through them may make valuable contributions as members of the committee. The committee should include both men and

women, and where possible, at least one single person, at least one married couple, one or more parents, and a representative cross-section of the various age groups in the church. The duties of the committee, as led by the Family Ministries couple should include the following:

1. Assist church leadership in compiling family demographic data both within the church and the surrounding community to clarify target groups for a ministry to families.
2. Assist church leadership in assessing the needs of church members for family life education, enrichment, and counseling; and in developing a plan for utilizing community and church resources to address these needs.
3. Encourage sensitivity to the impact of church programs on family life in terms of the expenditure of time, energy, money, and other family resources required.
4. Participate with the Michigan Conference Family Ministries department in implementing family emphasis programs promoted by the department.
5. Cooperate with church leadership to design, plan, and implement additional family life features and programs as needed, both for family nurture within the membership and evangelistic outreach to the community.
6. Foster a climate of warmth and fellowship, engendering a sense of “familiness” in the congregation and a redemptive spirit towards families in need of support and encouragement.
7. Inform the pastor and church board of Family Ministries concerns and achievements, and to encourage funding and support for ministry to families.
8. Insure that resources are readily available for individuals requesting assistance or enrichment in aspects of family life or know where resources may be obtained.

Resources

The Michigan Conference Family Ministries department has a wide variety of resources available for the development of family ministries in the local church. A lending library is accessible, which contains numerous books, videos and audio cassettes for programming needs. Training is also provided in several venues for new leaders.