WENDY NURTURE

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (SWEET MONDAY)

Ministries in the Nurture category are responsible for activites and events that have an inward focus.

INTRODUCTION

A ministry of planning and developing programs to meet the needs of women in local congregations. This may take place through a planning committee, assessments, program development, and advocating women's needs, concerns and contributions. Women's needs and concerns include (but are not limited to) women living balanced lifestyles, considering responsibilities within the multiple roles of home, work, husband's work, children, church, and society; women and finances; women and self-esteem; women and decision-making; conflict resolution, and time-management.

DUTIES

1. Chair the women's ministries committee. This responsibility is essential to the success of women's ministries. The chair functions as a facilitator, encouraging the evolution of ideas and plans that produce efforts toward maximizing our church's mission. The chair assembles the agenda, moderates discussion, and encourages group cohesion through personal sharing, prayer and fellowship.

2. Establish a committee. The women's ministries leader works with the church board or church ministries council to establish a committee of individuals interested in women's needs and concerns. The committee's purpose is to brainstorm, develop strategies, network, and assist in planning and implementing programs and activities relevant to women's specific and varied needs.

3. Conduct needs assessments. The women's ministries leader works closely with the women's ministries committee in periodically surveying and identifying the needs of the women within the church and community, including spiritual growth needs and training in the promotion of outreach. Identify the demographics of the female population such as age, ethnicity, educational level, marital status, etc., and identify topics specific to their needs.

DUTIES (cont'd)

4. Develop programs. The women's ministries leader works with the women's ministries committee and the pastor to develop and implement programs and seminars and networks with existing support groups or makes appropriate referrals. Special needs include support groups for abused women, senior citizens, single-parents, teens, substance abuse, empty-nest syndrome, and child abuse, seminars on stress management, grief recovery, parenting skills, self-improvement, spiritual care, etc. Other activities may include prayer breakfasts, literacy program, day care, and programs for the community elderly.

5. Advocate of women's needs, concerns and contributions. The women's ministries leader must keep the church membership informed of women's ministries and their contributions to church life, through written and verbal reports, including newsletters and time during the personal ministries time, announcement period, Sabbath School, or worship hour. This responsibility includes being liaison between women and the church board or church ministries council and assisting decision-making bodies to keep in view the needs of women and to recognize women's ministries as a vital part of church growth and church dynamics.

6. Interacts with the conference women's ministries department. This includes filing regular statistical reports and calender items and participation in conference women's ministries training events.