

2026 EDITION

LOCAL CHURCH LEADER GUIDE

IPHC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



INSPIRE - EQUIP - SUPPORT





Dear Local Church Women's Ministries Leader,

Welcome!

Thank you for saying yes to serving the women in your church. Your willingness to invest your time, gifts, and heart into the lives of others makes a lasting difference.

Women's Ministries exists to inspire, equip, and support women in their discipleship journey to live and lead like Jesus. Whether your church has a handful of women or hundreds, your role matters. Every conversation, prayer, Bible study, mentoring relationship, and word of encouragement has the potential to impact generations.

As you serve, remember that you do not have to do everything. Your calling is not to build a perfect ministry, but to faithfully disciple the women God has entrusted to your care. Focus on helping women grow in their relationship with Christ, connect with one another, and live out their faith each day.

This guide is designed to provide practical tools, ideas, and resources to support you along the way. Thank you for your commitment to making disciples. We are honored to partner with you and are cheering you on as you serve.

Whitney Davis
Director of IPHC Women's Ministries



FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANYONE SHOULD BOAST. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM. EPHESIANS 2:8–10



WHY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES?

Women need Jesus.

They need God's Word, authentic relationships, spiritual encouragement, and opportunities to grow in their faith.

Today's women are navigating busy schedules, family responsibilities, career pressures, loneliness, anxiety, grief, and spiritual challenges. Women's Ministries creates intentional spaces where women can connect with God, build meaningful relationships, and grow as disciples.

Women's Ministries is not primarily an event ministry. It is a discipleship ministry. Our goal is not simply to gather women. Our goal is to help women live and lead like Jesus.

Our Vision

We inspire, equip, and support women in their discipleship journey to live and lead like Jesus.

Inspire

Helping women encounter Jesus and catch a vision for discipleship.

Equip

Providing the tools, training, and resources women need to grow and lead.

Support

Building relationships and strengthening leaders so ministry can flourish.

Our Mission

We create opportunities and resources that help women:

- Connect with God
- Grow in community
- Discover their gifts
- Live on mission
- Make disciples

At its core, Women's Ministries exists to make disciples who make disciples. Everything we do, from Bible studies and mentoring relationships to events and outreach, is designed to help women live and lead like Jesus.

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Women's Ministries functions at three levels that work together to support women and leaders throughout the IPHC:

Local Church

This is where discipleship happens most effectively. As a local leader, your role is to help women in your church connect with Jesus, grow in community, discover their gifts, and live on mission.

Conference

Your conference Women's Ministries team exists to encourage, support, resource, and train local leaders. They provide opportunities for connection, leadership, development, and collaboration among churches throughout your conference.

General

The General Women's Ministries team provides vision, resources, discipleship tools, leadership development opportunities, and ministry initiatives that support local churches and conference leaders across the IPHC.

We are all working together toward one mission: helping women become disciples who make disciples.

While Women's Ministries exists at the local, conference, and general levels, the local church remains the primary place where women are disciplined and developed.

As of July 2022, IPHC Women's Ministries no longer operates under a bylaws-based structure. Instead, we have adopted a flexible ministry model designed to support churches of every size and context. Because every local church is unique, this guide provides practical tools, ideas, and resources to help you create intentional discipleship pathways that best serve the women in your church. Whether through Bible studies, mentoring, small groups, outreach, fellowship, or other ministry opportunities, our focus is on helping women grow in Christ and live out their God-given calling. See the ministry suggestions on page 8 for practical ideas.

GETTING STARTED

If you are new to Women's Ministries leadership, start simple.

Pray

Ask God for wisdom and direction. Pray for the women in your church and for His guidance as you lead.

Meet with Your Pastor

Discuss how Women's Ministries can best support the vision and mission of your church.

Connect with Your Conference Leader

Introduce yourself, ask questions, and learn about resources and opportunities available through your conference. Your conference Women's Ministries Director would love to come to your church or connect with you to help support you in this process. Please reach out to them.

Listen

Take time to learn the needs of the women in your church. What challenges are they facing? What opportunities for growth would serve them best?

Start Small

You do not need a large budget, a large team, or a full calendar of events. Start with one discipleship opportunity and do it well.

A Bible study, prayer gathering, mentoring group, or monthly small group can become the foundation for meaningful ministry.

Start with One Thing

You do not need a full calendar of events to have a healthy ministry to women.

Choose one discipleship opportunity and do it consistently. A faithful Bible study, prayer gathering, mentoring group, or small group often produces greater long-term impact than a busy calendar.



YOUR FIRST YEAR ROADMAP

First 30 Days

- Meet with your pastor
- Connect with your Conference Women's Ministries leader
- Pray for the women in your church
- Learn the needs of the women you serve

First 90 Days

- Gather a small leadership team
- Choose one discipleship opportunity
- Develop a communication plan
- Begin building relationships

First Year

- Establish a consistent discipleship rhythm
- Identify and invest in future leaders
- Participate in conference opportunities
- Celebrate what God is doing



WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Healthy ministry to women helps women become:

- Rooted in God's Word
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Connected in biblical community
- Growing as disciples
- Living on mission
- Making disciples who make disciples

Success is not measured primarily by attendance or events. We celebrate activity, but we prioritize transformation.

YOUR ROLE AS A LOCAL WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER

You do not have to be a Bible teacher, event planner, counselor, and ministry expert all at once. Your primary role is to help women take their next step toward Jesus.

Pray

Pray for the women you serve and for God's direction in ministry.

Build Relationships

Ministry happens through relationships. Listen to women, celebrate victories, and walk alongside them through life's challenges

Create Opportunities for Discipleship

Provide environments where women can grow spiritually through:

- Bible studies
- Small groups
- Prayer gatherings
- Gather groups
- Mentoring relationships
- Discipleship cohorts

Not every woman will attend every event, but most women can find a place in a smaller environment where relationships and spiritual growth can flourish.

Develop Leaders

Look for women with leadership potential and invite them to serve alongside you. Encourage them, mentor them, and give them opportunities to grow. Healthy ministries develop future leaders and intentionally prepare the next generation of women to lead.

Before You Plan Anything

Ask:

- Does this help women know Jesus?
- Does this help women grow as disciples?
- Does this build meaningful relationships?
- Does this support the vision of our church?
- Does this align with the mission of Women's Ministries?

If the answer is yes, move forward.

Building a Team

Women's Ministries is healthiest when leadership is shared.

Look for women who are:

- Faithful
- Available
- Teachable
- Supportive of the Church's Vision

Invite them to help with:

- Hospitality
- Communication
- Prayer
- Discipleship Groups
- Events and Outreach

You do not have to carry ministry alone. Healthy teams create healthy ministries and allow more women to use their gifts to serve others.





SIMPLE IDEAS FOR MINISTRY

You do not need a large budget or a large team to make a lasting impact.

Gather for Discipleship

- Bible studies
- Small groups
- Prayer gatherings
- Worship nights
- Book studies

Gather for Community

- Coffee meetups
- Brunches
- Game nights
- Seasonal gatherings
- Intergenerational events

Gather to Serve

- Community outreach projects
- Supporting church ministries
- Serving local schools or organizations
- Mission and compassion projects

Relationships often begin through community and deepen through discipleship.



MENTORING MATTERS

One of the greatest gifts you can give another woman is your presence.

Mentoring is simply helping someone follow Jesus by walking alongside them.

Look for opportunities to invest in younger women, new believers, and emerging leaders. Invite them into your life. Pray with them. Encourage them. Help them discover and use their God-given gifts.

Every leader should have someone pouring into her and someone she is pouring into. This is how discipleship multiplies from one generation to the next.

Be intentional about investing in younger women and creating opportunities for the next generation to serve, lead, and grow.

PARTNERING WITH YOUR PASTOR

Women's Ministries is more effective when it works in partnership with the vision of the local church.

Communicate regularly with your pastor. Seek to support the mission and direction of your church. Share ministry plans and celebrate what God is doing among the women of your congregation.

When church leadership and Women's Ministries work together, women flourish.

CONNECTED TO SOMETHING BIGGER

Women's Ministries is strongest when local churches, conferences, and the General Women's Ministries team work together. As a local leader, you are part of a larger movement of women committed to making disciples who make disciples.

Your Conference Women's Ministries leader is there to encourage, support, resource, and connect you with opportunities for growth. We encourage you to build a relationship with your conference leader, participate in conference gatherings and trainings, and take advantage of leadership development opportunities.

One of the best ways you can support your conference ministry is by staying connected. Please ensure your conference leader has your current contact information, complete any requested reports or surveys, share stories of life change and ministry impact, and communicate leadership changes within your church.

Your participation helps conference leaders identify needs, celebrate wins, provide meaningful support, and make informed decisions that strengthen ministry across the conference.

Together, we can accomplish more than any one church can accomplish alone.

VISION PARTNERSHIP

One practical way local churches can partner with the broader ministry is through Vision Partnership. Local churches are encouraged to contribute a yearly Vision Partnership gift of \$100 through their conference Women's Ministries. Fifty percent remains with the conference to support leadership development, training, and ministry opportunities, while fifty percent supports the General Women's Ministries office in creating discipleship resources, leadership development opportunities, and ministry initiatives that serve women across the IPHC.

Vision Partnership is more than a financial contribution; it is an investment in a movement committed to helping women live and lead like Jesus. Through this partnership, local churches help make resources, training, support, and discipleship opportunities available to women and leaders throughout the IPHC.

For more information, visit: <https://iphc.org/discipleship/women/vision-partnership/>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

For generations, IPHC women have made a difference through prayer, generosity, and service.

In addition to discipling women in the local church, Women's Ministries partners with several ministry initiatives that impact lives around the world.

Christmas 4 Missionaries

An annual offering that provides a Christmas blessing to active and retired IPHC missionaries and their families.

Vision 4 Education

Supporting students attending IPHC educational institutions through scholarships and educational assistance.

Harvest Train

Supporting Falcon Children's Home and Family Services as they care for children and families in need.

As a local leader, consider sharing these opportunities with the women in your church throughout the year. Work with your pastor to determine how your church can participate through prayer, generosity, and awareness.

These opportunities allow women in your church to participate in missions, education, and compassionate care beyond the walls of your local congregation.

For more information, visit the GENEROSITY tab: iphc.org/women





HELPFUL RESOURCES

IPHC Women's Ministries provides resources to help you disciple women and develop leaders.

Available resources include:

- Gather Small Group Resource
- Annual Women's Ministries Theme Resources
- Virtual Women's Event
- Leadership Training
- Articles and Discipleship Resources
- Conference Events and Gatherings
- Special Project Resources

We Recommend Starting With:

- Gather Small Group Resource
- Annual Theme Resources
- Virtual Women's Event
- Your Conference Women's Ministries Gathering

Connect with your conference Women's Ministries leader and visit the Women's Ministries website, iphc.org/women, to stay informed about current resources and opportunities.

REMEMBER

You do not have to build a large ministry to build a meaningful ministry.

Stay faithful in the small things. Invest in relationships. Teach God's Word. Pray with women. Encourage leaders. Trust God to bring the growth.

A ministry that helps even a few women become more like Jesus is a ministry that is making an eternal difference.



A FINAL CHARGE

Thank you for saying yes to serving the women in your church.

Never underestimate the power of a prayer, a conversation, an invitation, a Bible study, a mentoring relationship, or a simple act of encouragement. God often uses ordinary moments to produce extraordinary transformation.

Women need discipleship.

Churches need healthy ministry.

God has entrusted you with the opportunity to influence both.

Stay faithful.

Love deeply.

Develop leaders.

Make disciples.

Trust God with the results.

We are here for you, we believe in you, and we are cheering you on every step of the way.

Whitney Davis
Director, IPhC Women's Ministries

**LEARN MORE ABOUT IPHC WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES AND ACCESS HELPFUL
RESOURCES BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE**

CONTACT US: WOMEN@IPHC.ORG



IPHC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



The logo is centered on a white rounded rectangle. It features the letters 'IPHC' in a black, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below this, the word 'women's' is written in a red, cursive script font. At the bottom, the words 'DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES' are written in a black, uppercase, sans-serif font.

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