

IPHC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

A GUIDE FOR PASTORS



Women's Ministries
exists to inspire, equip,
and support women in
their discipleship
journey to live and
lead like Jesus.

WHY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES MATTERS

Women's Ministries exists to inspire, equip, and support women in their discipleship journey to live and lead like Jesus.

At its core, Women's Ministries is not primarily an event ministry. It is a discipleship ministry. Every Bible study, mentoring relationship, gathering, leadership opportunity, and ministry initiative exists to help women grow in their relationship with Christ and become disciples who make disciples.

Today's women are navigating unique challenges and opportunities. They need biblical community, spiritual encouragement, leadership development, and meaningful relationships that help them follow Jesus faithfully in every season of life.

Healthy Women's Ministries strengthens women, develops leaders, supports families, and contributes to the overall health of the local church.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Women's Ministries exists to support the mission and vision of the local church by intentionally discipling women at every stage of life. We believe the local church is the primary place where disciples are made and leaders are developed.

Women's Ministries serves the church by:

- Creating opportunities for women to encounter Jesus and grow spiritually
- Providing biblical discipleship through God's Word, prayer, and community
- Helping women discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts
- Equipping women to serve their families, church, workplace, and community
- Identifying and developing future leaders
- Strengthening the overall discipleship culture of the church

The desire is not simply to host events, but to create intentional pathways that help women become lifelong followers of Jesus.

WHAT HEALTHY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PRODUCES

When Women's Ministries is healthy and intentional, women become:

- Spiritually mature and rooted in God's Word
- Dependent on the Holy Spirit in everyday life
- Connected through authentic biblical community
- Confident in their God-given identity and calling
- Active servants and leaders within the church
- Disciple-makers who invest in the next generation

We celebrate activity, but we prioritize transformation.

Success is measured by spiritual growth, leadership development, life change, and women who are faithfully making disciples who make disciples.

SELECTING THE RIGHT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER

The success of Women's Ministries is often determined by the leader entrusted to guide it.

When selecting a Women's Ministries leader, look first for spiritual maturity and faithfulness rather than organizational ability alone.

A healthy Women's Ministries leader should be:

- Committed to her relationship with Christ
- Supportive of the vision and leadership of the church
- Relational and approachable
- Passionate about discipling women
- Teachable and collaborative
- Able to identify and develop other leaders
- Respected within the church community

The best leader is not necessarily the most talented event planner. The best leader is the woman who can gather women, build a team, and help them grow as disciples of Jesus on mission.

A FLEXIBLE MODEL FOR MINISTRY

Women's Ministries has evolved significantly over the years. While previous models often relied on formal bylaws, elections, installations, and prescribed organizational structures, today's ministry environment requires greater flexibility and adaptability.

IPHC Women's Ministries no longer operates under a standardized system of local elections, installations, or required bylaws. Instead, we encourage local church pastors and Women's Ministries leaders to work together to establish a leadership structure that best serves their local ministry context. Every church is unique. The size, demographics, culture, and needs of women vary from congregation to congregation. A healthy Women's Ministries structure in one church may look very different from another, and that is celebrated.

We encourage local church pastors to appoint a Women's Ministries leader who aligns with the church's vision and has a heart for discipling women. Together, the pastor and leader can identify and develop a team based on the gifts, strengths, and needs within their congregation. This flexible approach allows churches to focus less on maintaining structure and more on fulfilling the mission of discipling women. Our goal is to develop women who live and lead like Jesus.

BUILDING THE RIGHT TEAM

Healthy ministries are built by healthy teams. Encourage your Women's Ministries leader to identify women who are faithful, available, teachable, and supportive of the church's vision.

Rather than building a team around tasks alone, build a team around discipleship and leadership development. Consider including women gifted in prayer, hospitality, communication, small group leadership, mentoring, administration, outreach, and service.

The desire is not to just fill positions but to develop people. Healthy Women's Ministries continually identifies, develops, and releases new leaders for future ministry

SIMPLE MINISTRY IDEAS

Healthy ministry to women can start small. Every church is unique, and healthy Women's Ministries does not require a large budget, extensive programming, or a large team.

Encourage your Women's Ministries leader to begin with simple, intentional discipleship opportunities. Ideas include: Bible studies, small groups, prayer gatherings, mentoring relationships, fellowship events, outreach or service projects

The goal is to create discipleship pathways that help women grow in Christ, build biblical community, and become disciple-makers. Start where you are, use what God has provided, and allow the ministry to grow over time.

SUPPORTING YOUR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER

Pastoral support is one of the greatest factors influencing the health of Women's Ministries.

You can support your leader by:

- Communicating regularly
- Sharing the vision of the church
- Encouraging leadership development
- Celebrating ministry wins
- Providing opportunities for training and growth
- Supporting participation in conference and denominational opportunities

Women's Ministries often requires some level of financial support to provide meaningful discipleship opportunities and ministry events. We encourage pastors and Women's Ministries leaders to work together to determine what is both feasible and sustainable for their church's budget and ministry goals.

PASTOR'S ROLE IN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Healthy Women's Ministries thrives when it has pastoral support and alignment.

We ask pastors to:

- Appoint and encourage a Women's Ministries leader
- Champion the discipleship of women as a vital part of the church's mission
- Support leadership development and mentoring opportunities
- Encourage participation in conference and general Women's Ministries initiatives
- Create space for women to discover and use their gifts in the life of the church
- Celebrate what God is doing through the women of your congregation

When pastors and Women's Ministries leaders work together in partnership, women flourish and churches grow stronger.

CONNECTED TO SOMETHING BIGGER

IPHC Women's Ministries functions at the local, conference, and general levels.

Conference and General Women's Ministries exist to support local churches through:

- Leadership development
- Discipleship resources
- Small group materials
- Training opportunities
- Annual themes
- Vision Partnership & Special Projects – Vision 4 Education, Harvest Train, Christmas 4 Missionaries
- Networking and encouragement

We encourage every local church to maintain a connection with its Conference Women's Ministries leader and participate in available training and ministry opportunities. Local churches are also encouraged to participate in initiatives such as Vision Partnership and special projects.

Vision Partnership is a shared investment in the discipleship of women, helping provide resources, leadership development, and support for Women's Ministries across the IPHC. Local churches are encouraged to give a yearly \$100 Vision Partnership contribution through their conference. Fifty percent supports conference ministry efforts, and fifty percent supports General Women's Ministries in developing resources, training, and discipleship opportunities that strengthen women and leaders throughout the IPHC.

Special projects include Vision 4 Education, Harvest Train, and Christmas 4 Missionaries. These are initiatives we support in the greater IPHC Family. More details on these can be found at iphc.org/women under the generosity tab.



Use this QR code to find out more about how you can partner through Vision Partnership.

A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Women's Ministries has the potential to impact generations.

When women are discipled, families are strengthened, leaders are developed, churches are healthy, and communities are transformed.

Thank you for investing in the women of your church. Your support of Women's Ministries helps create environments where women can encounter Jesus, grow in their faith, discover their purpose, and become disciples who make disciples.

Together, we are helping women live and lead like Jesus.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Thank you for taking the time to invest in the women of your church. It is a privilege to serve alongside pastors and leaders who are committed to making disciples and helping women grow in their faith.

If I can answer questions, provide guidance, connect you with resources, or serve your church in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would love the opportunity to support you and your ministry.

Here for you,

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



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