

Starting a Local Great Commission Women's Group

Why should a church have a *Great Commission Women's* group? There is often a feeling of competition that takes place between the local *Great Commission Women's* group and other women's groups within the church and yet, this should not be. We are all working to further the Kingdom of God and reach unbelievers for Him, as well as help the women within our body grow spiritually.

If there is already a vibrant women's ministry within your church and you desire to start up a *Great Commission Women's* group, then you need to make sure that you are not competing. Don't schedule meetings for the same time as the other ministry. Don't judge other women who are busy in different groups if they don't make it to a *GCW* meeting. Let's make sure we are working together as the body of Christ and not against each other.

Great Commission Women are uniquely wired to support our *International Workers*. One of the components we have is to support our local women and help them grow spiritually, but the quality that makes us unique is our passion for missions. Each church should have a desire to reach this world through sending, praying, giving and going and this will happen through our engagement with missions and our *International Workers*.

Thus, *Great Commission Women's* groups are doing their part by keeping the church engaged in missions. Again, this is not a competition nor should there be judging that takes place on either side. In each body, there will be people who have the spiritual gift of prayer and missionary and we should allow those individuals to use their gifts in ministry. On the flip side, not everyone has those bents and those who do need to understand that not everyone will be gifted in the same way.

That said, for those churches that do want to begin a local *Great Commission Women's* group, here are some steps to begin.

Expectations of a Local Women's Ministry Director:

Character: Born again believer; Spirit-filled; exemplifies a godly lifestyle of integrity; faithful in church attendance and supportive of her pastor/elders/governing board; genuinely wanting to be a servant leader to those to whom she ministers.

1. Have a clear understanding of how women's ministries fit into the structure of the local church. The *Great Commission Women's* director, as well as other leaders are under the authority of the pastor and church board/aligning themselves with the mission statement and objectives of their particular congregation. She should be willing to come under this authoritative structure with a joyful and uncomplaining spirit.

2. The local GCW Director should be supportive and cooperative of all ministries within the church body. Coordinate women's ministries with other things that are happening in the church body by planning ahead.
3. Understand that through the power of the Holy Spirit she has the unique opportunity to be the key to making the women's ministries effective and beneficial in her church.
4. Help her leadership team to know the needs of the women in their church (family problems; women with anxiety, fear, depression; women who work outside the home; women facing or recovering from abuse such as physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse; women who are divorced or abandoned; women recently widowed; women new to the community; financial hardships; do any women have to deal with a chronically ill child, husband, or parent; do any of the women responsible for the care of an aging relative; new believers; women involved in immorality or pornography or who have husbands involved in these addictions; women involved in gambling; women involved in New Age, witchcraft, cults, eastern religions etc.).
5. With the help of a leadership team, plan the women's ministries of the local church to meet the needs of every woman and help each one to find her place in ministry.
6. Implement different groups/activities/training to fulfill the purpose of women's ministries i.e. our objectives as outlined above.
7. Make sure she has the proper leadership resource materials as provided by the National Great Commission Women's team and via the greatcommissionwomen.org website.
8. Plan and publicize events and meetings well in advance.
9. Participate in area and district training events, as provided by the district.
10. Help her women participate in supporting the District Ministry Fund (outlined in the yearly calendar).
11. Help her women participate in supporting the National Project for the year.
12. Keep accurate records and supply a yearly report to the District Director.
13. Direct her leadership team so they have a good working relationship.
14. Establish and maintain a prayer support base.
15. Maintain a personal relationship with Christ through a disciplined prayer and Bible Study as an individual.

C. Building a ministry team

1. Meet with the Pastor to discuss your goals and mesh them with his desires and plans for the church. Pray and support him and his family well.
2. The need to establish a leadership team: must display harmony and work together towards a common goal. Decide how many you want on your team (Director, Treasurer, Secretary, others?)
 - a. Decide whether you want to elect your officers or have the team chosen by the director, along with the pastor.
3. Working with volunteers
 - a. Show respect for them
 - b. Praise them for what they do well
 - c. Be considerate of them, their schedules, difficulties etc.
 - d. Be positive towards them
 - e. Be reasonable in your expectations of them
 - f. Express appreciate for them both privately and publicly
 - g. Always be training someone to take your place
 - h. Pray for those on your team regularly (know their needs)
- 4 Establish a vision and mission statement for the women's ministries in your church along with objectives.

Vision statement: A one-sentence concise answer to the question: What do we want to accomplish?

Mission statement: A statement that defines the ministry and its purpose.
Should answer: Who are we?; Whom do we serve?; Whom do we want to reach?; Why do we want to reach them?; How will we do it?

5. In your planning meetings establish the following:
 - a. Set an agenda/time/place for meeting
 - b. Goals - short one sentence action statement
 - c. Tactics - Action plans to accomplish the goal
 - d. Establish a budget
 - e. Publicize
 - f. Plan a calendar of events well ahead of time so people know what to expect - this goes for team meetings as well as events. Be mindful of

district events in your planning.

- g. Performance measurements - analyze how well a goal was reached/or not reached.
- h. Reporting system - keep records

6. Planning the *Great Commission Women's* ministries of the local church
Should consist of the following:

- a. Fellowship involvement
- b. Discipleship involvement
- c. Outreach involvement
- d. Missions Involvement
- e. Prayer Involvement
- f. Participation in District Events