

Meet Your Conference WM Directors

Lynee Hamm

"Use me then, my Savior, for whatever purposes and in whatever way you may require. Here is my poor heart, and empty vessel. Fill it with your grace." D.L. Moody

What a beautiful prayer! I pray it will be mine until Abba comes and takes me home.

Service has always seemed to be a passion for me, though it may not have always included God, especially during my rebellious high school years.

It began at a young age mowing lawns for the elderly, playing piano and organ at church. Life accelerated me into a nursing career, wife, mother, cradle roll teacher, worship coordinator, etc. and now living a long time dream as a licensed massage therapist . . . bringing healing to others.

The questions I ask of myself and my Abba in serving Him daily, is do I bless? Am I a blessing? Are the motives for which I serve, for my selfish gain or to bring praise to my Heavenly Daddy? If there are any good works found in me, it is only by God's free gift of grace. As we each reflect upon our life and journey we are on, my prayer for you and me is that we allow God to use us as a joy-filled blessing for Him and His children. Isaiah 58.

“. . . I can become the blessing, a little life that multiplies joy,
making the larger world a better place.”
One Thousand Gifts Ann Voskamp,

Tina Shorey

'I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope' Jeremiah 29:11

I have not always had a peaceful life, but Abba whispers these words through nature, through the Bible, through others; and I am learning that faith means believing what He says in spite of what life (or rather Satan) throws at us.

I have a passion for ministering to women. If I can walk even a short while with someone who is hurting, longing for friendship, needing encouragement then I am sharing the 'future filled with hope' that Abba promises to each of His daughters. It has been done for me and I want to share that hope with other hurting women.

Living in the Boston area while homeschooling my children has brought me into contact with people from so many parts of the world. I am amazed at how diverse life is! How different each of our walks are.

Ministry to others is important to me. Whether catering an event, sitting on a church board, or teaching a science class, I pray that the small service I am offering will be a blessing to those whose lives I touch. I ask that Abba allow me to see the people around me through His eyes, see the value in them that He sees; and then go show them a Heavenly Father who loves them unconditionally through my words, actions, and love.

“...we don't have to change what we see. Only the way we see.”
One Thousand Gifts Ann Voskamp



Two women met for tea...

Sitting Down to Tea

Ministry Start-Up Guide

New York Conference Women's Ministries Department

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in starting a Women's Ministries program in your church. We are always excited when women catch a vision to minister to other women!

There is a saying often used tongue-in-cheek....'if Mom/wife/sister/aunt ain't happy ain't nobody happy'. We want to reframe that! If women aren't nurtured, loved, fed spiritually, they will not be effective at nurturing, loving, and tending to the spiritual lives of their family.

Women's Ministries is an important part of evangelism. Look around you. We bet you can point to at least five women (and probably a whole lot more!) who are hurting, lonely, anxious, overworked, stressed out, and challenged by life's ups and downs. Now imagine all of the women who suffer in silence!

In a world filled with too many things to do, catastrophe and heartache, isolation; it is important to provide a safe place for women to be nurtured, fed, and loved unconditionally. Friendship Ministry – a.k.a. being a true friend, developing meaningful, honest relationships with women – is the focus of Women's Ministries this year.

We pray that this guide will answer questions you have, provide inspiration for your program, and encourage you to reach out to the women in your congregation and community with friendship.

You are in our thoughts and prayers as you begin this exciting journey! If there is any way that we can help, please contact us through our website: www.nyconf.org/wm

Blessings!

Recruiting and Managing Volunteers

Adapted from GC Women's Ministries Handbook

Working with volunteers is not a simple process. A successful leader follows certain procedures for recruiting volunteers, provides orientation to the volunteer's role, supplies a clearly written job description and training for the specific tasks, and supervises the implementation of the task with generous amounts of encouragement for the volunteer.

Action Steps

- Identify and articulate a need
- Start the recruitment process with a review of current helpers
- Evaluate the pool of potential volunteers
- Know what you want the volunteers to do
- Schedule training for the various tasks
- When a leader delegates a task, she should also empower the other person.
- Work as a team

Learn what motivates your helpers

Volunteers need to feel that they are making a difference. They need clear communication about the progress of the project and their role. Listed below are the "Motivation Principles" for volunteers:

1. Make volunteers feel NEEDED.
2. Match the RESPONSIBILITY with the INTEREST, ABILITY, and PSYCHOLOGICAL need of the volunteer.
3. Give the volunteer MEANINGFUL assignments.
4. Help the volunteer to be SUCCESSFUL.
5. Make the volunteer feel APPRECIATED.

Symptoms of volunteer burnout

- Missed meetings
- Tardiness
- Critical attitude
- Lack of enthusiasm
- Interpersonal problems

Why Women's Ministries?

Many people wonder... 'Why should we include Women's Ministries at our church?' A worthy question!

Women are used to reaching out to others – taking care of needs of family members, making sure everybody gets where they need to be, organizing, planning, securing....

So it may seem strange that there needs to be an actual ministry for women. Don't we do enough already? Why would we want to sign up for more?

The NAD Women's Ministries mission statement is useful to look at for answers to these questions.

The mission of the Women's Ministries Department of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists is to model Jesus Christ through meaningful relationships and effective ministries. Our values and objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal
- Elevate women as persons of worth
- Address the concerns of women
- Build networks among women
- Mentor young women, teens, and girls
- Promote opportunities for wider service for women
- Challenge Adventist women to use their talents and spiritual gifts for the glory of God in the home, church, and community

We exist to encourage, equip, promote, and challenge Adventist women in their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Church and to bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the Church.

Women's Ministries provides many beneficial experiences to women of all ages both in and outside of the church:

- Leadership training
- Mentoring
- Support
- Relationship Building
- Spiritual Growth
- Encouragement
- Mindful, planned ministry to women

Biblical Support for Women's Ministries

Every born-again believer should have a ministry.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19, 20.

The Adventist Church teaches the priesthood of all believers:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9.

The Bible instructs women to minister to each other:

Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Titus 2, 3-5.

Ellen White:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

Women's Ministries Is...

Women's Ministries:

- Is a place to address the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of women in the church.
- Encourages women to improve their potential for participation in the mission of the church.
- Is a support system for hurting women—whether they are suffering from divorce, abuse or simply loneliness.
- Is a forum to help address topics & issues as they affect women.
- Encourages young women through a scholarship program.
- Encourages women to become involved in all areas of ministry in their church, their community, and in their home.
- Mentors young women so that they may find joy in the Lord.
- Recognizes that women have many Gifts of the Spirit and seeks to help women discover and use these gifts to God glory.

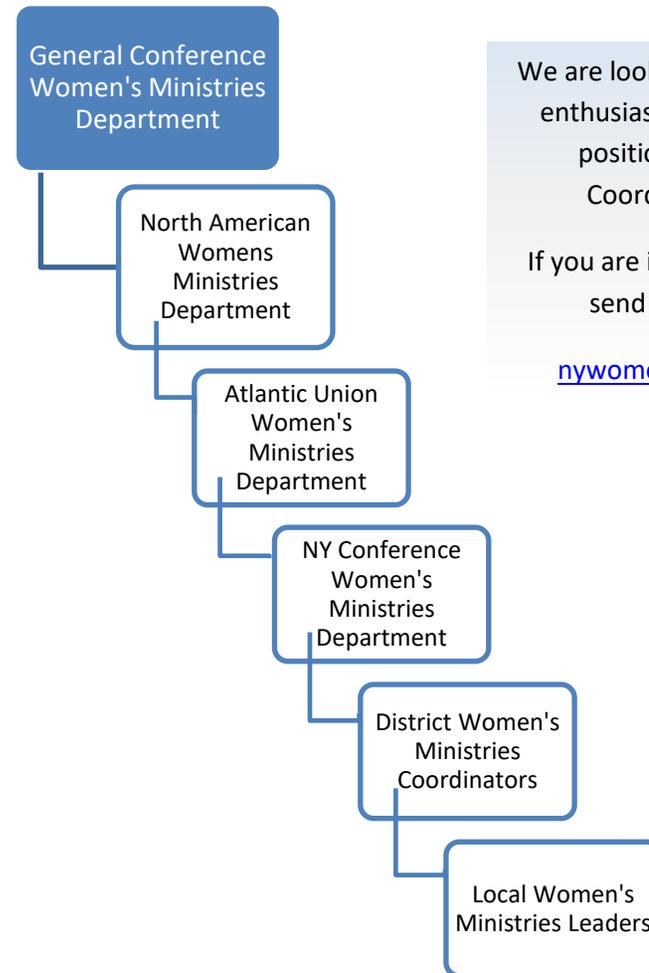
There are six critical issues that particularly impact women around the world. These issues are:

- Illiteracy
- Abuse
- Poverty
- Health risks
- Work loads
- Lack of mentoring and leadership training

As Christians, seeking to follow the example of Jesus, we believe that it is important to do what we can to meet the needs of all people, developing trust, and helping them to find the answers to their needs. For this reason, Women's Ministries has chosen to focus much of its attention to these challenges.

Women's Ministry Structure

The Women's Ministry Department is comprised of several levels. New York Conference has added two levels to make leaders more readily available on the local level and to help the Conference Directors more efficiently manage such a large area.



We are looking for dedicated, enthusiastic women to fill positions at District Coordinator level.

If you are interested, please send us an email!

nywomen@nyconf.org

Record Keeping/Reporting

Once a quarter (only four times a year!) local women's ministries leaders are asked to fill out and submit a quarterly report form. These reports are compiled and passed on to the NAD and GC Women's Ministries Departments, and shows the work women are doing in their churches.

We understand that paperwork is irritating at best, however, we ask that you please consider it a blessing to us to share what you are doing!

Below is a sample form. Forms can be downloaded on our website: www.nyconf.org/wm

For each month, write in the number of events or baptisms in the appropriate square. If you did not have baptisms or events leave them blank.

Meetings include any events you had pertaining to Women's Ministries

Don't forget to include Emphasis Days in your planning (Day of Prayer, WM, Abuse Prevention, and Heart Call - see 'resources' section for information)

North American Division Women's Ministries Statistical Report

Church: _____ Quarter: _____ Year: _____ Women's Ministries Director: _____

SEND REPORT TO ALICE JACOBSON, SNEC ON THE 10TH DAY FOLLOWING THE END OF EACH QUARTER.

Month	Baptisms (Return in full) Registered (Anchle) HAD	Reclaimed Members	Evangelistic Meetings				Training Seminars	Other Meetings / Ministry-Outreach				Retreats / Conventions			Did Your Church Participate in the Following?			Scholarships Awarded
			No. of NAD Outgr		No. of Outgr Outside NAD			No. of Outgr		No. of Outgr		No. of Outgr			No. of Outgr			
			No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr		No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	No. of Outgr	
1 st Month																		
2 nd Month																		
3 rd Month																		
Totals																		

CODE FOR CHART (Columns):

Item	Number of
Baptisms	Any baptisms in which NAD women played a key role, either in NAD or in evangelistic series (in excess of sponsored by NAD in another division)
Reclaimed	Member who left the church and has returned as a result of efforts by women
Evangelistic Meetings	Evangelistic meetings (conducted by NAD women) either in NAD or in evangelistic series in excess of sponsored by NAD in another division. Do NOT report weeks of prayer
Training Seminars	Training and spiritual leadership events
Other Meetings/Ministry Outreach	Prayer breakfasts, needlework events, small groups, support groups, Bible Studies, prayer ministries, special projects, week of prayer, convocations, outreach events
Scholarships awarded	Scholarships awarded to women in 4-level colleges by the GC, WMA or other scholarship funds
Retreats/Conventions	Women's weekend or full-day retreats/conventions sponsored in women's ministry events
Heart Calls	News Ministry women attending events
Heart Call	A networking ministry for women

Women's Ministries Isn't...

Women's Ministries:

- Is not new. In 1898 Mrs. S.M.I. Henry, with the encouragement of Ellen G. White, headed a church department for women's ministry. Her death soon after ended the work she began. It wasn't until 1990 that the Office of Women's Ministries was once again begun. It became a full church department in 1995.
- Is not a forum for women who have complaints, justified or not, against employers.
- Is not a place for women to promote equal right for women, although we admit it is an important issue.
- Is not a mere source of entertainment or the opportunity to spend endless hours on projects that merely promote selfish ideas.
- Is not a platform for the ordination of women, although we believe that everyone should use their talents to God's glory and should receive just recognition for work done for His honor.
- Is not male bashing. It is anti-sexist, not anti-male.
- Is not exclusive. Women's Ministries wants inclusion, not the exclusion of anyone.

Creating a Safe Place

Being safe. We think about this topic when it comes to our children or grandchildren. Church boards discuss plant safety issues. Risk Management assesses safety of facilities. Everyone agrees that safety is important.

There is another kind of safety though that we often overlook. It doesn't involve buildings, fire-escape plans, or insurance.

This safety is the atmosphere, the understanding that all is well. It is okay to be 'me' without fear of being judged, laughed at, talked about later, or rejected. You can choose to create this safe place. You are the vessel that can be safe for another woman.

Many times we just need someone to listen as we unburden from a terrible day. Sometimes we have a crisis or emergency and just need to know that someone else is helping to carry the burden.

Women are looking for:

Whatever the circumstance, there are a few things to remember.

- Support
- Empathy
- Openness
- Honesty
- Genuine concern
- Friendship
- Respect
- Someone to really listen

Women are not looking for:

- Criticism
- 'I told you so'
- Someone to fix everything
- Rejection
- Gossiping
- Comparisons to others
- Distrust
- Fear

DON'T

- Tell your friends about the conversation
- Assume you know how the other person is feeling or what they are going through
- Don't Give Up!

Budget/Funding

Adapted from GC Women's Ministries Handbook

A budget is, at best, simply an estimate as to the amount of money you think you will spend during a specific time period. Sometimes budgets must be revised during that time due to over-expenditures and/or unexpected needs that arise.

The revision is to make adjustments from one account to another, still staying within the original budget.

Be reasonably generous with your budget, for committees usually reduce them, sometimes little and sometimes much. It's better to ask and not receive quite what you wish, than not to ask and receive much less.

In presenting your budget to the committee, do your homework and be able to show the basis on which you have come up with the numbers and amounts you are requesting. Keep in mind that all levels of Women's Ministries, GC, divisions, unions, conferences, and local churches have the responsibility to use money wisely. Work closely with your administration.

Be sure to document in writing your activities and their results that have been apparent to so many in Women's Ministries meetings and retreats:

- (1) Women feel good about their church that provides just such opportunities.
- (2) Women are inviting friends who are lukewarm members to attend the meetings, and these friends are experiencing and responding, once again, spiritually and socially with the church.
- (3) Christian women's retreats and meetings are being a significant factor in women deciding for baptism and rebaptism.
- (4) Women are growing spiritually and in their witness in the community

And always thank the union or conference administration, in writing and verbally, for their support, interest and encouragement - no matter to what degree.

Emphasis Days

Throughout the year there are special emphasis days on the Women's Ministries calendar. These events are intended to raise awareness and draw attention to specific issues relating to women. Visit our website for resource links: www.nyconf.org/wm

International Day of Prayer

When: First Sabbath in March*

What: A day to emphasize the importance of prayer

Resources: Both the NAD and GC websites contain sermons, powerpoint presentations, resource material, programing ideas, and archives of previous years programs.

Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

When: Second Sabbath in June*

What: A day to raise awareness of Women's Ministries and its purpose in the church

Resources: Both the NAD and GC websites contain sermons, powerpoint presentations, resource material, programing ideas, and archives of previous years programs.

Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day (EnditNow)

When: Fourth Sabbath in August*

What: A day to raise awareness about abuse and provide prevention resources to women

Resources: The NAD website contains sermons, powerpoint presentations, resource material, programing ideas, and archives of previous years programs.

Women's Ministries Offering

When: Second Sabbath in July

How to Begin

Adapted from GC Women's Ministries Handbook

1. Ask God to guide you
2. Prepare a survey to determine needs of your group
3. Select women with leadership qualities including: be willing to learn, serve God not self, committed to God and His word, integrity, courage, vision, serves others, delegates.
4. Work with your pastor.
5. Identify spiritual gifts of women
6. Target your ministries: will you teach/disciple, nurture, evangelize?
7. Determine priorities. Check your surveys to be sure you are meeting identified needs
8. Write effective goals. To be successful, goals must be Specific, Attainable, and Measureable.
9. Develop the details. Who, what, when, where, why, and how.
10. Determine resources
11. Fund your program
12. Advertise your programs

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and debts are high,
When you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit
Rest if you must, but don't you quit!

~ Author unknown

Program Planning

Adapted from GC Women's Ministries Handbook

One of the most difficult aspects of Women's Ministries can be program planning. How do we get started? What kind of event should we feature? Whom should we target? Below are some ideas to help you get started. Remember, you should always adapt ideas to your particular situation or members' needs. Get together with your committee and brainstorm for more ideas.

What is the purpose of Women's Ministries programs? If it is to entertain the women of your church, it is time to close down—there is plenty of entertainment elsewhere. The purpose of all programs must be the spiritual growth of women, both those in the church and those whom the church wants to reach by using mentoring, small groups, training, nurture, or personal growth and affirmation.

Therefore, when planning a program, it is important to see how it will not only benefit the women of the church, but how it can bring other women to the church. In these programs all can grow as Christian women. But guests should also be able to develop relationships that will bring them back to the church for evangelistic type programs. This goal should always be kept in mind when planning programs.

Small group ministries for women who:

- want to know the Scriptures better (Bible studies)
- want to be part of a prayer group
- are seeking the fellowship of other women
- are new converts
- are single/single again

Support groups for women who:

- are going through a divorce
- are new mothers
- are mothers of teens
- are care-givers
- are single parents
- are grieving
- are victims of abuse
- are facing serious/terminal illness
- are overcoming addictions (smoking, alcohol, etc.)

Fellowship Opportunities

- Night out (concert, dinner, plays)
- Neighborhood study group
- Social opportunities including non-SDA spouses
- Mom's in Touch
- The Widow's Mite

Women's Health Issues

- Breathe Free for Women (smoking)
- Weight-loss clinic
- Cooking/Nutrition classes
- Exercise group
- Walking partners

Prayer Activities

- Breakfasts
- Baskets
- Gardens
- Groups
- Partners

Leadership Training

It is important to provide women with the tools needed for effective leadership. The Women's Ministries Leadership Certification Program has been designed to meet that need.

This four-level program which is offered at the Conference level covers a large variety of leadership-related topics:

- Principles of Effective Leadership
- Women's Need Assessment in the Local Church
- Women Mentoring Women
- Principles of Counseling
- Reclaiming Members
- Public Prayer
- Small Group Dynamics
- Advertising Women's Ministries
- Communication and Conflict Management Skills
- Teen Programs
- Visioning and Goal Setting
- And much more!

Curriculum for each level is divided into eight subject areas:

- History and Philosophy
- Biblical Studies
- People Skills/Personal Growth
- Speaking Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Writing Skills
- Nurture Projects
- Outreach Projects

Participants must complete all of the core requirements plus three elective requirements at each level.

There is a higher purpose for woman, a grander destiny. She should develop and cultivate her powers, for God can employ them in the great work of saving souls from eternal ruin."

Evangelism p. 465