

# **PW Spiritual Enhancement Leaders Workshop**

## ***What Is This?***

A basic outline that can be adapted for use at a PW presbytery or synod gathering, at a cluster training day for PW in the congregations or for an event with neighboring presbyteries.

## ***Who Is the Workshop for?***

Presbyterian Women spiritual enhancement leaders in the congregations, presbyteries and synods. On the churchwide level, many of the responsibilities fall to the Churchwide Coordinating Team Nurture Committee.

## ***What Will Participants Learn?***

Participants will

- learn why it is important to have a spiritual enhancement leader and the position's basic responsibilities
- learn about the PW resources available for spiritual enhancement leaders
- explore the two options for PW presbytery leaders to work with PW congregations

## ***Checklist for Workshop Leaders***

Several days or weeks before the scheduled workshop

- Prepare a written plan or outline, with built-in alternatives.
- Plan activities that have a change of pace.
- Secure resources needed.
- Preview any video or audio materials to be presented.
- Plan a community building activity.
- Prepare necessary handouts.
- Prepare nametags, if needed.

The day of the workshop, prepare the location of the workshop including the following:

- Post signs outside the door.
- Ensure the room has an adequate number of tables and chairs.
- Ensure comfortable temperature and proper lighting.
- Have resources and equipment ready.
- See that equipment functions properly.
- Have visual aids prepared.

Conduct the workshop

- Set a welcoming atmosphere.
- Greet the participants in a friendly manner as they enter.
- Provide nametags, if needed.
- Introduce your self, co-leaders and purpose of the workshop.
- Open with prayer.
- Provide a means by which each person can be introduced to the group.
- Direct the learning activities.
- Share your expectations for the workshop.
- Invite the participants to share their expectations.

- Show enthusiasm for the learning experience ahead.
- Offer an opportunity to share.
- Be flexible to the needs of the group.
- Provide handouts.
- Bring the workshop to a close.
- Summarize the points covered.
- Provide an opportunity for evaluation both by the participants and leader.
- Close with prayer.

## **The Workshop**

Open the session with the suggested prayer or one of your own.

*Come, Holy Spirit, empower us with the ability to make those we serve have a thirst for you and the Word. Help us to be attuned to you in bad times and good times. Allow us to be so grounded in the Word that others follow closer the One in whose name we pray, Jesus the Christ.*

### **Why is it important to have a spiritual enhancement leader?**

To introduce the participants to each other and begin exploring what it means to be a spiritual enhancement leader, invite each participant to briefly share a favorite devotional resource and why it is a favorite.

Thank the participants for sharing. Ask them to think about the reasons people gave for why a resource is a favorite. Did anything surprise them? What are some of the common elements in what they heard?

Ask, “Why do we say that serving as a PW leader is an opportunity for deepening one’s faith?” Record the responses on newsprint. Looking at the list of responses, what would be the advantages of having someone focus on spiritual development?

Point out that some presbytery and synod coordinating teams add the position of spiritual enhancement leader to focus on spiritual growth of PW members. Often it is an appointed (rather than elected) position and the spiritual enhancement leader frequently is a clergywoman.

### **What are the responsibilities of a PW spiritual enhancement leader?**

Ask, “If you were writing the job description for a PW spiritual enhancement leader, what you want to be sure is included?” Record the responses on newsprint. Possible responses may include:

- provides resources for spiritual growth
- helps plan spiritual retreats
- ensures meetings are opened and closed with prayer, and a devotional is included
- may provide pastoral care to the coordinating team members

## **How can the PW spiritual enhancement leader in the presbytery work with congregations?**

Distribute **Handout SEL-1**. Review the differences in the two options. Ask for ideas about how the position might work using each option. What are some specific examples for staying in touch with congregations?

A short break may be appropriate at this point. After the group has refreshed itself, bring the group back together. Select one or more of the following to discuss.

- Speakers for retreats
- Encourage use of the *Horizons* Bible study and provide helps for Bible leaders
- Using *Horizons* as a resource

## **What resources are available for spiritual enhancement leaders?**

If possible, have samples from the resource list on hand for the participants to browse. What additional resources are the participants familiar with?

## **How can the workshop be used to support PW spiritual enhancement leaders?**

After comparing the position responsibilities, ask participants what they would add to the workshop if they were the workshop leaders. Record the ideas on newsprint. Ask participants which idea they might try. Ask, “What additional information might help justice and peace coordinators in the presbyteries and congregations understand their responsibilities?”

Allow time for additional questions and comments. Summarize the workshop by and close with the following prayer or one of your own.

*Redeemer God, we give you all the praise and all the glory for the good that has happened during this time together. We ask your forgiveness for any human frailties that have sneaked in to make our conversation or our actions a distraction. As we close, we do so with thanksgiving for this community of believers serving as your leaders and for You, our living, dynamic communicating God. It is in the precious name of your son, Jesus, we pray.*

## How Does the PW Spiritual Enhancement Leader in the Presbytery Work with the Congregations?

<b>When PWP Spiritual Enhancement Leader Is Primary Contact</b>	<b>When PWP Cluster Leader is Primary Contact</b>
The PW spiritual enhancement leader is a member of the PWP coordinating team and works with the other members to plan and carry out the work of PW in the Presbytery.	The PW spiritual enhancement leader is a member of the PWP coordinating team and works with the other members to plan and carry out the work of PW in the Presbytery.
The PW spiritual enhancement leader provides training and resources for the PW Spiritual Enhancement Leaders in the congregations.	The PW spiritual enhancement leader provides training and resources for the PW Spiritual Enhancement Leaders in the congregations.
The PW spiritual enhancement leader has direct contact with the PW Spiritual Enhancement Leaders in the congregations to send and receive information.	The PW spiritual enhancement leader provides information to the Cluster Leaders to send to the PW Spiritual Enhancement Leaders in the congregations.

### ***Suggested Resources***

- *PW Manual*; includes community-building ideas, planning and evaluation helps as well as ideas for forming new PW circles; item PWR-07-101\*
- *Horizons*, the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women; subscribe online, [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons), or call 800/524-2612; subscription includes six issues of the magazine and the annual Bible study
- *PW Gathering to Work and Worship*; item PWR-01-115\*
- *Planning With a Purpose*, a planning resource based on the Presbyterian Women's Purpose; item PWR-07-110\*
- Additional programming ideas and free, downloadable resources are available on the PW Web pages, [www.pcusa.org/pw](http://www.pcusa.org/pw)
- *Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study*; published annually\*
- The Bible in various translations, including NRSV
- *Finding Calm in the Chaos: Christian Devotions for Busy Women* by Kathleen Long Bostrom (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2005) ISBN: 0664229166
- *Women's Retreats: A Creative Planning Guide* by Sue Edwards (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 2004) ISBN: 0825425077

\*Order through Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612 or [www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace).