

Installation of Regional/Local Officers
Heart to Heart: Women of the Word
2006 - 2007

Hearts are on our coffee cups. Heart pins decorate the lapels of our jackets and shirts. People buy heart-shaped beds, pillows, and tables. People swim in heart-shaped swimming pools. One can buy confetti made of thousands of tiny hearts. Tee shirts, caps, capris, sundresses, hats, pajamas; yes, we even wear hearts. Many people in the world see the heart as a symbol of the love between individuals: man for woman, brothers and sisters for each other, mother for child, friend for friend. Let's just see? How many of you here today have a heart in some shape, form or fashion on your person or in your purse. (Ask for a show of hands or even have the ladies stand in place.)

Let's talk hearts: the heart of the matter, to have heart; to have a broken heart, to learn by heart; to warm the heart, to wear one's heart upon the sleeve, and the list goes on. Then there are songs both popular and sacred: *Heart and Soul, Near to the Heart of God, There Goes My Heart, In My Heart There Rings a Melody, My Heart Belongs to Daddy, Into My Heart, Achy-Breaky Heart*, and the list goes on.

A Christian sees the heart as more than a symbol for worldly love. To the Christian, the heart represents the abiding love found within the heart of Christ. As a Christian's journey of faith draws her closer to the Lord, the Holy Spirit fills her heart with peace, a yearning to serve, and a desire to be an instrument of God. The beatitudes of Christ instruct Christians to be humble, meek, hungering for righteousness, peacemakers, willing to be persecuted for Him, and pure in heart. Each of you as an officer, as well as each Cumberland Presbyterian woman, is blessed by a heartfelt commission:

To reach the hearts of other women through encouragement, enrichment, fellowship, and love as we connect "Heart to Heart" with those whose lives we touch as we journey through the world as "Women of the Word."

_____, as President, you will have the opportunity to connect with many hearts, spreading the love found in the heart of the One whom we all serve, as you lead in Women's Ministry. In this leadership role, you will preside over the meetings of Women's Ministry and the executive committee, and will assist in planning and implementing the work. You will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Missions. This year you will be the leader of the Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry. I charge you to encourage, enrich, and connect in love with those whom you serve as you reach out "Heart to Heart." Let the Beatitudes of Christ be your watchwords as a Woman of the Word, as you call upon, praise, and thank the Lord, rejoicing in Him always. May you be ever faithful to your commitment that you make here today.

_____, as President Elect, you have been given the opportunity to connect with others "Heart to Heart," as you assist in the leadership of Women's Ministry. You will serve as support to the President while also spending this next year observing, studying, and learning all of the responsibilities you will assume when you succeed the current president. Be faithful to your commitment as you serve others as a Woman of the Word: encouraging, enriching, and sharing His love.

_____, as Secretary, you have been given the opportunity to connect with others “Heart to Heart,” as you diligently record minutes of the meetings and the executive committee. In your service, you are charged with taking accurate notes and minutes while being mindful that you are recording the history of Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry for future generations. May your records enrich, encourage, and connect in love with women of future years, spreading the joy with which Cumberland Presbyterian women serve in this day and time as Women of the Word.

_____, as Treasurer, you have been given the opportunity to connect with others “Heart to Heart,” as you perform your duties as treasurer of your (regional, local) Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry. You will be responsible for the receiving, recording, and dispensing of all monies of your (regional, local) organization. You will pay bills and disburse funds as directed by the organization, and make a financial report at meetings. Be faithful to your commitment as you serve as a Woman of the Word.

_____, as Past President, your work is not yet completed. You, too, have been given the opportunity to connect “Heart to Heart,” as you continue your service to Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry. During this next year, you will serve on the executive committee and continue to give insight and assistance in the planning for the organization. Your experience and wisdom will strengthen the work of the executive committee, as well as Cumberland Presbyterian Women’s Ministry. Be faithful to your commitment as you serve as a Woman of the Word.

Ladies, do you accept the responsibilities of the office to which you have been elected and promise to seek God’s guidance in fulfilling your commitment? If so, please respond, “I do.”

It is my pleasure and privilege to declare that you are now officially installed as officers for 2006 – 2007. May God richly bless you for your commitment to serve as a leader in Cumberland Women’s Ministry.

Closing Prayer

We rejoice and give thanks for the willingness of those before you who have chosen to connect with the hearts of others as Women of the Word. We pray that You will bless their journey, giving them the opportunities to touch many, the words to say that will encourage, and Your spirit to fill each of their hearts. May we, as members of the Women’s Ministry, commit ourselves to support them and accept the commission to walk this year inspired by our theme, connecting, Heart to Heart with all. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Note: After the installation, each officer may be given a memento as a symbol of her ministry for the year. With this theme, there will be many choices and possibilities.
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