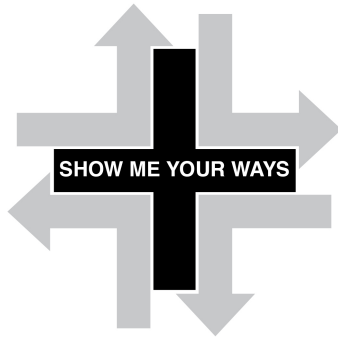


2011-2012 INSTALLATION SERVICE



This coming year we will seek God's direction as we live in the world. *Show Me Your Ways, O Lord...* that is what we will be asking of God as we gather in our local groups, in regional meetings, during retreats, and as we give to the projects we've voted on this week. *Show Me Your Ways, O Lord ...* and as the Women's Ministry Executive Committee (regional officers/local officers/etc) you will be asking it on behalf of the women with whom you will work and serve alongside in the coming year.

Our guiding scripture is Psalm 25: 4-5. That whole psalm was written as an acrostic poem with each line beginning with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet. That's a pretty clever and effective teaching method. So, for this installation service we will consider your duties as officers in the form of an acrostic poem using the word "**OFFICERS**".

First of all, as an officer you need to be **OPEN** – open to God's Spirit for direction and wisdom; open to each other for new ideas and new ways of doing Women's Ministry, open to the women you will be shepherding in the coming year.

You will also need to be **FAITHFUL** – to your duties as an officer and to each other. When you accept a task, you will need to be faithful to follow through and follow up. You will also especially need to be faithful to your own personal spiritual walk knowing that it will be a challenge to lead others in the way, if you are struggling to find your own way.

As an officer, it will be important for you to be **FRIENDLY**. That sound trite and childish, but until folks know that you care about them, they won't really care about what you know. As Women's Ministry officers, take the time to get to know folks and build caring relationships with your regional officers and those with whom you will be working in the coming year.

It will also be helpful for you to be **INNOVATIVE** as an officer. We live in a changing world and Women's Ministry will need innovative leadership on all levels in order to thrive in the future. Don't be afraid to try something new, especially after prayer and listening to God for direction. Accept the challenge of walking a new path, of discovering new ways of doing Women's Ministry, of being innovative!

Be **COMPASSIONATE**. As you serve in the coming year there will be many occasions where you will need to listen with a compassionate and tender heart. You will be called upon to pray for women; women and situations you will not know anything about, but you can lift them up to the One who knows everything. Be ready to love and listen with your heart open.

You will definitely need a lot of energy in the coming, so be **ENERGETIC!** If it takes a good 8-10 hours of sleep, a gallon of high-caffeine coffee or diet Coke; a morning run or daily yoga - whatever it takes, be prepared to serve in the coming year with high energy and enthusiasm.

As an officer you will need to be **RESOURCEFUL** – you will be called upon to give insight and direction in a multitude of situations. Know the resources that are available in the Resource Manual, the website and within the denomination. Know whom to call upon if you can't answer a particular question. Be sure to follow through when someone comes to you for help and guidance.

And lastly, be prepared to be a **SERVANT** leader. Following in the example of Jesus when he knelt down to wash his disciple's feet be prepared to do a similar work in the coming year. Wash feet. Love and serve others.

- Do you accept the office to which you've been elected to fill? **YES**
- Do you promise to fulfill all your duties to the best of your abilities, with the direction and help of the Holy Spirit? **YES**
- (To those gathered) – as women representing particular churches and regions, as leaders in various agencies and teams of the CP Church, as visitors, friends, partners, and supporters of Women's Ministry – will you accept these officers and offer your support and prayers for their ministry and leadership in the coming year? **WE WILL**

TO THE PRESIDENT:

_____, (name) – as president of Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry you will wear the symbol of Women's Ministry in the President's Pendant. When you wear as you travel remember that you represent women throughout the Cumberland Presbyterian Church – women of all ages and all life experiences, women who have been faithful to God for countless years, women who are just now beginning their work in women's ministry, women who are longing for a new way of being and doing Women's Ministry, as well as women who are struggling with change and longing for the days of old. As you wear this President Pendant remember all the women that you represent and constantly seek God's guidance and wisdom as you lead them.

PRAYER:

Loving God, join us together this day in a shared ministry of love and service, which reflects the life of Jesus Christ. May we covenant together to love each other, to agree to disagree, to restrain from speaking unkindly of others, and to avoid all forms of unfaithfulness. Bless our covenant as we minister together as officers and women of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Region/Church). Guide our steps as we seek your direction in the coming year. In the name of Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, we pray. Amen.