

**What Shall We Give?  
Membership Skit  
Convention 2004**



**Characters:**

President – Ms.-I'm-In-Control-Here

President-Elect – Ms. Hurry-Up-and-Let's-Go

Secretary – Ms. Hung-Up-On-Details

Treasurer – Ms. Treasury Watchdog

Past President – Ms. Wishy Washy

(All wear large name tags hung around neck. Should be visible to audience)

**Setting:**

Called meeting of Women's Ministry Executive Committee. Ms. I'm-In-Control-Here and Ms. Treasury Watchdog are seated at table. Ms. Control has folder in front of her and Ms. Watchdog has an account ledger, checkbook, and folder.

**Ms. Control** (*Looking at watch*): Well, I called this meeting for 5:00 and according to my watch, we have about 5 minutes. We need 3 members for a quorum, so as soon as somebody else comes in, we will get started.

**Ms. Watchdog** (*Looking at account ledger, checking figures*): Good! I hope everyone is aware that we don't have a lot of money to spend today and we certainly need to stay within our budget.

*(Enter Ms. Wishy Washy, carrying her folder)*

**Ms. Wishy Washy**: Hi! Hope I'm not late! I just couldn't decide what to wear, changed three times, and still think I may have dressed too warm. Also, didn't know what information I needed to bring. Oh, it's so hard to make decisions. (*Takes seat*)

*(Enter Ms. Hung-Up-On-Details, carrying a large briefcase bulging with papers and a Women's Ministry Manual; and Ms. Hurry-Up-and-Let's-Go, with just her purse. Both sit at table).*

**Ms. Details** (*Opens up briefcase and spreads numerous papers before her*): My watch says 5:00 sharp, and I'm here with any information we may need. It is so important to have all the details in order to make an informed decision.

**Ms. Hurry Up** (*Takes small notebook and pen out of purse*): Well, I don't think we need to take a lot of time here. (*Looks at watch*). I've still got to make dinner for my family, go watch my son [grandson] play ball, and work on a program for Women's Ministry next week. Let's just get it done and go.

**Ms. Control:** Thanks for being on time – it is 5:00, so let’s get started with our opening prayer. *(All bow as the prayer is said):* “Gracious and loving God, give us open minds and hearts, grant us wisdom and understanding, and may we always be guided by your Spirit as we make important decisions which will affect the ministry of our church now, and in the future. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Our reason for meeting today is to discuss what we will give to honor women who have served our church faithfully and well for a number of years, not only in women’s ministry, but in other areas as well. We have five members with 50 years of service, nine women with 25 years of service, and eleven women with 10 years of service. I am open to any suggestions you might have.

**Ms. Hurry Up:** Well, that’s easy. Let’s just get 25 silver trays, put their name, the number of years served, and the church’s name on the back. We could present them on Women’s Ministry Sunday. Can we vote on it and go?

**Ms. Watchdog:** Wait a minute here! Do you have any idea what 25 silver trays with engraving would cost? I’m not at all sure we have that much in our budget to spend.

**Ms. Wishy Washy:** Well, I would have to give this some thought. Do you think they would want silver trays? They would have to find a place to display them and have to keep them polished. I just don’t know.

**Ms. Details:** If we did buy silver trays, would you want them all to be the same? Or would you give larger ones for 50 years; medium-sized for 25 years; and smaller ones for 10 years. Also, would you engrave the married name, Mrs. Joe Smith or their given *Mary Simpson Smith*? Would the engraving be all caps or italicized? Lots of details to consider.

**Ms. Hurry-Up:** Well, maybe instead of silver trays, we should do wooden plaques with gold engraving. Those probably won’t cost as much, could all be the same size, won’t have to be polished – what do you think? Let’s vote on it and go! *(Looks at watch)*

**Ms. Control:** I would like for us to think in another direction. What do you know about endowment giving?

**Ms. Hurry-Up:** Endowment giving? Does that have anything to do with, like a dowry? Nobody’s getting married here.

**Ms. Control:** Well, of course not, and though the words may come from the same root word, endowment giving has nothing to do with gifts brought into a marriage. Endowment gifts are funds which are invested for the purpose of creating a continuous flow of income to support the ministries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In the case of Women’s Ministry this has traditionally been for support of the Board of Missions.

**Ms. Details:** I knew this Resource Manual would be helpful. I am sure I saw something in here

about endowment giving – it is under the section title “Opportunities For Giving”. Here it is – let me go make everyone a copy. (*Leaves*)

**Ms. Hurry-Up:** (*Looking at watch*) I hope this is not going to take forever. The game starts at 6:30 – maybe we’ll just have to get hot dogs at the ball park. Personally, I think the silver trays sounded okay.

**Ms. Watchdog:** The budget we adopted at the beginning of the year has an allowance of \$2500.00 for recognition of members. We certainly do not want to exceed that. I think the engraved plaques are the way to go.

**Ms. Wishy Washy:** Maybe we should take the copies home with us, think about it, and meet again to make a decision. I really don’t know what would be the best choice.

**Ms. Details** (*Returning with copies for everyone, takes her seat*): Let’s take a look at this. (*All take a minute to look at the information*)

**Ms. Control:** It seems to me we have the answer before us – what better way to give honor and recognition than through a gift that continues to give support year after year after year. For members who have served 50 years, we can bestow a Golden Patron Membership for \$150, for those who have served 25 years a Silver Patron Membership for \$125, and for those who have served 10 years a Diamond Perpetual Membership for \$50. It is interesting to note there is also a Perpetual Membership for \$30.00 and a Patron Membership for \$100.00 for other types of recognition.

**Ms. Details:** There is an order blank here we can copy and complete for each honoree. Certificates of recognition will be issued by the Board of Missions and they can be presented on Women’s Ministry Sunday.

**Ms. Watchdog:** According to my figures, the amount of the contribution is \$2,425 – well within our budget amount.

**Ms. Hurry-Up:** I move we order 5 Golden Patron Memberships, 9 Silver Patron Memberships, and 11 Diamond Perpetual Memberships from the Board of Missions for a total of \$2,425. Certificates issued in the name of each honoree will be presented on Women’s Ministry Sunday.

**Ms. Details:** I second.

**Ms. Control:** You have heard the motion made and seconded. Any further discussion? If not, all in favor raise your hand (*All raise hands – Ms. Wishy Washy about halfway*). The motion carries. We will present this as a recommendation at our next regular meeting, and I feel certain it will be approved wholeheartedly by our membership. Thank you, ladies, for your time and for being open to the concept of endowment giving. I am sure what we have done here will set a precedent for succeeding years.

**Ms. Hurry-Up:** I must admit, it is much better stewardship to give memberships than to buy

silver trays. (*Looking at watch*) I may have time to fix dinner after all.

**Ms. Details:** I will get copies made of the order form, and secure all information needed for completing one on each honoree. I will also make sure they are submitted in time to have them for presentation on Women's Ministry Sunday.

**Ms. Watchdog:** I will write the check as soon as the entire membership votes. We have an extra \$75.00 we can use for framing of the certificates.

**Ms. Wishy Washy:** I feel really good about the decision we made, and am convinced it was the right one. Hey – what a great feeling!

**Ms. Control:** When planning this meeting, I thought about the lines from *In the Bleak Midwinter* –

*“What shall I give him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd I would give a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yes, what shall I give him – I'll give him my heart.”*

Missions has been the heart of Women's Ministries from its inception and I think endowment giving provides us an opportunity to “*give him our heart*” through the gift of funds that will assure the ongoing support of Missions in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Today, I think we did just that – gave him our heart. This meeting is adjourned.

*(All exit with small-talk – “See you Sunday!”, etc.)*

Skit written by **Mary Jo Schnorbus**, who is a member of the Marshall Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Marshall, Texas. She has been active in Women's Ministry for many years, having served most recently as president of her local Women's Ministry.

