

Lessons I've Learned from Women's Ministry Directors

I had the privilege to meet with three current and former Women's Ministry Directors. Each one shared valuable wisdom and insight into effectively leading a women's ministry.

Angela Cirocco, the Women's Ministry Director at Northwest Bible Church in Dallas, graciously shared some of what her ministry does that has been effective. Here are some of my key takeaways from our conversation:

1. Create a board/team of women who are capable at what they do, willing to work as a team, and will submit to the Director's leadership.
2. Ask the members of the Board to commit to two years--long enough to accomplish things but not so long that they burn out.
3. Meet one-on-one with the members of the Board to encourage them and receive their honest feedback.
4. Train and empower the women of my church to teach Bible lessons.
5. Make sure the volunteers understand how appreciated they are—gifts, meals, conversations, etc.
6. Give women the opportunities to share their testimonies. This encourages the women to look for God's working in their lives.
7. Don't be afraid to delegate and then trust that person to get the job done.

Jenny Black, the outgoing Women's Ministry Director at Central Bible Church in Fort Worth, is my Women's Minister and is always excited to share about her ministry. Some things I've learned from Jenny:

1. Be patient with the people of the church. They frequently don't understand everything involved in planning an event.
2. Your team is important. Form good relationships.
3. Although the budget usually seems like it won't be enough, God always provides perfectly!

4. However, don't be afraid to ask for a larger budget if needed!
5. Plan ahead. Volunteers are sometimes slow in their responsibilities, so plan far enough in advance to allow for delays.
6. Be diligent in keeping people updated on responsibilities and deadlines.
7. Look for gifted women and equip them to serve.

Dr. Sue Edwards, the former Women's Ministry Director at Prestonwood Baptist Church and Irving Bible Church, is my generous mentor and a fountain of wisdom! This is a small sample of what she has taught me so far:

1. When first starting as the Women's Ministry Director at a church, don't make any major changes for a year.
2. Pray for God's financial provision. He often provides in unusual ways.
3. Ask the older women of the church to cook meals for events.
4. Meet regularly with your team leaders to train and encourage.
5. Work hard but set boundaries on your workday—end your workday at a set time.
6. Don't be afraid to insist on being paid for your work. If the church is paying a man for a similar type of job, they should also pay a woman.
7. There is a lot of gray area and many different opinions on women in church leadership. Always be kind and gracious.