

Alongside Care

Notes about what this is:

- A bridge between hurting women and compassionate shepherding care in our church.
- Necessary allies: help the elders and deacons get a fuller perspective of the congregation as a whole so the men can be the best shepherds they can be.
- Women who can be called upon when a situation involves a woman understanding that ultimate care belongs to the session.
- Simply: Helping the elders and deacons care for and help women.

Categories for Women Helpers

1. Session level, "Crisis Care"
 - a. Women trained to be brought into a crisis situation to come alongside the session to meet with/walk with a woman needing session involvement
 - b. Primary contact: Sarah DeBoer
 - i. If Sarah can't do it or has a conflict of interest, she will have another woman she'll suggest to enter into the situation with the elders.
2. Long term care, "Alongside Care"
 - a. Purpose: Mature, godly, and intentional women to come alongside a woman who has a longer term emotional and relational care need; aware of possible mercy needs
 - b. Work with elders/deacons involved (i.e. Mercy Ministry)
 - c. Commitment of 1 year once called upon
 - d. To provide encouragement, prayer, and to connect with resources within the church. (i.e. case manager of sorts)
 - e. May provide mentoring herself or find a mentor for the woman in need
 - f. Available to participate in homebound communion visits
 - g. Regular contact including 1 or 2x a month
 - h. Oversight by Women's Ministry Director
 - i. 10 women needed, with a training session.
3. Care team alongside elders and deacons, "Women's Ministry Care Team"
 - a. Purpose: Women to help/assist/partner with leadership in caring for women of the congregation by making contact and reporting back to the existing elder/deacon care teams.
 - b. 1-2 women assigned to each care group
 - c. Duration of service is determined in consultation with the session and the woman serving.
 - d. Attend quarterly meetings with deacons and elders to pray together in care groups to provide connection and communicate needs to session.
 - e. Available to participate in homebound communion visits.
 - f. Oversight by Women's Ministry Director
 - g. 8 women needed, with a training session