

## *Women's Ministry*

### **Philosophy and Core Values**

#### **Philosophy, Mission, and Vision of Women's Ministry:**

The purpose of our Women's Ministry is first to uphold Pennington Park Church's mission and vision and to complement other ministries within the church. Our Women's Ministry is not intended to take the place of the overall church's ministry, but rather to build up the church for the furthering of God's Kingdom. With this foundation, we seek to know Jesus and make Him known in our own lives and the lives of the women inside and outside of our church through the study of God's Word, prayer, Christian fellowship, and discipleship. Our ministry operations will seek to reflect this philosophy.

We seek to know God and the people that He has placed in our spheres, in the church, home, work, and community. We want to grow deeper in love with God by diving in His Word and prayer with other women, no matter their age, their roles, their race, or their status; and we desire to go together. As equipped women in the Word and prayer within our local church, we seek to pursue to spread the gospel within our community, growing from a knowledge of people to a love for His people, seeking them to repeat this process of knowing, growing, and going in Jesus from generation to generation.

**The Core Values of our Women's Ministry** define the values behind our philosophy. They shape the culture of our ministry, reflecting what we value most and what identities us. Knowing that we are finite, our core values help us to prioritize what ministry opportunities we will commit to.

We are:

- Grounded in the Word- Our Women's Ministry is historically formed upon Scripture and is informed to move in step with God's Word. We wholeheartedly believe that it is "profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16-17)"; and that "everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope (Romans 15:4)". We center our women's conferences and retreats, our Bible studies, and our leadership training on God's Word, differentiating our Women's Ministry from a social gathering or sorority.
- Passionate about prayer- Being grounded in the Word leads us to humbly bending our knee to our Father God, knowing that He alone is God and that we were created for His purpose. We seek to be a body of women that desperately pursues God with our requests, focusing our hearts and minds individually and corporately, calling upon the Spirit to work mightily in and through us, and uniting us together with compassion for the church and culture.
- Discipled and discipling- The #1 priority of our Women's Ministry is to train and equip women to become mature disciples with practical application of the Word and prayer for everyday living. We see all women on a spectrum towards Biblical womanhood and are committed as a church to grow disciples first within our church body, for the equipping of the body to lead others outside our church to know Jesus and make Him known.
- Completers, not competitors- We seek direction and influence within the larger church context. We do not desire for Women's Ministry to replace but enhance women's participation in all church-wide activities. We do not seek to build silos or drain other ministries, but rather to be a blessing. We want to be women that the church leadership wants and are able to lead, affirming pastors, elders, and church leaders, both male and female.
- Relationship builders- Our ministry is structured with an intentionality not to create personal ministries based on the roles that we play as women but rather our calling to a collective body. Our roles, our races, our statuses, and our ages when brought together help us to journey in our Christian walks, learning from our pains, our pasts, and our circumstances, sharing our needs, and

flourishing in our futures as we walk together. The strongest relationships within the church are those that are centered on Christ, all as image bearers that are unified in our diversity.

**Women's Ministry Strategy:**

- Know
  - Grow
  - Go
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- **Complementarianism:** “Pennington Park Church ascribes to a complementary view of men and women within the church and the home. Both men and women are created by God and have equal value and worth, and together they uniquely reflect complementary truths about the image of God. We believe both the mandate to fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:27-28) and that the mandate given by Christ to evangelize and disciple others (Matthew 28:18-20) was given to women and men equally, and so also that spiritual gifts were given by Christ to His Church for the flourishing of the Church as a whole (1 Corinthians 12). Both men and women need opportunities to lead and serve, to be equipped and train, to disciple and be discipled, to find community, and to use their gifts for the growth of the Church and good of the world.” (Dustin Crowe)