

NURTURING IS...

**A WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERSHIP
NURTURE AND OUTREACH**

PARTICIPANT'S HANDOUT

Officer Update 2004
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Revised PJK June 2004

NURTURING IS...

A WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

GOALS of workshop:

- Model the meaning of nurture throughout the organization and within the portfolio of the MN&O Coordinator
- Strengthen the connectional link within the organization
- Explore relationship between nurture & PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

OBJECTIVES:

- Highlight the multi-dimensional aspects of nurturing membership, its application to the organization of United Methodist Women
- Provide Conference MN&O Coordinators with tools to develop focusing on Nurturing Membership
- Consider the relationship between nurture and hospitality
- Heighten awareness of contributions of women in different age/ethnic/racial groups to the organization
- Develop awareness of the strengths of being a part of a connectional organization
- Enlarge concepts for better understanding of women's mutual interests, similarities and relationships with women in a global context

METHODS:

- ✓ Biblical and theological study
- ✓ Discussion and dialogue
- ✓ Experiential learning exercises

OUTLINE 60 minutes

❖	05 minutes	Opening Introduction of facilitator Outline purpose of workshop
❖	10 minutes	Nurturing Is ... Definition
❖	25 minutes	Draw the Circle Wide
❖	20 minutes	Bible Study
❖	05 minutes	Closing Worship

OPENING

1. Introduction of facilitator
 - Name
 - Conference/ place where you live
 - Role in United Methodist Women

2. Introduction of workshop
 - Purpose/goal of workshop [Continue with finding new ways to nurture membership and train officers]
 - Short overview of what we will do together

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NURTURING IS... DEFINITION

Nurture: to feed; to nourish; to educate; to train; promoting the development of ...
Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary 1998

NURTURING IS.....

Look at the brochure on Nurturing

1. Check the first column. NURTURING IS....
2. Read each one.
3. Decide if this part of nurturing tends to be more important for:
 - a. present membership
 - b. new or potential members
 - c. give reason or rationale for each one (short answers please)

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE

1. Each participant has 4 circles: Label each with one of the following.
A. Personal B. Community
C. Organization D. Global
2. On the Personal Circle: Write.....
 - Reason I joined United Methodist Women
 - The best part of belonging to United Methodist Women is.....
3. On the Community Circle: Write...
 - A list of who you include in your "Community of Women".
 - Has your community grown or changed, as you became more involved in the organization? If so, how?
4. On the Organization Circle: Write.....
 - The opportunities you have had to learn
 - One growth experience, or new concept you encountered
 - Unique people you have met through the United Methodist Women
5. On the Global Circle: Write....
 - Two ways in which you are more aware of world issues.
 - Give two common values and goals of sisters/brothers from other countries and cultures.
6. On Small Center Circle: Write.....
 - To Know God

Put circles together; fasten with a cotter pin with To Know God in Center.

QUESTIONS:

1. How was nurturing a part of these growth opportunities?
2. Did you catch the hint of the PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women? It is related in many ways. Give it some thought.
3. Relate your experiences with the facets listed in NURTURING IS.... Is there a connection/ relation to those basics?
4. How can we create opportunities for other women to have similar experiences?

(Refer to Nurturing Brochure "Nurturing is..." and PURPOSE POSTER)

BIBLE STUDY

DEFINITION:

Hospitality is receiving and entertaining strangers and guests in a friendly generous manner; having an open mind, being receptive.

Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1998

In the Old Testament, hospitality was a virtue, as well as a duty. Providing the basics for comfort for strangers and guests alike, was expected, an ethical requirement. This was still a part of the community ethics during the time of Jesus. In fact, as Jesus began his public ministry, he chose to live in a condition of having to rely on other people's aid and hospitality.

Divide into groups of 2-3 persons: Read two stories and compare the differences.

Luke 10: 38-42 and Luke 19:5-10

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Luke 10:38-42:

1. Jesus is a guest in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. What attributes of nurturing is Mary participating?
2. Martha is has chosen to provide for the comfort of her guests. This is an expectation in her culture. What is the criticism we often hear about Martha? Why?
3. Is it possible to provide hospitality and be nurtured as well?
4. Relate this to the responsibility we have to our membership.

Luke 19:5-10:

1. How does this "party" differ from the Mary-Martha story?
2. What might be the message here for us, in regard to who is to be included in God's company of friends and sharing the table? What aspect of hospitality and nurturing does Jesus speak to those who are critical?
3. Who sits at our table? Who do we choose to included in our circle? How do we widen our circle to include a diverse community?

BE READY TO REPORT TO TOTAL GROUP WITH SHORT RESPONSES!



CLOSING:

HYMN

“Help Us Accept Each Other”
[May be sung or read as a litany]

UM Hymnal, Page 560

Verse 1:

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Verse 2:

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hop and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Verse 3:

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.

Verse 4:

Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Compassionate God, you have asked us to embrace and nurture all our sisters and brothers. Our desire is to be open and inviting to all. We find it easier to sit in the company of those who are familiar and those who accept us. Forgive us for failing to understand what it means to be a nurturing, hospitable family.

We pray for strength and courage to go beyond the familiar to invite others into our community. Grant us wisdom and insights to become more hospitable to those whom we do not know, nor understand. In the name of your Son, the nurturing compassionate Jesus, we pray. AMEN.