

STRUCTURE OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women is an organized way for women in the congregation to work together and to have fellowship. The plan of grouping women in Circles provides an inclusive, caring community.

All women members in the church are invited to be members of a Circle. Circles meet once a month for Bible study and are a vital link into the life of the church with opportunities for small group interaction and involvement with activities of the congregation. Circle members minister to each other in times of bereavement and special needs.

A PW Committee provides direction. The committee includes a coordinator, several advisors, and the Circle leaders.

PW is directly responsible to the Session of the church. Activities, projects, plans, and goals of the local organization are in keeping with the policies of the Session, Presbytery, and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

GLOSSARY

BIRTHDAY OFFERING – Annual gift (May) in celebration of the birthday of Presbyterian Women. The money goes for special causes in our country and in foreign countries alternately.

BLESSING BOXES – Small containers to hold money, expressing our gratitude to God for special blessings. The money is used to provide scholarships for men and women from Trinity Presbytery going into Christian service. This is known as our Presbyterian Scholarship Fund.

BUDGET – The plan for each year's expenses. Money comes from the personal pledge and gifts of each Circle member.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED – An ecumenical effort which crosses denominational lines to publicize and support people of mutual interests locally and around the world. Women are invited to three special celebrations each year – World Communion Day in November, World Day of Prayer in March, and May Friendship Day in May.

COLUMBIA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE – Made up of friends of Columbia Theological Seminary who contribute funds to pay for projects selected annually to benefit the seminary. A pilgrimage is held each April to visit the campus, meet the students, and hear a report of the CFC Project. This is called "Come See Columbia Day".

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Located in Decatur, GA for the training of ministers and Christian leaders.

COORDINATING TEAM – the elected leaders of the PW in congregations, presbyteries, synod and church wide.

DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES – 100 Witherspoon St. Louisville, KY 40202-1396 (800-524-2612). Presbyterian Resource Center where printed and audiovisual material may be secured.

GATHERING – A meeting of the entire membership under a variety of circumstances and for different purposes, whether study, social or business.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Highest court of our Church. It represents in one body all the churches of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its annual meetings are attended by ministers and elders commissioned by their presbyteries.

HISTORICAL FOUNDATION – Histories, pictures, and memorials of local churches are currently preserved at Columbia Theological Seminary.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – An honorary life membership is given to honor a woman who has given outstanding service to the Presbyterian Women or to the church. The recipient is given a pin and a certificate, and a biographical sketch is filed at the Historical Foundation in Montreat. The amount paid for the membership (\$75) is used for further training and assistance of the Presbyterian Women leaders.

HORIZONS – Official magazine of Presbyterian Women

LEAST COIN FELLOWSHIP – An offering originated by an international group of women meeting in Southeast Asia, and promoted by Church women United. In each country a “least coin” (in the USA, a penny) is prayerfully given by each member of each Circle meeting to be used for a worthy cause. The meaning is in a spirit of love and mutual concern for the mission of the Church around the world, rather than in material results.

MISSION HAVEN – Home for missionaries home on furlough. Located at Columbia theological Seminary, Decatur, GA.

MONTREAT, NC – A conference center for the entire General assembly, located in Montreat, NC. Conferences are held year around on all aspects of church life.

OFFICER TRAINING WORKSHOPS – Training opportunity held in the fall for all Presbyterian Women officers and program chairs of Trinity Presbytery.

P.W. CLUSTER LEADER – A volunteer who has been elected to serve as a liaison between the congregations in a specific district and the presbytery.

PLEDGE – Money that members have promised to pay.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE – Co-educational four-year liberal arts college located in Clinton, SC supported by Synod.

PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITIES OF SC – Homes for senior citizens are located in South Carolina in Florence, Summerville, Clinton, Columbia, and Easley.

PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY – Official magazine of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) published monthly.

PRESBYTERY – This court of our church is comprised of the teaching elders (ministers) within its geographical and jurisdictional bounds, and at least one ruling elder, commissioned by the Session, from each member church.

PRESBYTERY P.W. COORDINATING TEAM – Elected by the women of the Presbytery at the annual meeting in March for two-year terms. This council meets four times a year, publishes a newsletter, holds training workshops for local Presbyterian Women officers, plans annual retreat for the Women in the Presbytery, and is available to assist the women in local churches.

QUEENS COLLEGE – A four year liberal arts college primarily for women located in Charlotte, NC supported by the Synod.

RABUN GAP SCHOOL – An accredited boarding high school located in Rabun Gap, GA supported by the Synod.

SOUTH CAROLINA HOME – A home in Montreat, NC, given as a memorial to the Reverend William Brearley. South Carolina ministers may stay there free of charge. Other Presbyterians may stay for a nominal cost.

STUDY BOOK – The HORIZONS Bible Study published by Presbyterian Women for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) used by our Circles for annual Bible study.

SUNSHINE FUND – An offering taken at each Circle meeting to furnish funds for the individual Circle.

THANK OFFERING – (including Health Ministries) – Annual gift (fall) in gratitude for our blessings. 33% of the offering support medical mission originally underwritten by White Cross.

THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN – Located in Clinton, SC, serving the synod. Takes infants through high school age, for full-time care of orphans, or temporary to full-time care of children from broken homes. Has cottages and a church.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY & PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Located in Richmond, VA, for the training of ministers, directors of Christian Education and Christian leaders.

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP – Organization of Presbyterian students on the college level.