

Women's Ministry Season Wrap Up

Hello –

We have officially wrapped up our first season of the Women's Ministry for 2018. We began meeting back in February and have had six sessions. We were incredibly blessed to have our Seminarian, Dina Widelake, helping to lead us these past few months.

For those of you who missed a few of our meetings or were not able to attend at all, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on where we have been. We spent the first season establishing the pattern of our future meetings. Typically, we begin by eating a simple meal together giving us time to have fellowship with one another. After food and fellowship, we have a simple worship service to allow ourselves to be in God's presence and enjoy a few moments of silence. From there, we focus on a topic, discussion or activity for the evening. The last few minutes are spent wrapping up and ending in prayer.

Our topics and activities were varied but they sparked connections and rich discussions.

- Meeting One: We began by discerning who we wanted to be as a ministry. We gave input and formed ideas as to what the group would look and feel like. We considered our place in the larger St. David's community.
- Meeting Two: We then focused on the idea of Sabbath. We used quotes about Sabbath as a jumping off point for what Sabbath means to us and to this ministry.
- Meeting Three: As a newly formed group, we felt that the next right topic was to put our discernment to paper and brainstorm about the promises that we wanted to make to each other as guiding principles. We spent a session working with those promises until they expressed what the group thought was important, and we had a consensus on how we wanted to move forward as a ministry. During that same meeting, we introduced a concept called the "I Am From" poem and encouraged women who were interested to write their own.
- Meeting Four: We listened to some "I Am From" poems written from the perspective of two women in the bible, Eve and Mary of Bethany. We spent time discussing these women and the poem's format as a way to get to know women in the bible more intimately. We provided time for women who had created their own personal "I Am From" poems to share them with the group if they felt called to do so.
- Meeting Five: We invited guest speaker, Kam Flynn, to join us for the evening to play the Hello Game. We divided into two small groups and, using a book of questions, took turns answering questions about our own lives. The questions were meaningful and thought-provoking and allowed us to get to know ourselves and one another better. It was also okay to not answer questions and simply be present to other women.

- Meeting Six: We focused on extended fellowship with one another as we celebrated Dina's last meeting with us as co-leader. We reviewed where the ministry has been and looked to the future summer season of the ministry, including the frequency of meeting times as well as the planning of some activities that are easier to accomplish in summer weather. We ended with a special blessing for Dina as a send-off to her chaplaincy work.

As we look forward to the summer, I am including the schedule of upcoming meetings and events. A Sign Up Genius will be available for each event. We welcome women of any age and stage to join us at any time. Although we meet regularly, our activities are not sequential and there are no requirements before or after meetings. Whether you are able to join us twice a month or twice a year, you are welcome.

[insert schedule]

Blessings,

Alyssa Yamatani, Stephanie Hearne and Cyndie Fish