**INTERREGIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENTS FOR**

**DISCIPLES WOMEN CABINETS/COMMISSIONS/IDENTIFIED LEADERS**

**EVENT OUTLINE**

**PURPOSE:** To develop leadership skills for women serving on Regional Disciples Women Cabinets / Commissions and women identified with leadership potential to provide the knowledge and resources which will enable persons to enter into leadership and fulfill their responsibilities with increased effectiveness.

**TIME AND PLACE:** Held every four years over a Friday evening through Sunday noon. The staff of the interregional group determine which region will host the event.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Staff of participating regions and staff of Disciples Women. Planning begins in Interregional groups at Staff Fellowship.

The staff member of the hosting region is responsible for registration and housing arrangements. Another regional staff person works closely with the DW staff person to plan and implement the program. The event is devoted to program introduction and training and skill development, led by DW staff. Church Finance Council, Global Missions and Christian Church Foundation also make staff available for educational training at these events. Regional persons provide leadership in worship, community building/sharing, small groups and other areas of interest/need which may arise.

Disciples Women currently budgets $500 per region for such events The planning committee decides how the budgeted amount will be divided. Interregional groups can meet every four years (skipping the QA year) on alternating schedules so all groups have an opportunity for a training event. Several options for consideration are:

1. Apply budgeted amount towards expense of meeting site (rooms/meals/on- site costs). Regions then pay for their travel plus any additional costs for on- site expenses.
2. Equally divide the budget ($500 per region) between participating regions who would decide how their portion is to be used (e.g., travel costs, scholarships, etc.).

c. Build budget to include: on-site room/meal costs per person, audio-visuals, printed resources, needed beyond quantity for attendees or beyond general staff budget.

d. Reach agreement on how money is to be used.

The planning committee should consider:

1. Compiling a list of needs from participating regions well in advance.

2. Creating a “to do” list of assignments, with responsibility and completion dates assigned.

3. Modeling a variety of presentation methods, educational models, group processes and technology applications.

4. Sharing leadership in the planning and execution of the event.

5. Using Staff Fellowship meetings, General Assembly, and other gatherings as opportunity for long-range planning for this leadership training.

6. Conferring early with DW staff and regions to determine desired dates and times for training.

7. Building an email list for easier communication

**EVENT MODULES**

**Opening Gathering (usually Friday evening):**

***Orientation/ Community Building/ Sharing***

This is an opportunity to get acquainted, introduce staff, outline the purpose of the meeting and “break the ice” for newcomers. The design should provide for maximum sharing of joys, frustrations, events, accomplishments, designs, disappointments, and visions. Small groups may build on such questions as: What questions, concerns, expectations, do you bring? What’s exciting in my region? What do I hope to leave this event with? It is helpful to include some activity which builds relationship and includes laughter.

Sharing by the Disciples Women staff may be included either here or early the following day. This can take place in a panel format, an informal discussion, or a fish bowl design. DW staff do not necessarily have to be in the first segment, but it is helpful to include them early in the program.

***Central Blocks of Time***

There are several methods for accomplishing the goal of this event:

1. Divide into three or four workshops according to office held, interest, skill training, etc.

Two major portions of the time (4-5 hours total) are allocated for in depth work in these groups.

The third major block is divided into two or three ½-1 hour mini-workshops where participants get an overview of the workshops they did not attend. At the end of the event everyone has experienced all of the topics, but has “majored” in one.

2. Series of workshops (2-2 ½ hours each) where participants may choose which ones to attend. Possible topics to consider:

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| Decision making | Effective leadership (evaluating, goal setting, developing long-range plans |
| Conflict management/resolution | Creative problem solving |
| Putting action to good ideas | Using new technology |
| New models for ministry | How to resource events |
| How to be an apostle (creating excitement, promoting ministry) | Stewardship |
| Communication methods (email, newsletters, web sites, etc.) | Worship planning |
| Spiritual styles | Leadership development (recruiting, training, etc.) |
| Workshop development | Retreat planning/models |
| Service and social action | Bible study |
| Just Women Bible study | Visioning |
| Intergenerational Discovery | Woman-to-Woman experiences |

***EVALUATION***

A written evaluation at the event is requested to assist in future planning. The method of evaluation should be determined by the planning committee. The DW staff will compile the evaluations and mail a copy to each of the participating regions.