

## A FOCUS GROUP EVENT

When your church is ready to revision, revamp, recreate or start an organized women's group, it is best to have an event which will uncover the needs of the women of your church.

The current leaders, or where there is no group, comprised of a committed core of 4-6 women should do the following:

- Personally invite, face to face and/or by phone, the women of your church to a Focus Group Event. Make sure to convey the purpose of the meeting which is to get their honest input in order to recreate, redesign or start an organized women's ministries group.
- Plan a meeting at a time convenient for most women that includes some time for fellowship and refreshments.
- Invite someone who is not a member of your church to facilitate the meeting. You might contact someone from the diocesan or provincial organization or a neighboring church. You want someone who does not have a vested interest in the outcome of the gathering.
- Have everyone gather as a whole group and again, explain the purpose of the meeting. Open with a short icebreaker activity. Have the rector/vicar present to express support for this effort and to welcome everyone. Use one of the many processes to begin an outline for the future.
- Before leaving the session, make sure that there is a group to take the results, publish them, and work toward implementation.

### Ouch! That Hurts!

These events can result in painful truth being revealed. You must be ready to hear it. Despite efforts to create a caring community of women, some women will say they don't feel welcomed or that women's work is irrelevant to their needs or not worth their precious time. If it is obvious that women's ministries are not going well at your church, it is very important to find out why. It is better to have information, even if it hurts, than not to have it.

### As a Leader of Women's Ministries...

It is important to remember that your goal is to serve, not be served. Christ will honor your efforts, especially if you are open to your Sisters in Christ and willing to make changes that are necessary to build a stronger community of women in your congregation. Pray and work with others as a team who feel called to this ministry. Work hard, pray for guidance, and trust that God will use you in special ways, sometimes beyond your understanding.