

WOMEN'S CLUB

OPTIONS



For members of the Worldwide Church of God

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Mission Statement

All clubs sponsored by the Worldwide Church of God should share the common mission of developing Christianity, promoting Christian values, fellowship, leadership and service.

Church Club Philosophy

Spokesman Club has played a vital role in the development of leaders in local congregations since Jack Elliott adapted the Toastmasters International concept to meet our needs as a Church in 1956.

Today, the Church's leaders realize the value of creating growth opportunities for women as well as men. We also realize that different church areas have different needs because of numbers, interests, past training and people available to serve.

Because a one-size-fits-all club does not take such variations into consideration, each pastor will now have options for clubs that he feels will best meet the needs in his area. Spokesman Club remains a solid option. Women's Clubs of various formats will provide similar opportunities for women. Service clubs, Coed Spokesman Club and teen clubs have been piloted successfully in many church areas and may be chosen instead of or in addition to the traditional formats.

Many of our ministers have expressed the desire for more flexibility and creativity in meeting specific needs in their areas. Using common sense and the Holy Spirit, you may have the benefit of this manual, without the restrictions that are inherent in a rigid format.

This interim manual is intended to provide you with ideas for clubs that have been successfully tried in various congregations. You may mix and match the elements of clubs to create one tailor-made for you and your people. Next year we will survey the pastors, review their suggestions and improve the manual accordingly.

In the early years of Spokesman Club, service projects dominated the business session. As the years went by, this practice became less and less common. Today, we want to emphasize the need for all clubs to reach out to the local congregation, the community and the world. Identifying needs and meeting them will add an important dimension to any club.

Church Club Philosophy (continued)

In this manual, we will discuss the various options available for Women's Club. Many of these options, of course, are applicable to other kinds of clubs that you may choose to start. We want to emphasize that if you already have an active club that fulfills the mission statement for Church clubs, please continue your format. Whatever you decide to do, we wish you and your members the very best as you all grow in fellowship, leadership and service to the Church and the community.

The Director

The pastor and the director decide the type of Women's Club to have. The director sets the tone, oversees the planning and is responsible for the club fulfilling its goals for the members, the Church and the community. Many clubs thrive on the leadership of the pastor. Other clubs have successfully piloted other possibilities.

A Minister

is an excellent option for director because the setting of club gives him a special opportunity to get to know the members of the club, provide them with learning opportunities, encourage them and promote their spiritual growth through active service.

A pastor's busy schedule may not allow for such a close involvement in club. In such instances, the pastor may wish to appoint another elder, a minister's wife or a leading woman of the congregation to serve as director.

A Minister's Wife

may serve as director. Some ministers feel that the woman director's touch is critical for demonstrating feminine Christian leadership. Enthusiasm, good judgment and Christian character and leadership qualities are important prerequisites for a Women's Club director.

A Leading Woman

may provide excellent direction for a club when ministers and wives desire a club, but are not available to serve as director. As with a minister's wife, enthusiasm, good judgment and Christian character and leadership qualities are prerequisites for a Women's Club director.

The Officers

Your Women's Club will need leadership. That leadership may take the traditional form of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Many clubs have piloted other methods of leadership. Here are a few. We hope you will choose the option for officers that works best in your area.

■ **Traditional**

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

■ **Coordinating Committee**

Director
Interested, Active Ladies
Different Hostess for Each Meeting

This committee meets before the beginning of the meeting year to plan the activities and themes, assign hostesses and set the format for each club meeting. At each meeting, a new hostess is responsible for making sure her meeting is an effective and useful one on the assigned topic.

■ **Hostess/Co-Hostess**

The hostess serves as president over her meeting. She is responsible for the success of the event. The co-hostess is responsible for the tabletopics portion of the club and assists the hostess, in order to prepare herself for the next meeting, when she moves to the hostess position and someone else serves as the new co-hostess.

The Officers (continued)

■ ***Program Director for Each Meeting***

3-4 Assistants

They prepare the program, provide refreshments, set up and clean up. The tabletopics session is chaired by the director, who presents a topic and then opens up the floor for discussion.

Club Goals

Each club is encouraged to choose specific goals, in addition to the stated mission, that will form the basis for club individuality.

Choose the specific goals that best fit your vision for club, your members and the director's leadership style. When you and your club leaders agree on your goals, write them down and make them available to all members of the club. Please include a copy of your goals with the end-of-year report that you send to your regional pastor and CAD-USA. Some ideas for club goals include:

- **Spiritual Growth**

- Teaching Others
- Growth in Biblical Knowledge

- **Personal Development**

- Public-Speaking Opportunities

- Intellectual Stimulation
- Promoting Physical and Mental Health
- Refining Grooming Techniques

- **Fellowship**

- Homemaking Skill Development

- Making Crafts
- Sharing Homemaking Skills
- Nurturing Relationships

Club Goals (continued)

■ ***Service Opportunities***

Serving Church Members
Serving the Community
Serving the World Community

■ ***Leadership Development***

Frequency of Meetings

Successful clubs meet at various frequencies—from quarterly to semimonthly. Meetings should be frequent enough to maintain interest, but not so frequent as to become a burden. Based on local need and interest, most of the pilot clubs met:

- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Semimonthly

The Members

Membership in any club is dependent upon the local needs. Women and teenage girls may benefit from many different types of clubs. Club membership is not limited to Church members. Any woman interested in fulfilling the stated mission of "developing Christianity, promoting Christian values, fellowship, leadership and service" is welcome.

The Format

Once you have chosen goals for your club, you will be able to choose the format that best fulfills those goals. The following formats have been successful in other church areas. Choose the format or combination of formats that best suits your club.

Required Speech

Based on the Spokesman Club format, members are assigned speeches and expected to give them. Speeches may be assigned to fit themes for each club meeting or to fulfill various speaking goals. (Icebreaker, demonstration, biography and Christian-living principle were some examples piloted.) A business session, a topics session and an evaluation or lecture are also included in this format. The director may choose to include or omit peer evaluations.

Volunteer Speech

Rather than assigning speeches based on a roster, women are asked to volunteer to speak. Speeches may be chosen by theme or to fulfill speaking goals. Although business, tabletopics and a lecture were usually included in these clubs, evaluations were omitted to encourage reticent speakers. In addition, the directors said their evaluations were completely positive to encourage optimum participation.

Creative Workshop

Members are surveyed to determine interest in various subjects. Meeting styles are chosen based on the topic. Workshop meetings, when applicable, provide the opportunity for actual completion of a project. For example, if a craft is involved, supplies, instructions and assistance are all provided to complete the project within the time frame of that workshop. Members go home with knowledge and experience in a craft, as well as a completed project. Other meetings might cover spiritual or social issues, working on service projects, working on cookbooks or social activities such as progressive

Creative Workshop (continued)

dinners. Although public speaking occurs, it is a natural outgrowth of the members sharing their skills, rather than an end in itself.

Panel Discussion

With any club format, you may opt to have occasional panel discussions, bringing in experts in a field (ministers, health professionals, etc.) to answer general questions in their area or questions on a chosen topic.

Guest Lectures

Some clubs use the guest-lecture format exclusively. Many clubs opt to have guest lecturers on special occasions. Most clubs with a guest lecturer include a business session, as well as a 20-minute topics session.

Seminar

The director and interested women meet to plan meetings for the year. Either guest lecturers or one or two qualified members present the subject for the day. Tabletopics are informal (members remain seated when answering) and optional.

In some church areas, Women's Club format may not serve the needs of the congregation as well as other formats. In such instances, you may wish to consider the following options:

Co-ed Spokesman Club

A co-ed Spokesman Club has been piloted in several areas with enthusiastic reviews from the pastors. Club is conducted as always but with the addition of women as full members. One pastor uses this Speaking Club to develop leadership skills in its members to help meet the leadership needs of the local congregation.

Family Club

This format is useful in a small congregation. Young and old, male and female participate to create opportunities for all where numbers would not permit separate clubs for men, women and teens. Including young people helps to provide more participation and helps them feel more a part of the church.

Teen Club

This is a speaking club, with business, tabletopics and speeches. The variation is that only two speeches per club are regular four- to six-minute "feature speeches." Every other member of the club gives a one- to two-minute report in the speech session.

Bible Study Class

Open to all who are interested, the class has the goal of stimulating spiritual examination and growth.

While not comprehensive, this list of formats should provide you with options from which to choose. If you have other ideas that fulfill the basic mission of "promoting Christian values, fellowship, leadership and service," feel free to try them out and give us your input.

Theme Ideas

The following list should provide a starting place for developing ideas for clubs with themes. Through surveys and discussions with your members, you may come up with other ideas that meet your needs even better.

- *Money Management*
- *Book Discussion*
- *Create-a-Craft*
- *Bible Study Discussion*
- *Communication*
- *Improving Relationships*
- *Health*
- *Christian Leadership*
- *Nurturing Healthy, Happy Children*
- *Basic Auto Mechanics*
- *International Themes*
- *Current Events*
- *Preparing Your Preteens for Adolescence*
- *Improving Your Marriage*
- *Resolving Conflict*
- *Environmental Issues*
- *Women of the Bible*
- *Unleavened Recipes*
- *Elder Care*

Theme Ideas (continued)

- Education: Making the Most of Your Future
- Helping the Hurting
- Streamlined Homemaking for Working Wives
- Assault Prevention
- Nutrition for the Family
- Flower Arranging
- City Gardening
- Time Management
- Decorating on a Budget
- Menopause
- Encouragement
- Fabric Picture Frames
- Cake Decorating
- Do You Need a Will?
- Food Preservation
- Hospitality
- Innovative Wall Treatments (Stenciling, Sponging, etc.)
- Garnishing Foods
- Nurturing Friendships

