

Churchwide WMU Leaders and Responsibilities

One person with a passion for missions can impact an entire church. The beginning point is a desire to involve your church in missions. WMU leaders raise missions awareness and make missions opportunities available so church members and attendees of all ages, preschoolers through adults, can participate in missions.

Types of WMU leaders vary according to the needs of the church. In many churches, the WMU director leads WMU on a churchwide basis. A church may add WMU leaders to assist the WMU director and age-level group leaders. Suggested additional leaders include: assistant WMU director, secretary, and project leaders. The church may create other leadership roles as needed.

Basic Leadership Approach

The basic WMU churchwide approach can be accomplished with one to three leaders. When there is more than one leader, the churchwide leaders form a WMU leadership team.

WMU Director

The WMU director plans, conducts, and evaluates missions awareness and involvement through churchwide missions activities, projects, emphases, or age-level groups. The director's responsibilities may include:

- Promoting and encouraging missions in the church
- Working with the pastor or other church leaders to provide missions awareness opportunities for the entire congregation; which may include ongoing opportunities, short-term projects, or one-time events
- Serving on the church leadership team or other group that coordinates church activities
- Recommending WMU-sponsored churchwide missions plans to the pastor, church leadership team, or other planning groups
- Coordinating WMU-sponsored churchwide activities, projects, and age-level groups
- Identifying and equipping WMU leaders
- Developing and maintaining a WMU budget
- Reporting regularly to the church
- Connecting the church with associational, state, and national WMU

The WMU director may create a leadership team by adding an assistant WMU director and/or a WMU administrative assistant.

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Assistant WMU Director

The assistant WMU director assists the WMU director in planning, conducting, and evaluating the work of WMU in the church. Suggested responsibilities of the assistant WMU director include:

- Planning and conducting churchwide missions learning experiences such as the International Mission Study, North American Mission Study, or state mission study
- Planning and conducting churchwide observances of the weeks of prayer for international, North American, state, and associational missions and the related missions offerings
- Planning opportunities to minister to missionaries and their families

WMU Administrative Assistant (or Secretary)

The WMU administrative assistant maintains WMU records, reports accomplishments, and orders curriculum materials and other resources. The WMU director may give her additional responsibilities for strengthening and implementing WMU work in the church. Examples of records to maintain include:

- Participation in churchwide missions activities.
- Participation in age-level groups
- WMU reports for associational or state WMU
- Notes of action plans during WMU leadership team meetings
- Budget information
- Subscription lists for WMU resources

Expanded Leadership Approach

WMU in a church may invite other leaders to plan and carry out the work of WMU. Tailor this to the needs of your church. The expanded leadership approach may include leaders in the following areas:

- Specific missions projects
- Churchwide involvement in WMU Compassion Ministries activities
- Coordinated involvement in Christian Women's Leadership Center
- Areas of expertise such as photography, newsletters, social media, etc.
- Leadership in age-level missions discipleship groups