



SISTERS WHO CARE

ORGANIZING GUIDE

*Women on Mission Contextualized
for the African American Church*



OUR MISSION

WMU makes disciples of Jesus who live on mission

Woman's Missionary Union started in 1888 to support missionaries, the work of the denomination and to provide missions discipleship and involvement opportunities for the entire church. Sisters Who Care is a missions group of Woman's Missionary Union that aims to reach women in African American churches for cooperative missions. Sisters Who Care seeks to involve individuals in responding to God as they learn about missions, pray for missions efforts, support missions work, do missions and tell about Jesus. As the African American church has always been on mission, WMU gives an additional opportunity in providing structure, connecting points and a global perspective.



MAKE IT PLAIN!

In 2020, Sisters Who Care, Hamilton Baptist Association sponsored a SWC Conference. Sisters from other states supported the conference by praying, attending the conference, sending funds and supplies.

HOW ARE GROUPS ORGANIZED?

As Baptist churches are autonomous and therefore led by the local congregation, Sisters Who Care groups can organize as the local church deems most appropriate for that congregation.

Sisters Who Care can also be organized by an association or by the state WMU office.

Sisters Who Care groups in the church:

- Meet regularly
- Pray for missionaries
- Promote the missions offerings of the denomination
- Organize to teach missions to children
- Offer missions involvement opportunities for the congregation



ACCOUNTABILITY

The accountability structure of a Sisters Who Care group depends on the conditions in which the group was started. Remember that the Baptist church is autonomous and not top-down but bottom-up! Working together in missions partnerships is a hallmark of Baptist churches.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church can begin a Sisters Who Care group that is focused on missions discipleship and involvement.

MAKE IT PLAIN!

Shirley is the SWC Coordinator at the New Zion Baptist, Williamsburg, Virginia. Her team mobilizes the entire church to collect items for migrant workers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

THE ASSOCIATION

Contact your Baptist Association or Network of Churches to ask about starting a Sisters Who Care group. Volunteers would be recruited from the churches in that association or network.

MAKE IT PLAIN!

Cynthia is the SWC Coordinator for the Hamilton Baptist Association in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She leads women to meet human needs and she also calls sisters together in prayer.

THE WMU STATE OFFICE

The WMU office in your state can appoint an African American sister from one of the partner congregations to serve as the statewide SWC Coordinator.

MAKE IT PLAIN!

Lisa is Sisters Who Care Coordinator for WMU of North Carolina. She mobilizes women statewide to collect items for at-risk women and girls. She coordinates Bible studies and skill-building sessions online for women's discipleship.

STEPS TO STARTING SISTERS WHO CARE

1 PRAY!

2 DO YOUR RESEARCH

LOCAL CHURCH

Check out what is already happening in your church missions program. Are the deaconesses functioning as missionaries? Is there a missionary auxiliary?

ASSOCIATION

Contact your association to see if there is a Sisters Who Care group meeting comprised of women on mission. If not, inquire about starting one.

STATE WMU

Contact your state WMU Office to inquire if Sisters Who Care is already active in your state. If not, inquire about starting one. For assistance, contact national WMU or one of the persons listed on page 6.

3 ORGANIZE A LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Get to know the passions, gifts, skills, and abilities of your members.
- Become acquainted with WMU as an organization focusing on its mandate and motives.
- Meet with your state WMU staff or officers and make acquaintance. Learn when there are special missions events such as state WMU annual meetings.
- Gather the Leadership Team for a retreat to pray and outline the focus of your ministry in your church, associational or state context.
- Pay special attention to the needs of African American churches and communities:

Missions conferences

Feeding the hungry

Clothing the needy

Visiting those in prison

Mentoring

Job training

Addressing critical issues

4

LAUNCH YOUR SISTERS WHO CARE MINISTRY

- Decide when you will meet and how regularly
- Develop a recruitment plan to involve others
- Determine an initial project that will raise awareness and mobilize involvement

5

ENGAGE IN THE WORK

Engage in the work of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, meeting needs and sharing Christ at home and around the world as the Lord leads!

6

SHARE YOUR STORY

Make every opportunity to share testimonies of the work of Sisters Who Care:

- In the local church
- At associational meetings
- At state meetings
- In writing
- On social media platforms

7

EVALUATE REGULARLY



JUMP-START RESOURCES

Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide at wmustore.com

Missions Mosaic: missions magazine for women, available at wmustore.com
or 1-800-968-7301

Sistahs: Stories of African American Women's Lives and of Finding Place in Christian Missions by Valerie Carter Smith, wmuv.org/resources

Sistahs Study Guide: Access free downloadable pdf at wmuv.org/resources

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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WMU[®]
God's mission.
Our passion.



Save the Date!

SISTERS WHO CARE

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____

Sisters Who Care is the African American expression of WMU's Women on Mission®, a church-based missions discipleship group that seeks to share Christ throughout the world.



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