



PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

WORKSHOP: PWOC 101

by Julie McCammon

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: PWOC is a ministry of the Chaplain Corps of the United States military. Our organization has a rich history and operates in ways that are unique from civilian ministry. We reach a specific population, functioning in a role defined by our History, our Aims and our Mission. To be unaware of these core elements is to be limited in our effectiveness as a ministry.

INTRO:

- Video "PWOC: Who We Are" available on TheHubPWOC.net.

1. OUR HISTORY

- Take a minute to share part of your PWOC story with a partner. **How has PWOC been meaningful in your life?** *You will have the opportunity to share with the whole group if you would like to do so.*
- PWOC started in Germany in the 1950's.
- Established with the mission of serving alongside the Chaplain Corps to help minister to women in the Chapel.
- PWOC serves all Protestant denominations. We are not non-denominational, we are *multi-denominational*. We admire and appreciate the broad brush strokes of our Creator, Whom we all reflect in our uniqueness.
- PWOC was carried from Europe to the United States and around the world by individuals moving and taking their knowledge of the organization with them.



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- FYI: A thorough account of our history, to include its beginnings in Europe, expansion to the United States and around the globe, is available in the appendices of the Women's Ministry Manual. To find the WMM, visit: **TheHubPWOC.net** or **Chapnet.army.mil/pwoc/**

ACTIVITY: Whole-group Discussion- WHY PWOC?

- What makes us different from a women's ministry at a local church?

II. OUR AIMS

PWOC Aims, taken from the *Women's Ministry Manual* (p. 6):

PWOC Aims

- To lead women to accept Christ as personal Savior and Lord
- To teach women the history, beliefs and programs of the Church, all built on a solid foundation of worship and Bible study
- To develop in women the skills of prayer, evangelism, stewardship and social service, against a background of personal spiritual development
- To involve women in the work of the chapel, in keeping with their abilities and interests

Short Version of Aims for Promotional Uses

- To LEAD women to Christ
- To TEACH women God's Word
- To DEVELOP women's spiritual gifts
- To INVOLVE women in Chapel ministries



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- The Aims are rooted in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- Our PWOC Aims are meant to guide our leadership in planning activities and making decisions. The Aims define who we are as a ministry. All four Aims need to be present for PWOC to function properly.
- What might be a consequence of removing Aim #1: To LEAD women to Christ?
- What might be a consequence of removing Aim #2: To TEACH women God's Word?
- What might be a consequence of removing Aim #3: To DEVELOP women's spiritual gifts?
- What might be a consequence of removing Aim #4: To INVOLVE women in Chapel ministries?
- Having all four Aims operational creates a dynamic environment of ministry and growth available to all our women. We must be intentional- after all, in the words of Zig Ziglar, "If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time."



ACTIVITY: *The AIMS in Action*

Work with your group (trainer will give instructions on dividing up) to record ways to "hit" your PWOC Aim. For example, "Bible studies" could be written for the second Aim (*TEACH women God's Word*).

- In your small group, ask this question: **What are specific ways your PWOC can be intentional to hit this Aim?** Write your ideas on Post-its (one idea per Post-it) and then stick them on the appropriate bullseye/Aim displayed on the wall.

III. OUR MISSION

- "PWOC functions under the authority of the Chaplaincy. The ministry is designed to help Chaplains minister to women associated with the military, especially those who participate in a military chapel. This mission remains unchanged." (*Women's Ministry Manual*, "Abbreviated History" p. 24)
- Look at the *Definition of a PWOC Group* taken from the *Women's Ministry Manual*, (p. 6). Circle the words "chaplain(s)" and "chapel(s)" as you read through.

A PWOC group meets the following criteria:

1. Operates under the oversight of a designated Protestant Chaplain
2. Is the extension of Protestant U.S. military chapel(s) of a military installation designed specifically to minister to women associated with the military
3. Supports and assists the Protestant Chaplains and their ministries
4. Is located on a U.S. military installation
5. Ministers to women by promoting and fulfilling the purpose of PWOC expressed by the four PWOC Aims
6. Welcomes women of any Protestant background and from a variety of Protestant military chapel services (Traditional, Gospel, Contemporary, Liturgical, etc.) as well as those who attend church off of the military installation
7. Is led by a board of women that consists of at least two selected officers
8. Uses the *Women's Ministry Manual – Leaders' Guidelines for PWOC* as its operating sourcebook



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- The PWOC President is under the authority of the Chaplain Advisor/Sponsor, appointed by the Garrison/ Installation Chaplain. We are designed to come alongside to complement the ministry of the Chaplain Corps.
- Describe what can happen when a PWOC sees the chaplain staff as their staff.
- That PWOC exists at all is God's mercy. We must be grateful people. We are not entitled to a budget or to watchcare, to free books, to retreats, or to anything else. We are by nature servants. We must approach this ministry with the heart of a servant.
- Jesus is our greatest example of what it means to be a servant leader. He says, "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:13-17.
- We have been given much. We must be grateful, gracious, serving women of the chapel. Anything less than that is less than who we are and Whose we are.

ACTIVITY:

- Keeping the example of Jesus in mind as well as the PWOC mission to serve the chaplaincy and our military chapels, **what are some practical ways we can come alongside our chaplains and chapels to offer support?** *Work in a small group of no more than 4 people. Take about 10 minutes to record your ideas on a sheet of chart paper. You will have the opportunity to post your chart paper on the wall for other groups to see. As you look at the work of the other groups, be sure to note any ideas that might be helpful to you and your installation.*



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(Activity continued)

APPLY IT TO LIFE:

How does this apply to you? What are you taking away from this workshop? Take a minute to write something down and then you'll have a chance to share if you'd like.

What I'm taking away from this workshop:



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