



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Engage!



Life Change Report 2017-2018

Dear Partners in Ministry,

At *by design* this year, we have focused a great deal on equipping women to “engage in the King’s cause.” We challenged women to proactively be involved in introducing others to our God of grace. In part, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “engage” as “to expose to risk for the attainment or support of some end – *engaged his all in the king’s cause*” (italics mine). It is becoming meaningfully involved with someone or some activity outside one’s self. So, what does that “cause” look like? In part, it may be seen as having a passionate commitment to Christ and making Him known to people who desperately need Him. I think you will be inspired as you read accounts in our annual report of how women have made and are currently making Christ known.

Besides equipping and challenging women in evangelism, we continue to train women to effectively use their giftedness for the glory of God. In addition to our leadership training events, we partner with local churches, providing training and resources to strengthen their women’s ministries for the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom. We have expanded our outreach this past year and anticipate making new inroads as we press on this coming year.

This past year, 46% of the women who participated in our ministry were new to *by design*. Keep in mind that the majority of the women we serve represent the church’s leadership of women

actively ministering to other women. While most are involved with women’s ministries, we have a marked increase in the number of women who are serving in other capacities. These amazing, well-equipped, and committed women are investing in the lives of thousands of other women throughout New England.

As you read through our annual report, you will be impressed with the great and mighty things the Lord is doing in the lives and ministries of these remarkable women. Join us in celebrating God’s great goodness and faithfulness to us. As our ministry continues to grow and develop, we praise the Lord for encouraging our labors. The investment in the lives of women is priceless. Thank you for recognizing the importance of seeing women as a vital part in advancing God’s church and His Kingdom.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Finally, with a grateful heart, we are thankful for our faithful supporters and board members, committed volunteers, and gifted staff for their involvement in this ministry. Their service, contributions, and prayers have made our vision a reality.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Linda Moore
President and Executive Director

Engaging Encounters...

“You might find this interesting. You can keep it if you want.” I offer a pocket Gospel of John that has “The Story of God” written on the cover. The encounter is brief. If they take it, I may strike up a conversation. If they are “all set,” I thank them for their time. I’ve put labels in the back of the booklets with the Jesus film link. I distribute these booklets at a favorite coffee shop where we’re in good standing with the manager. I also give the Gospel booklet to our server in restaurants. Only one waitress has refused to take it. One young woman was intrigued and said, “I’ll read this. I always enjoy something new.” – Cindy Wilkening

We are passionate about helping women catch a vision for being used by God and effecting a Christ-honoring and God-glorifying change in their family, church and community.

Philosophy of Ministry

Our mission and passion is to develop women who are servant leaders for the equipping of God’s church and the enlarging of His Kingdom.

We accomplish this through events, educational tools, and by developing relationships that encourage and equip women to grow in Christ and increase their competency to minister to others.

We believe that women reaching women is a pattern for ministry blessed by God. Women, properly trained and confident of their God-given abilities, are positioned to make an eternal difference. We are committed to the discovery, development, and deployment of women and their God-given design for Kingdom service.

Core Values

Acknowledging the fundamental importance of prayer in each of these areas, we value:

The Bible – We believe that the Bible is inspired by God and is the pattern for all life and ministry. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Church – We affirm the importance and centrality of the local church. Acts 2:41-47

Identity – We encourage women to realize that they are created in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ and gifted by the Spirit of God. Genesis 1:27; Galatians 2:26-28; Acts 2:17-18

Lifestyle – We reflect God’s character in our attitudes and actions. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Titus 2:11-14

Development – We help women to learn and grow through partnerships and mentoring relationships. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Diversity – We esteem the diverse expressions of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-8

Outreach – We are actively engaged in expanding God’s Kingdom in the church and into the community and the wider world. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

by design Board of Directors

Dr. Phyllis Bennett	Linda Moore
Krisie Brown	Pauline Morgan
Dr. Jean Marrapodi	Erica Philips
Karen Moniz	

by design Staff Members

Linda Moore:	President and Executive Director
Kristi Stoughton:	WeConnect Director, Media and Website Developer
Pauline Morgan:	Together Group Coordinator
Margaret Maloy:	Financial Secretary
Kevin Cunningham:	Graphic Design
Margo Grant:	Editor
Shirley Whiddon:	Editor
Kimberly Minch:	Social Media

Cover Photo by Briana Tozour on Unsplash

Engaging with the Next Generations..

WeConnect Ministry

WeConnect was launched in response to what we were hearing from you, the Christian leadership: **“Where are all the millennials, and how can we help them reconnect with God and with the Church?”**

As part of this endeavor, we held the Organic Mentoring Conference in the fall of 2016. This conference resulted in a huge response from the women in many New England churches – you were

hungry for more! We developed the “Mentoring Discussion Event” and presented our first one at Centerpoint Church (Salem, NH) in June of this year. For this event, we partnered with Marnie Wells at Gilead’s Balm (www.comeinandrest.com). Marnie and her network have been an extremely valuable resource and helped facilitate the event at Centerpoint. What we found at Centerpoint was encouraging and inspiring: just like at the Organic Mentoring Conference, these women (roughly 80 in attendance!) were passionate about reaching the next generation for Christ and mentoring with grace.



During the discussions and the Q&A, it quickly became clear that we were all on the same page. These women had a vision for mentoring and a tremendous heart for the next generation! We discussed topics like the biblical basis for mentoring and explored how that can be extrapolated to our current culture. We talked about how this next generation has a different perspective of what a mentoring relationship looks like and how we can adapt so that we can better reach this generation for Christ. And through it all, we discussed grace. Grace-filled mentoring is the name of the game if we’re serious about developing successful mentoring relationships. Finally, we brainstormed about different ways in which we can get involved, either to be a mentor or mentee.

The response was tremendous! It’s clear that God is working in hearts. We are encouraged by the experience at Centerpoint, and we hope you’ve been encouraged by what you’ve read here. **If you are interested in hosting or attending one of these events, please**

contact us. We’d love to hear from you!

In last year’s annual report, we told you about the WeConnect leadership team, composed of millennials who love the Lord and are seeking to reach their generation for Christ. It has been a delight for us to work with these brilliant, talented, committed, and godly women. And we’re excited to tell you that our very first WeConnect leadership team retreat is this fall! Stay tuned for updates!

Speaking of updates, we’re also continuing to send out regular WeConnect updates to our supporters. If you’d like to receive the updates, please contact us and let us know. We’d be happy to add you to the list. You can also view past updates by visiting <http://www.bydesignministry.org/weconnect/weconnect-updates/>.

If you’ve been praying for WeConnect, thank you! God has surely been answering your prayers. For this next year, please pray for more churches to host these Mentoring Discussion Events.

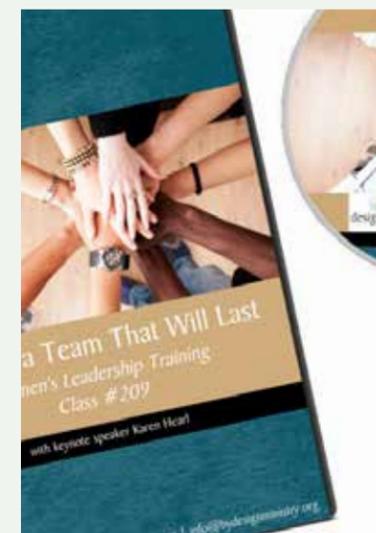


Engaging and Challenging Women to Keep Growing

We continue to engage women who are looking to strengthen their ministry skills, by providing a variety of classes geared toward their personal and ministry development. Helping women catch a vision for being used by God and effecting a Christ-honoring and God-glorifying change in their family, church, and community is what we are passionate about.

This year we had 203 women involved in four leadership training classes where instruction concerning individual and ministry needs was given. Beyond this, we now have had over 7,500 women who have taken at least one of our core curriculum classes since this initiative began in 2001. Praise God! Classes were held in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. We partnered with three churches that hosted our classes, one of which hosted for the first time.

Additionally, for the first time, we have conducted live filming of three of our classes. This means seven of our classes have either been published as DVDs or are “in the works.” The Lord continues to help us expand the reach of our training, for which we are grateful!



Engaging Encounters...

Mixed messages about our identity and worth as women and girls overwhelm us, but here at “Lovely, am I” (taken from Song of Solomon 1:5), women from both Catholic and Protestant churches, as well as the unchurched, meet monthly to learn that we are lovely. We use a different topic each month as a springboard for spiritual discussion. We’re forging friendships, cleaning closets, and helping each other recognize what brings joy in our thoughts, lives, and relationships.

– Diane Hallenbeck & Tara Hettrick, “Lovely, am I” founders

Engaging Support for Our Sisters in Christ

Together Group Ministry

This small group ministry seeks to nurture and support women who are in positions of leadership in their local church or Christian organization. Women have the opportunity to establish a network of godly leaders that can have a significant impact on their individual ministries through regular meetings that include time for prayer, sharing of ministry concerns, discussion of leadership topics, fellowship, and networking.

Our Together Group Coordinator, Pauline Morgan, has been working to initiate new groups, help grow the groups, and encourage leaders.

- In September, Pauline started a monthly statewide meeting in Rhode Island at a local restaurant.
- In December, the South Coast and Boston chapters celebrated Christmas in a joint meeting.
- In April, Linda Moore hosted a meeting to introduce Together Groups to the Concord, New Hampshire, area.

New Possibilities!

- In August, the South Coast, Boston, and Webster Together Group chapters got together for a potluck dinner and a time of encouragement and celebration of several new members.
- This fall, a new group of four children's ministry directors will begin a new Together Group meeting in Southeastern Massachusetts.
- A new Together Group will be birthed in Peterborough, New Hampshire, this fall, co-led by two women who connected at the April meeting.
- *by design* will host a home meeting in Rhode Island during the next ministry year to garner interest in starting a centrally located chapter.

There are four thriving Together Groups serving over 50 women representing 30 churches in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We look forward in next year's report to featuring updated figures including women from other states in New England.

Here are comments from women being ministered to in a Together Group:

I look forward to time with other women in ministry who share the same struggles, concerns, and burdens. It is a nice time to exchange group ideas for women and church. Best part...prayer and fellowship.

– Rita, Fall River, MA

I enjoy hearing what other churches and ministries are doing. I'm getting ideas to share with ministry leaders in my church. I appreciate the networking opportunities.

– Janet, Easton, MA

One thing I look forward to at my Together Group meeting is fellowship and networking, which provide encouragement and inspiration.

– Diane, Lakeville, MA

Updates about Together Group meetings are added regularly on our website. If you're interested in participating or have questions, contact Pauline at Pollynee@aol.com.



Engaging Encounters...

Jesus said, "Go, and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19), yet often our women's ministry is focused in the church on finding creative ways to "bring people in." An amazing friend of mine had a vision to go outside the walls of the church to host a True Vine event at a local winery, replete with a speaker, worship, and amazing appetizers. The love of God was shared in a nonthreatening setting, and what a night! Church women, some who brought nonbelieving friends, experienced a lovely evening of fellowship and a soul-filling message about the True Vine. This was a small introduction to the One who wants to care for them and provide a fruitful life. "Father, send us."

– Diane Hallenbeck & Dena Stahlheber of Sister Bridges

Celebrating God's Guidance and Provision

Like the apostle Paul, we never tire of saying “thank you” for your partnership in the ministry. The Lord continues to bless us through the investments of your prayers and financial gifts to this work, and we in turn are able to continue encouraging and equipping more women.

Significant Stats

- This year 259 women were actively involved in *by design*.
- Forty-six percent of those participating this year were new to our ministry.
- The women involved in our ministry represented 18 different states, including all six New England states.
- A total of 203 women participated in four of our leadership classes, putting our overall total of participation to over 7,500 since this ministry launched in 2001.

Next Year We Have These Goals...

- To continue to expand our Mentoring Discussion Events to more churches.
- To continue to develop the WeConnect leadership team to facilitate the growth of the WeConnect ministry to millennial women.
- To develop a vital Together Group ministry in New Hampshire and Rhode Island.
- To continue to offer 3-5 spiritual growth and ministry skill development classes.
- To explore options for offering our leadership training classes online.
- To raise more financial support for women to be able to participate in our events.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018

Income	
Individual and Church Donations	\$ 26,073.83
Conference and Event Registrations	\$1,168.50
Other Income	\$ 5,695.39
Total Support and Other Income	\$ 32,937.72
Expenditures	
Salaries	\$ 23,917.50
Professional Expenses	\$ 2,427.95
Administrative/Office Expenses	\$ 4,734.25
Business Expenses	\$3,750.97
Conference Expenses	\$ 1,260.97
Other Expenses	\$2,379.25
Total Expenditures	\$ 38,470.89
Net Income/Loss	(\$5,533.17)

Want to Help Extend *by design* to More Women?

- You can **provide scholarships** so more women can be equipped and encouraged at our events.
- You can **promote** this ministry to women in your church.
- You can **pray** for our director, staff members and volunteers.
- You can **present** this ministry to your church's Missions Board and ask them to support it in their annual budget.



We believe all women are uniquely designed to contribute significantly to reaching our world for Christ. This ministry is committed to assisting women in the discovery, development, and deployment of their God-given design for their lives.

by design ministries, PO Box 571, Carlisle, MA 01741-0571

978-455-1011, info@bydesignministry.org, www.bydesignministry.org