

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATE!



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GROWTH

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SISTERS

“I also feel blessed to be ‘filled’ up by godly women who strengthen our unity in Christ in our area.” --Merri

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FAITHFULNESS

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Life Change Report 2014-2015

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The Scriptures are replete with accounts of God's people celebrating his goodness! Indeed, heaven itself will be one grand celebration as we consider all that the Lord has done. The psalmist sings God's praises:

They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness (Psalm 145:7).

So, too, all of creation will one day give him the honor and worship only he deserves:

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13).

But why wait - this year has given us great cause for praise as we celebrated 25 years of ministry to New England women. Indeed, we rejoice in God's abundant goodness to us!

Since our inception, thousands of women and hundreds of churches and com-

munities have been positively impacted for Christ through this ministry. By God's grace we have enjoyed the incredible privilege of impacting our peers, friends and family for the cause of Christ. We continue to fulfill our mission of equipping Christian women to effectively use their gifts for the glory of God and to advance his kingdom through the proclamation of the gospel. By unifying our individual efforts, we expect to multiply our output as we press on toward our goal of impacting thousands of women with the life-changing good news of the gospel.

This year 43% of the women who participated were new to our ministry. The majority of the women we serve are leaders who are actively involved in ministering to other women. While most of these leaders are involved with women's ministries, we have an increasing number of women who serve 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 this 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 in the years ahead, we praise the Lord for encouraging our labors. The investment in the lives of women is priceless; indeed, it truly has an eternal dividend!

I would be negligent if I did not thank our faithful supporters, committed volunteers, board members, and gifted staff for their involvement in this ministry. Their service, contributions and prayers have made our vision a reality.

With a grateful heart,

Linda Moore
President and Executive Director

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 developing relationships that encourage and equip women to grow in Christ and increase their competency to minister to others.

We believe 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

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

Board of Directors

Dr. Phyllis Bennett
Deibi Lopian
Dr. Jean Marrapodi
Karen Moniz

Susan Moody
Linda Moore
Pauline Morgan

Celebrating Opportunities to Grow in Christ

This year we had 126 women involved in five leadership training classes, where instruction concerning personal and ministry needs was presented. Classes were held in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and by an Indonesian Church in Dover, NH. We partnered with five churches that hosted our classes, three of which hosted for the first time. We also have more women who are intentionally taking our leadership classes towards our certificate in women's ministries. Here is one woman's experience:

"God was prompting me regarding women's ministry. I asked Linda about training and she told me about their women's ministry certificate program. Over the spring and summer months, I signed up for classes, bought materials and did my homework. God pulled me into deep sessions of prayer and instruction. And, in September I also completed the life coach training. These two things in combination prepared me for the a new phase of ministry to women!" René

The following comment is from a woman who attended our class on the Holy Spirit in the spring. Dr. Jewel Hyun was our instructor.

"[My friend] and I both enjoyed the Holy Spirit class. Every class I've come to has been awesome! I absolutely feel so blessed every time I attend one of the *by design* events. Thank you for all you do to organize everything! You are blessing so many women with each of these



Dr. Jewel Hyun teaching on the Holy Spirit events. I am so grateful to be participating. Thanks again!" Pam

Our most well attended class this ministry year was presented by Dr. Phyllis Bennett. Phyllis is a *by design* board member and the Director for the Women's Center at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. She led a leadership class this spring entitled "Bible Study Leader Tune-Up." Thirty-seven women attended, representing 14 churches from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Kevin Cunningham, new to our *by design* staff, video-recorded the entire three-hour class. We will soon be publishing this class, the fourth such "educational kit" to be made available.



Celebrating and Supporting our Sisters in Christ

Together Group Ministry

This small group ministry is designed to nurture and support women as they seek to maintain a proper balance in life and to help women cultivate a network of godly friendships and mentoring relationships. These meetings include time for prayer, sharing resources and ideas, fellowship and equipping. This year we had 46 women involved in our Together groups. Here are some comments from two of the ladies.

“by design ministries continues to support me in my growth as a Christian by iron sharpening iron! I also feel blessed to be ‘filled’ up by godly women who strengthen our unity in Christ in our area. We as women ministry leaders must focus on ‘filling our cups’ so we have enough to overflow into others. We spend time with the Lord; however, HE has created us to also need each other to build each other up. I believe I would not have the support I need and desire without by design ministries.” Merri

“by design has been an incredible tool of God in my life. The women of this ministry are partners that have come alongside me, supported me and shaped me as I’ve come through the “Big Something’s” in my life... I praise God for the leadership team of by design and for the women in my Together Group. They are intentional in their ministry of supporting US. Everything they do is by God’s transformative design.” René

I am happy to report that Pauline Morgan has joined our staff to expand and undergird our Together group’s regional ministry. She has a real heart for encouraging and supporting women; especially those who are actively ministering to others. She has seen her own Together group in Taunton, Massachusetts grow and spread to the Boston area!

Retreat

Our annual women’s retreat helps women of influence find a place of rest and refreshment. It is a time to escape the pressures of a life trying to balance the expectations of home, work and ministry. Even if it is only for a couple of days, it is good to have an opportunity to step off the treadmill of expectations. It is a time to be nurtured and cared for by other sisters in Christ. Women who are involved in leading and serving need the body of Christ and the nourishment of loving sisters sharing, praying and holding one another accountable just as much as any of those God calls them to serve.



This year’s January retreat saw our first major snowstorm hit our region (one of many!). Several had to cancel but 30 intrepid women, representing 18 churches and five New England states, braved the elements and came anyway! We continue to draw in many new women to the retreat, thus expanding our network of women leaders in New England.

Below one woman reflects on her experiences at our retreat:

“This was my first overnight experience at a by design retreat. Experiencing the overnight added so much more. More time to unwind and hear from God, more connection with other women in ministry and more interaction with the material presented. Meeting other women in other churches doing ministry in different ways was so fun.

“Linda Anderson’s sharing of her ongoing learning to receive as well as to give grace was a blessing. This she passed on to us in her practical ways of living out grace. I’m excited to take them into my home and church to ponder and practice, hopefully allowing God to use me as a greater conduit of His grace; “because if we’re not good grace-receivers, we’re not good grace-givers.” Krisie

Celebrating God's

In 1989 Beverly Weinholt pioneered a regional ministry in cooperation with Evangelical Association of New England (EANE, which is now Vision New England). She wanted to help women grow in their faith, especially through the inductive study of God's Word, and to train and equip leaders who can grow "Titus 2" women. We needed this interdenominational ministry to bring together like-minded and like-hearted women to reflect God's penetrating and transforming light into the heart of New England. We continue this legacy now as our own non-profit ministry; expanding the focus to include equipping and encouraging all women who are actively serving the Lord in their church or organization.

Last fall our Celebrate Together event focused on remembering and praising God for all he has done in this 25-year journey. 140 women of all ages, from teenagers to octogenarians, attended our joyous fete. What a great cross-section of Christ's body! Women representing nearly 60 churches came from nine states.



Faithfulness to Us ...

Some of the highlights included hearing words of encouragement and challenge from highly respected and beloved women leaders; Bev Weinholt, Cynthia Fantasia and Gail MacDonald. Our keynote speaker was our former director, Maggie Rowe, who inspired us to “Outlive our Life.” We heard heart-warming testimonies from Cindy McDowell and Betty Nicoletta.



Here is how one woman described the day:

“At last Saturday’s 25th birthday celebration of *by design ministries*, we were all given a peek of heaven! Through speakers, worship & fellowship with over 140 sisters in Christ, God was given the glory due His name for preserving and growing this ministry to women. We are grateful for the faithful women who have served in countless ways through *by design ministries*.”

I would encourage you to visit our website and view the slide presenta-



tion and the “Ministry Highlights” from the past 25 years. We have much to praise the Lord for! Go to www.bydesignministry.org (Click on “Announcements”)



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 women across New England.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015

Income	
Individual and Church Donations	\$19,359.50
Conference and Event Registrations	\$ 10,680.00
Other Income	\$32.41
Total Support and Other Income	\$30,071.91
Expenditures	
Salaries	\$15,640.00
Program	\$ 6,660.10
Operations	\$ 7,043.96
Other Expense	\$1,269.19
Total Expenditures	\$30,613.25
Net Income/Loss	<\$541.34>

Significant Stats

- We hired Pauline Morgan as our Together Group Coordinator and Kevin Cunningham as our Marketing Coordinator.
- This year 300 women were actively involved in our ministry, a 62% increase from last year.
- 43% of those participating this year were new to our ministry.
- We had an 8% increase in the number of churches represented by the women who participated in our ministry this year.
- The women involved in our ministry represented all six New England states.
- A total of 126 women participated in five of our leadership classes.

Next Year We Have These Goals...

- To promote our two newly published leadership training classes
- To begin a ministry to young women by hiring a staff member to develop this new "arm" of our ministry
- To develop two new Together groups across our region
- To provide training seminars in how to effectively share the gospel in a diverse and secular culture
- To expand our base of contributors by 50% and apply for 3 ministry grants
- To continue to offer 3-5 spiritual growth and ministry skill development classes

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 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

978-710-4455

info@bydesignministry.org

www.bydesignministry.org