

NEW MINISTRY APPLICATION

The Church Council seeks to empower laity to be in ministry through the establishment of new ministries of Hempfield United Methodist Church. Most ministries are created in response to a group of faithful members capturing a vision for a new ministry. We cannot accomplish every ministry idea at our church so the process of discerning effective ministries that fit within the direction God has given our church is very important. Our hope is that at the conclusion of this process we all will have greater clarity as to whether the ministry aligns with the church's purpose, structure, strategy and current priorities.

Keep in Mind.

1. The new ministry must enhance what God is doing here in alignment with the the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and fit in with our efforts to know Jesus and make Him known by worshipping God, sharing life and serving others.
2. The new ministry must be theologically sound and in accord with United Methodist theology and doctrine.
3. The new ministry must have a leader that is fully committed to the ministry with the spiritual maturity and leadership skills to fulfill the role.
4. The new ministry must have a team of **at least seven people**. The leader must understand the importance of team-building and have a team of **at least six other people**.

Step 1

Develop a ministry plan that will answer the Strategic Planning Questions below.

Step 2

Submit your idea to the appropriate ministry leaders. Every ministry has a staff contact and falls under the oversight of one of our ministry commissions (Care, Connect, Equip, and Reach Out) and ultimately under Church Council. If you believe your ministry idea may fall under the responsibility of an existing ministry you should contact the leaders of that ministry area. Not all ideas fall under an existing ministry so if there is any question a staff person can direct you to the proper staff and lay leadership. The responsible commission and staff contact will consider your ministry and how it may be supported. If appropriate they will pass along their findings to Church Council for final approval.

Remember to be in prayer and to not rush the process. If your ministry idea is truly God-led it will stand the test of time.

Strategic Planning Questions

New Ministry Idea

Each of the following questions should be reviewed with your team of interested people. Take your time and give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to the questions.

1. What is the purpose of the proposed ministry?

What does God want to accomplish with the proposed ministry? Describe how this is in accord with the the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and fits in with our efforts to know Jesus and make Him known by worshiping God, sharing life and serving others.

2. Who will be served?

Who is our primary target for this ministry? Who will our ministry benefit and/or serve?

3. What are the needs that will be met?

Consider spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational needs. Describe why it is important that Hempfield UMC meet these needs. How are these needs not being met by existing ministries or agencies in the community?

4. What services will be offered?

What kinds of services will our ministry provide for these needs?

5. How will we provide these services?

What will be our ministry strategy for providing services? What will be our operational plan? What is the process?

6. What leadership structure will be required?

What are the various roles and ministry responsibilities that are needed to support this ministry? Describe the proposed structure of the ministry.

7. What kinds of resources will be required for this ministry?

Consider: support services, facilities, computer access, mailboxes, assistance of church staff, finances, announcements, etc.

8. What is the vision for growth and expansion?

What growth is expected? What is the "dream" for this ministry 2 years from now?

9. How will the effectiveness of this ministry be evaluated?

Include measurement systems that will allow Hempfield UMC to gauge whether the ministry is successfully accomplishing its purpose.

10. Does this ministry already exist in the church?

Is there similarity between this ministry and one that is already being offered? Should it be coordinated with other ministries? Should it replace an existing ministry?