



DETAILED MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

Branch Minister

Title

Branch Minister

Purpose

The Branch Minister serves as a focal point or center for members of the branch to encourage development of Christian relationships through fellowship and serving together. Through developing these relationships and by offering support and encouragement of each other we create a sense of belonging, deepen relationships, and grow spiritually. The Branch Minister champions the command of discipleship by building relationships with and among this group of families who desire to grow in their faith and hold each lovingly accountable for living out their faith each day. The Branch Minister serves, teaches, leads, and shares his/her personal and growing relationship with Jesus with members of the group.

Responsible to

Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and mentoring Deacon

Description of duties

- Pray for the members of the small group and for your own needs, demeanor and attitude as you serve in this role. Encourage members to pray regularly for group members and their requests.
- To know by name the members of the branch, both adults and children.
- Maintain personal contact and awareness of members' life circumstances and needs.
- Work with other members encouraging them to become acquainted with one another, helping them to become a supportive circle of Christian friends. To aid branch members in providing support through prayer and assistance in physical needs such as meals or transportation.
- Work with fellow branch members to facilitate, organize, and schedule gatherings.
(type and frequency to be determined by branch)
- To become aware of and utilize resources offered through our Congregational Care Ministries.
- Identify and encourage an apprentice who will eventually lead a completely new group or a group formed when the current small group divides and multiplies.
- Maintain contact with the branch's deacon-mentor and the staff of WFPC. The Branch Minister will keep the deacon and church staff informed of branch member needs and concerns seeking their assistance when needed.
- Encourage communication by seeking members input regarding church programs and missions and then by communication of this information to your deacon or church staff as appropriate.

Time requirements (estimated)

The time commitment for each branch minister will vary according to the specific needs and decisions of the branch. A minimum estimate based on contacting group members at least once per month including time to maintain member directory records, and deacon/staff communication, branch minister group meetings as planned by the deacon. Additional time should be expected for facilitating the planning of meetings, maintaining a list of prayer requests and any other activities as desired by individual branches.

Term

Presently, we are requesting current and new branch ministers discuss and maintain communication regarding this issue with their mentoring Deacon. We feel setting firm term limits would be detrimental during this time of re-defining and establishing this ministry.

In order to support establishing a future length of service term, we suggest Branch ministers' partner with their Deacon to encourage all members to engage in some aspect of service to the branch. Also, additional attention should be given to identifying branch members with spiritual gifts and an interest or calling to this type of service. Larger branches should consider identifying two apprentices. One to assume the duties of the current branch minister and a second to prepare for leading a separate branch created by a division necessary to maintain small group dynamics.

Training and Resources

- Attend Branch Minister Fellowship and other training opportunities provided.
- Communication with your Deacon
- Read our Deaconate and church newsletter.
- Request resources from pastoral staff and deacons.
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Qualifications, skills, and gifts

- A committed and growing relationship with Jesus.
- A firm belief in the powerful ministry that occurs in small group settings in the church.
- Gifts of leadership, administration, hospitality, and encouragement.
- Interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills.
- Ability to listen carefully and keep confidences.

Benefits to the Worker

Personal satisfaction of bring people together for fellowship and support.

Suggestions

- Accept the current dynamics of your branch and work gently toward growth.
- Consider creation of a small group "covenant" that guides the group's activities.