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Heart Wings, Inc.

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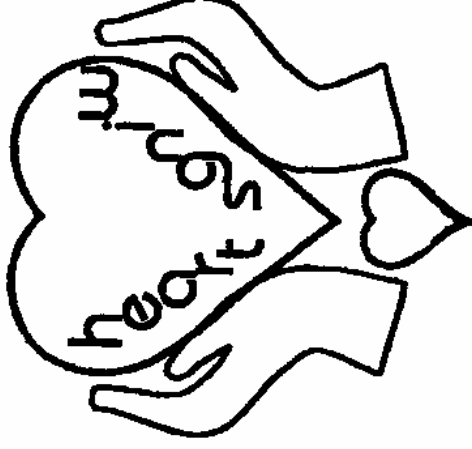
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*Universal Fellowship
of
Metropolitan Community Churches
Heart Wings, Inc.
An affiliate ministry of
MCC Spirit of the Rock, Little Rock, AR*



The “How-To’s” Of Being A Lay Delegate



This tri-fold is provided by the Heart Wings, Inc., an affiliate ministry of MCC Spirit of the Rock, Little Rock, AR. Heart Wings is a Laity Conference, for Laity put on by Laity. One of the objectives of Heart Wings is to provide education opportunities which foster Christian growth in all Lay people. This tri-fold outlines the responsibilities with which the Lay Delegate is charged in order to honor the office to which he/she has been elected.

Being an effective lay delegate is much more than attending the business meetings of Regional and General Conferences. In fact, attending business meetings is only the end result of your work as a delegate. Being a delegate is a year-round responsibility, and effectively representing your church at business meetings is the reward you and your church receive for doing your work well the rest of the year.

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LAY DELEGATE?

1. The delegate must inform.
2. The delegate must be informed.

LET'S TAKE THESE ONE AT A TIME.

**1. The delegate must inform:
One of the delegates's most important functions is to keep the congregation informed of issues and actions which may effect it.**

- Upcoming Conferences: who/what/when/where/how
- Workshops which are available
- Following Conferences:
- report back to your church they paid for you to go, they need to know what changes may affect them, generate interest in attending the next time.

In your report, include:

- business items
- workshops attended
- worship/fellowship experiences
- report should be written and accepted at the next congregational meeting, with other highlights announced.

WHY IS THIS THE DELEGATE'S RESPONSIBILITY? SHOULDN'T THE PASTOR TELL US ABOUT THIS INFORMATION?

The Regional and Fellowship mailing list consists of pastors, delegates, and other who have a vested interest. Sometimes information comes to the pastor, but if it isn't a priority or if the pastor has more pressing issues to attend to, the information doesn't get passed along. *The church is made up of the laity. The delegate is the voice of the laity, and therefore, must keep the Body informed on issues which may effect it.*

How to Inform:

- church newsletter
- bulletin board
- personal networking
- verbal announcements
- congregational forums
- written reports at congregational meetings
- enlist the assistance of the Pastor
- online communications

WHAT IF MY CONGREGATION JUST ISN'T INTERESTED IN THIS INFO?

- You can't be interested in something you don't know anything about. Most congregations are apathetic because they're uninformed.
- Encourage attendance at conferences - they'll get "hooked".
- And in the end if there's still not any visible response, do it anyway; you may be providing information that will strike someone's chord, and then the congregation will be able to react responsibly and with accurate information.

2. The delegate must be informed:

You cannot keep the congregation informed if you yourself are not informed.

Being informed is proactive:

- Get yourself in the information loop
- Let the Region/Fellowship know when you elect a new delegate
- Make sure the Region/Fellowship has your correct address
- Get copies of the Bylaws and a Directory
- Ask questions at conferences and meetings: chances are, if you've got that question, someone else does too!
- Let Regional/Fellowship leaders know who you are, and ask them for assistance when the need arises.

Read all your mailings thoroughly

- Email from Fellowship
- Update
- Leader Link

Know the Bylaws

Be prepared for conferences

- Study the materials carefully, and more than once
- Review the Bylaws
- Brush up on your parliamentary procedure
- Talk with folks about what's going on; ask questions in advance

Remember the Heart Wings Mission

Statement:

We exist to help enable the laity to identify, develop and share spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ, and to encourage, support, and work with the clergy within this Body.

Contact Heart Wings, Inc. if you have any questions.