

# Heart to Heart Ministry

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*Heart-to-Heart is a structure to promote friendship between older and younger women.*

**Titus 2:3-5 places the responsibility for teaching and discipling younger women upon mature, godly women. The experience, empathy, maturity, and spirituality of these women create an enormously powerful reservoir of untapped, God-given strength from which the church can benefit. Women need it; scripture commands it. The Heart-to-Heart program taps this reservoir.**

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Make a one-year commitment to the relationship
2. Contact each other once a week and meet at least once a month.
3. Pray for each other.
4. Do things together—whether it is Bible study, shopping, learning a new skill, or just going to lunch. Each set of partners is free to do what they want as long as they work on the relationship.

In Dallas, Texas where this has been utilized successfully for some time, they say, "This ministry works. Some older women enjoy it so much that they are meeting with several young women. And younger women love these friendships! They feel loved and have someone to call on for support and wisdom."

Women need socialization with other women. The isolation and loneliness women are feeling is not so much that communication between men and women has broken down, but that the communication between women and women has broken down. Women need other women. This is a ministry of encouragement, promoting friendship for support, counsel, and guidance. Because lives are changed through Christian love and support, families benefit, neighborhoods profit, and the entire church is blessed.

## **HOW TO START**

The coordinator of Heart-to-Heart is a Women's Ministries Committee board member; her primary function is to oversee the operation of the Heart-to-Heart ministry of senior and junior partners.

She shall select an assistant to help with administrative responsibilities:

- a. To help in matching senior/junior partners.
- b. To help make rematches when necessary.
- c. To help coordinate and publicize social events.

The coordinator and assistant use their knowledge of the women as well as the profile sheets to make matches. If possible, try to match women who are geographically close, and have at least

two interests in common.

There must be an appropriate age span between the partners. Generally, women under 35 are juniors; women 35-45 are either, and women 45 and over are seniors. Some women in their late twenties and thirties can become a senior to a younger woman, but also become a junior to an older woman. Most of all, pray that God's will be done in the matching process.

When a match is made, the senior initiates the first call to her junior, but from then on calling should be equal between the two. The coordinator and/or her assistant should call the participating members in Heart-to-Heart monthly to find out how the matches are progressing. The coordinator should also keep a file of profile sheets, brochures, entertainment records, suggestions, etc.

She shall select the senior and junior members of the Heart-to-Heart Steering Committee:

- a. To call the matched partners for follow-up and accountability.
- b. To assist in preparing social events and announcements.

The Steering Committee consists of trustworthy junior and senior women who serve two-year terms. They are each given a list of matches, which they are responsible to pray for and to call monthly.