

REPORT OF NJ PRESBYTERY

COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

November 21, 2020

To the NJ Presbytery,

Staying connected in our own communities and churches is challenging right now. It feels like we're "playing the game without the playbook." And it can be even more difficult to stay connected with what other churches are doing. That's why I'm thankful that so much is available to us. Here is a sampling of resources for helping to equip the members of your church. And for this meeting, I'll just focus on Women's and Children's Ministry.

Women

- **Leadership Training.** This year's [Women's Ministry Leadership Training](#) for the PCA will be virtual and presents a great opportunity for more women to attend. Please pass along to your women's ministry leaders and encourage (perhaps financially as well) attendance. It will be live on Feb 18-20, but the material will be available to registered participants until May 18.
- **Women's Conference.** Mercy Hill Church had about 20 women attend the "Hinged At Home" conference earlier this fall, using the online materials that would have been available at this fall's cancelled PCA Regional Women's Conference in Newark, Delaware. Allie Pacek, our Presbytery's Women's Ministry Coordinator, wants to remind you that your church can still host a similar event as the materials will be made available again this winter with registration opening on December 1. More information can be found on the [Hinged At Home](#) page of the PCA-CDM website.
- **Women's Bible Study.** In addition, a free 12-week "[Hinged](#)" [Women's Bible Study of Ephesians](#) is available online through 2021. It features study questions and videos that supplement the Hinged Bible Study book available for purchase. It would be a great "out of the box" women's Bible Study for the winter.

Children

- **Sunday School Curriculum.** Great Commission Publications has [revamped some of its courses](#) with electronic deliverability of materials, short videos of teaching and songs, and a widening of the applicable age ranges.
 - o They also have a five-week Advent curriculum called "[Jesus is Born](#)" targeted at ages 2-6. At Calvary, we purchased this and are distributing it for devotional use to the families with kids in that age range.
- **Teaching Children About Worship.** Many churches are integrating more children into the worship service due to the effect of COVID restrictions on nurseries, "Children's Church" or "Junior Church." [The Teach Me to Worship](#) curriculum can be a big help for parents and leaders to think through how to make worship understandable to young people.

- **Leadership Training.** Next year's [Children's Ministry Leadership Training](#) at the Ridge Haven Conference and Retreat Center is still on for April 20-22, 2021. \$315/person (including lodging and food) is not a bad price if some people want to carpool to North Carolina.
- **Children's Ministry Certification.** The application deadline for the 2021 cohort has passed but take a look at this curriculum and consider if there is someone in your church who could benefit from an intensive year-long deep dive into the foundations and opportunities of children's ministry in the church.

This doesn't come close to all of the good resources being produced right now. In fact, if you know of something that's been helpful to you and your ministry, please share it so that it can benefit others.

In 2021, I'd like to do a survey of how we are doing various aspects of discipleship ministry in our local churches of the NJ Presbytery. This would then set the foundation for better sharing of ideas and experiences in the future.

If you'd like to serve on the NJ CDM Committee (or if you know a Ruling Elder from your church who would be), please let me know.

With you in Christ's service to the Church,



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