North Georgia Pastors' Wives CARE Groups, Sisters' Connection

Connection, Acceptance, Renewal, and Encouragement

What is a Pastors' Wives CARE group?

A group of lead pastors' wives extending CARE – Connection, Acceptance, Renewal, and Encouragement – to other lead pastors' wives across the NGA Church of God family.

What is the process of PW Care groups?

- CARE groups are a one-year term with bi-monthly connect events. The connect events can occur in-person or online for at least four events. We understand that there may be limitations for some groups according to your area. Your group can opt for more if you desire.
- During the month, designated pastors' wives will be given a list of CARE groups which they can sign up online and connect with for the upcoming year. Online registration will be available through the NGA State Women's Ministries Department.
- The State Office will share the registration information to each CARE leader so that group leaders may group members regarding their first kickoff meeting for the month designated. (The State Office will do their best to provide district directories in your region so CARE group leaders can reach out to pastors' wives in those areas personally, if desired.)
- The group leader and assistant will plan the kickoff event to help introduce ladies in the group to each other. At this meeting, ladies can brainstorm ideas of things to do together, both in-person and online. The first three-to-fourmonth events will be scheduled and as many as possible so ladies can have advance notice to schedule their CARE group calendar. This will allow participants adequate time to schedule and plan.

EXAMPLE:

- *January...sign-ups for groups for upcoming year and Kick-off for February.
- *February...announce events for April, May, June
- *June...announce events for July, August, September
- *September...announce events for October, November, December
- *<u>December</u>...announce events for *January* to possibly kick-off new groups

Events will be geared towards the four core goals of **CARE groups**:

Connection, Acceptance, Renewal, Encouragement

CARE groups can begin meeting in the month that is suggested. It should be in a caring, supportive, "safe place" atmosphere of a sisterhood of lead pastoral wives.

CARE groups, Sisters' Connection should incorporate a scripture/devotion along with a prayer. Preferably it is suggested to not be a "church service". It is suggested to preferably not be over an hour. The time frame will be according to the location and areas within the CARE group.

Within the PW Care groups, ladies will find:

Fellowship, friendship, care, prayer, support, and ministry resourcing within the boundaries of the following:

- "Safe Place" This CARE group is a safe place where lead pastor's wives can feel free to open and be transparent without fear of being judged or criticized by others. This is not a counseling session and would not want anyone to personally share issues or struggles within the marriage. There are other sources to recommend.
- Confidentiality We will observe and honor confidentiality in our Sisters' Connection.
- Encouragement With Grace As lead pastors' wives open up and share, we can encourage but we understand that there is not a "one size fits all" answer to situations and what worked for you may or may not work for her. We will lovingly support our sister.

• Participation – Everyone is invited and encourage to participate in all events, but there will not be condemnation for those who cannot attend an event due to a busy life, family, ministry and obligations. We understand that we are offering CARE to one of the most needful groups, therefore, we will not harm our sister but will follow up and encourage her.

PW CARE Group Leaders 2025

At the end of each term, the State WM Director and team will review possibilities for new CARE group leaders from recommendations from current leaders, list of current assistants, and other recommendations from state leadership. A list of recommended new leaders and assistants will be provided to the Administrative Bishop for approval.

At the end of each term, a survey will be sent to the leaders/assistants for feedback and to track attendance to decide if necessary to create/update the number of groups and locations for the next year.

PW CARE Group Social Media

Facebook Group (private for lead PWs of the NGACOG): @ngacog pastors' wives. Facebook will allow for posting of events and details and to share resources with PWs throughout the state.

If interested, there is the possibility to have a connection across the entire state through Facebook. It is a feature somewhat like Zoom. This will allow PWs to have the ability to know and connect with other PWs outside their regional CARE group. This can be used for various purposes: Fun events, "Fireside" chats, Retired/Widowed PWs interviews. Please contact Desiree for more information if you would like to know how to connect with other ladies outside of your Care group.

The same CARE group guidelines will be shared on this FB group.