

WOMEN AT THE CROSS WEEKEND ELDER ROLE

Philosophy of Women at the Cross

The Weekend has been designed to accomplish the following things:

- Create an opportunity for Attendees to discover and embrace their humanity
- Identify how we might be choosing to live falsely and thus learn to live from the true self
- Experience authentic community and support
- Create opportunities for risk
- Connect to God's Spirit, to healing, to freedom, to power, and to love

Theological Perspective

The philosophy of the Weekend is rooted in core theological truths.

- We are human. We are fallen humans.
- God does not restore or redeem our old nature (the false self). He deals it death's blow through Christ crucified and resurrected.
- In Christ, we are redeemed. We are being sanctified. The teachings and experiences of the Weekend are designed to help Attendees integrate body, heart, soul, and mind in this reality that God IS sanctifying us and renewing us according to the Image of Christ.
- Christ comes in weakness in human form and presents his broken body as the portal through which we pass into God's presence.
- We come in weakness. We are Broken.
- We risk believing that we are at all times connected to God's love and power. We are Beloved.
- As we live from our true authentic selves we enter into and remain in community. We are wounded in relationship. We are healed in relationship.

Core Values of the Cross Ministry Group

1. We have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Galatians 2:20). We are called to rest in the reality that Christ is our life and that all that is good in us flows from his life within us. We are on the path of growing in faith and applying this reality to our daily lives.
2. God has already given us everything thing we need to follow him. We create opportunities for God's people to step into the truth that we already have his power and love in our lives. We must step into it by faith. "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:3)
3. "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind and with all of your strength." (Mark 12:30) It is our intention to explore how to fulfill this command in our daily

lives through study, teaching and risking obedience in practical ways in our lives.

4. We view the Bible as God's inspired word to us as his people. We look to him for creative and meaningful ways to proclaim his truth so that his people might experience the truth of the Gospel. We value exploring spiritual disciplines, which will aid us in being conformed into the image of God. As is seen throughout the Bible, the use of ritual and symbol is used to point to the truth about God and his people. Embracing both ritual and symbol are tangible ways for us to grow in our experience of God's grace and truth.
5. We embrace that we are human. We are not God. We are not in control. We submit to him and endeavor to surrender to his lordship. We accept that we are fallen and endeavor to come before Christ in humility at the foot of the cross. There we have fellowship with him and with others. We are all human. We are all weak. We are all equally in need of God's grace and mercy. And so, we let go of control of our own lives as well as our control over the lives of others.
6. It is our goal to live from the true self. This is our redeemed self, living from the Spirit of God within.
7. We are dedicated to becoming people who are conscious and aware of how we show up in the world. Unless we are aware of the nature of our soul before God and others we will live an illusion. We choose to uncover any ways that we are conforming to the ways and values of the world and then move toward confession and repentance.
8. We are committed to welcoming people where they are without judgment and calling them into the high and noble calling of God in their lives.
9. We must, each one, take responsibility for our own actions, thoughts, feelings and experiences in life. Without personal ownership we return to the fallen garden where blaming and victimhood rule. We are called to live in humility and to focus on our own sanctification before God. We are all fallen and the Image of God is broken within us. We are redeemed and being sanctified throughout the span of our lives.
10. Transformation takes place in the context of community. In the midst of relationship with trusted others we take risks to step out of our comfort zone and choose to be authentic and open. In this environment, fear and shame are overcome by the love, grace, and mercy of God. We are ushered into the reality of our beloved state before God.

Elder Role

Review this job description often as you prepare for the Weekend. Go over it again on the Weekend in order to be intentional about being present to your goals as an Elder.

As an Elder, observing the energy of the Weekend is one of your primary responsibilities. The physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual safety and well-being of the Staff and Attendees is the top concern of the Weekend Leader and such it is your job to be aware and to guide the Leaders when necessary. In addition to observing the Weekend energy and acting as a Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical Compass to the Leaders and Staff, your role as an Elder includes giving the Transitions during the Weekend and being in constant prayer as the Weekend goes forward. The Leaders will look to you to speak with wisdom and clarity as the need arises.

Your role within your assigned team is to be present to each woman as needed. To model “Presencing” and to be an emotional and spiritual compass for the team. The team is led by a Team Lead and assisted by a Senior Staff Guide. You also will help field questions and check in on the women’s understanding of what is next and how to do a given task, especially for the first time staffers. The teams exist so that women don’t get lost in the shuffle and end up feeling alone in completing tasks. This is a great opportunity for community, support, and individual growth. The Elder and Team Lead set the tone for all of these to take place WHILE accomplishing the team’s responsibilities.

Qualifications for Being an Elder

- Is over the age of 55
- Completed the Elder Track program (Or mentored by more experienced elder)
- Involved in the ministry and staffs the Weekends
- Committed to the journey of personal growth in Christ
- Grasps the basic message and tenets of The Cross Ministry Group
- Possesses a certain level of maturity and wisdom and a willingness to offer this to others

Spiritual Guidance

- Maintains awareness of the spiritual climate
- Prays as led by the Holy Spirit
- Is available for prayer, presencing, and guidance
- Is an example of maturity and presence

Leadership Authority and Support

- Commissions and decommissions the Leaders on the Weekend
- Observes the overall environment and energy of the Weekend, especially the Leadership
- Gives guidance to the Leaders where needed (leadership style, effectiveness, any missing elements, energy, etc)
- Holds the Leaders accountable to their commitment to lead in such a way where all thrive on the Weekend (Staff and Attendees)

- Checks in with the Leaders at different points on the Weekend for the purpose of encouragement and support
- Is available to Staff for the purpose of encouragement and support
- Checks in with team to offer support
- Fields questions from team members

Opening Ritual Elder Station

- Participates in the Opening Ritual as the Elder at the Elder Station (see Opening Ritual document)

Speaking Roles

- Responsible for giving the following Transitions (audio file available)
 - Friday -More Rocks
 - Saturday - Worship
 - Sunday - Worship and All You Have is Now
 - Sunday - Truth on the Bags

Rock Work

- Maintains awareness of the spiritual climate within each Rock Work group
- Prays as led by the Holy Spirit
- Is available for prayer, presencing, and guidance
- Participates in the Rock Work process as needed, asked and led by the Holy Spirit

ELDER CHECKLIST

PRE-WEEKEND

10 WEEKS OUT - ELDER

- Use this week to prepare your heart, soul, mind, and strength for leading the Weekend
- Read through the Philosophy and Core Values
- Pray for the Leaders, Staff, and Attendees
- Check the Registration Spreadsheet weekly to see the updated list of Attendees
 - Check the “What do you hope to get out of this retreat” column
 - Check the “Specific Prayer Requests” column (This won’t be completed until Registration Coordinators have called and reached each Attendee beginning this week)

7 WEEKS OUT - ELDER

- Participate in the 1st pre-Weekend Staff meeting with the rest of the Leadership team
- Debrief this meeting with the Leadership Team

- One Elder participate in the out-of-town conference call with the Weekend Leader, Assistant Weekend Leader and Staff Coordinator

6 WEEKS OUT - ELDER

- Beginning this week Registration Coordinators will be calling the Attendees who have already signed up and as they register, continue to pray for the Attendees by checking two columns on the Registration Spreadsheet
 - Check the “Specific Prayer Requests” column
 - Check the “What do you hope to get out of this retreat” column
- As you read weekly email check-ins, pray specifically for any Staff prayer requests (Check-ins begin this week)
- Continue praying for Leadership team. Reach out to any individuals that God places on your heart to check in with

4 WEEKS OUT - ELDER

- Check in with your assigned Leaders to see if they have any specific prayer requests
- Continue praying for Leadership team. Reach out to any individuals that God places on your heart to check in with

3 WEEKS OUT - ELDER

- Participate in the 2nd pre-Weekend Staff meeting with the rest of the Leadership team
- One Elder participates in the out-of-town conference call with the Weekend Leader, Assistant Weekend Leader and Staff Coordinator
- Continue praying for Leadership team. Reach out to any individuals that God places on your heart to check in with

1 WEEK OUT - ELDER

- Check in with your assigned Team Leaders to see if they have any specific prayer requests
- Continue praying for Leadership team. Reach out to any individuals that God places on your heart to check in with

WEEKEND CHECKLIST

- Execute all responsibilities as outlined in job description

POST-WEEKEND CHECKLIST

- After the Weekend debrief with the Leadership Team: What went well? What could have been done better? What did they learn about themselves through serving as a leader? What does their growth from here look like?