PWOC LDP
Leadership Development Program

Fall Board Training—WORKSHOP 1: PWOC MISSION

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: The mission of PWOC nests within the mission of the local Commander's Religious Support Plan and the local Senior Chaplain. As PWOC leaders, we need to understand our position within these authority structures. Internally, PWOC's mission is to offer Christ-centered community. Externally, PWOC meets needs in the broader military community. What does this look like at your military installation? This workshop takes the PWOC board through a process to clarify their local mission and vision for the year.

CONTEXT: This is workshop 1 of 4 that comprise the Annual Core Training, one-day event (or two half-days) in the PWOC LDP. The PWOC board is responsible for presenting Workshop 1, and the PWOC Chaplain Sponsor and Religious Support Team will present Workshop 2. The purpose of joint attendance is to build collaborative relationships that will set PWOC and the Religious Support Community up for success.

TIME: 90 minutes

INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)

PWOC Mission: Video #1 (7:58)

➢ ***Share:*** With a partner, take a minute to share what PWOC means to you personally.

Our motto: "We are workers together for Christ."

Our Four Aims:
1) To LEAD women to Christ
2) To TEACH women God's Word
3) To DEVELOP women's spiritual gifts
4) To INVOLVE women Chapel ministries

- Women in European theater military chapels began forming PWOC groups in _____.
- PWOC's includes all women associated with the military—service members, retirees, civilians, and family members.
- Chaplains have always been key investors and participants in the training. Without the Chaplain Corps, PWOC would not _____.

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➢ **Discuss:** Hold a two-minute meeting with someone nearby to discuss what you think would happen if PWOC was only *internally* focused. If you have time, discuss what you think would happen if PWOC was only *externally* focused.

I. PWOC's INTERNAL MISSION—Within the Religious Support Community (15 minutes)

➢ **Read & Mark:** *Take a few minutes to read the boxed section below; mark what stands out to you.*

PWOC's Internal Mission Statement

Position: Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) is an auxiliary* ministry of the military chapel community and falls under the supervision and authority of the local Senior Chaplain and the PWOC Chaplain Sponsor. Its motto, "We are workers together for Christ," emphasizes PWOC's cooperative role within the broader community.

PWOC is an ecumenical** ministry of the religious support community, built on the foundation of its Four Aims, which honor the Protestant roots of all denominations:

1) To LEAD women to Christ
2) To TEACH women God's Word
3) To DEVELOP women's spiritual gifts
4) To INVOLVE women in chapel ministries

Internal Mission Statement: *PWOC equips women to flourish within the unique challenges of the military lifestyle by providing a nurturing, Christ-centered community, guided by the Four Aims, in which women associated with the military can connect socially and grow spiritually, thereby increasing readiness of individuals, families, and communities.*

**Chapel Auxiliary*—An extension of the chapel program under the control of the local Garrison [Senior] Chaplain. An integral element of the religious support mission of Commanders and Chaplains. As part of the Command Religious Program, auxiliaries have official standing and provide servicemembers, civilians, retirees, and family members opportunity for the Constitutional right to free exercise of religion (AR 165-1, chapter 5-6).

***Ecumenical** (adj.)–General; universal; pertaining to the whole Christian Church; promoting or fostering Christian unity throughout the world; interdenominational; including or containing a mixture of diverse elements or styles (dictionary.com).

Our local PWOC Board theme/vision: (optional)**: _____**

_____

_____

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PWOC Mission: Video #2 (4:43)

- The Chaplain Corps is not Christian; it is pluralistic, meaning that it represents many religions. Local Chaplains in charge of PWOC may or may not be Christian, but under their authority PWOC has the Constitutional right of free exercise of religion.
- "Unity in diversity." "Unity is NOT _____."
- PWOC is "_____-denominational" rather than "non-denominational."
- Christ-centered.
- Psalm 133:1

My Notes:

➢ **Whole Group Discussion:** How does your theme or vision for this year connect and overlap with PWOC's Internal Mission Statement? Hold a whole group discussion for about 5 minutes before moving into Activity 1.

Option: If you have not yet developed a theme or vision statement, take a few minutes to allow your Chaplain(s) to clarify their vision for PWOC.

Discussion Notes:

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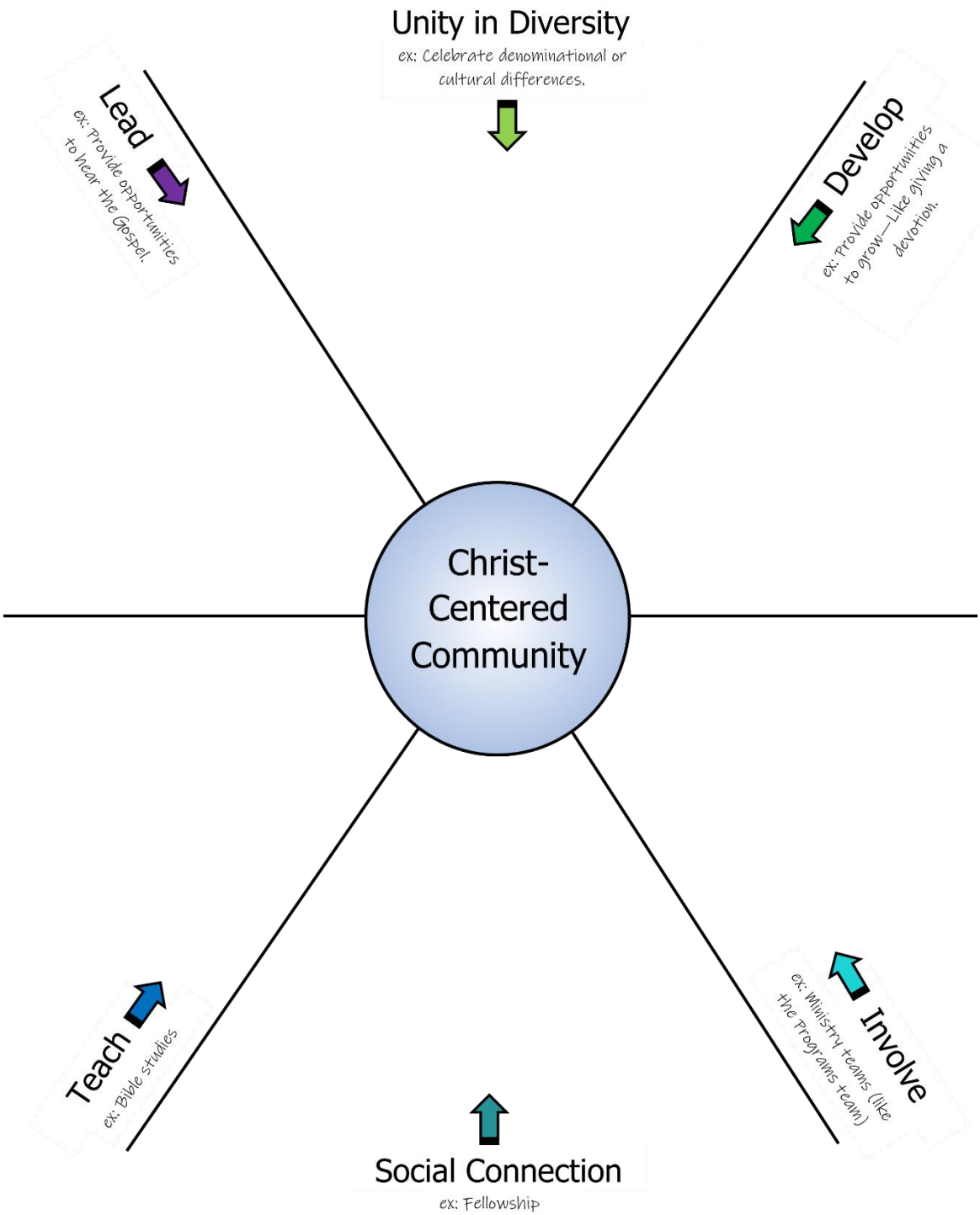
ACTIVITY 1: CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY **(15 minutes)**

- **Brainstorm:** *Work in groups of 2-4 (mixed with PWOC leaders and Religious Support Team members). 1) Brainstorm PWOC concepts and activities within each category that lead toward Christ-centered community. 2) Prioritize essential items- what is most important in each category? Use this graphic as a reference point in your PWOC board planning going forward.*



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II. PWOC's EXTERNAL MISSION—In the broader Military Community (17 min.)

➢ **Read & Mark:** *Take a few minutes to read the boxed section below; mark what stands out to you.*

PWOC's External Mission Statement

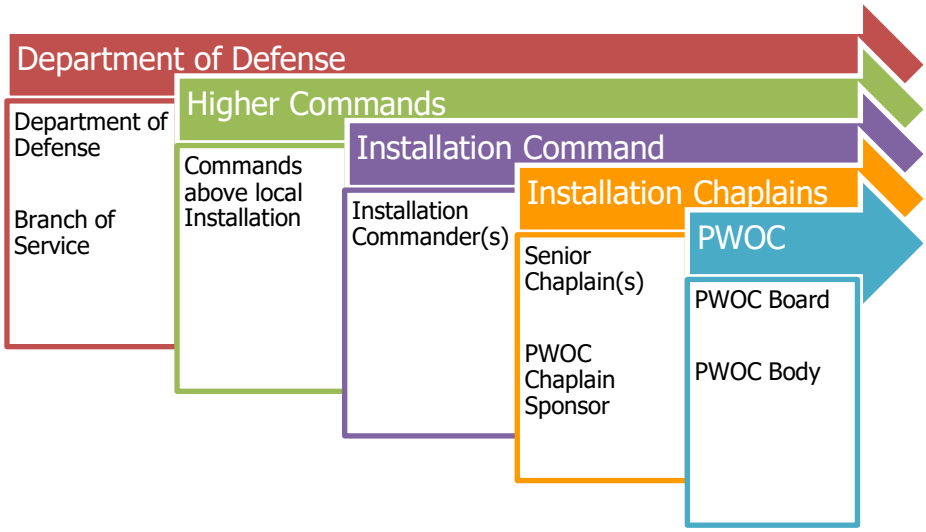
Position: As an auxiliary chapel ministry for women associated with the military, Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) is an integral part of the Senior Commander's Religious Support Plan, implemented by the local Senior Chaplain. Through its ability to positively impact service members, families, and the community, PWOC functions as a unique force-multiplier for the Commander and the Chaplain Corps.

External Mission Statement: *PWOC equips women to flourish within the unique challenges of the military lifestyle—primarily, by cultivating a positive environment for social connection and spiritual formation, and secondarily, by meeting needs in the broader military community, thereby increasing readiness of individuals and families.*

PWOC Mission: Video #3 (9:07)

- PWOC is not only under the authority of the local Senior Chaplain and PWOC Chaplain Sponsor, but also the local Installation Commander and multiple layers of leadership within the military chain of command.

How PWOC Nests within the Military Chain of Command



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PWOC's Opportunities for Community Participation

1) **Public Events or efforts sponsored by Chaplains within the Religious Community**. (Examples: Volunteering in VBS; Assisting with preparations for a Memorial Service) What events can you think of in your religious community?

2) Events or efforts in the broader (non-religious) Military Community. (Examples: Handing out water bottles at a 5K Fun Run; Taking care packages to quarantined service members) What events can you think of in your military community that PWOC could come alongside?

3) My Personal Community. Your personal community is the circle of influence that God has entrusted to you alone. What does your personal community look like?

➢ **Respond:** *Take about 3 minutes to respond to the following questions.*

- Who is God bringing to my attention?
- How is He already at work?
- What is He calling me to do?

> *"People don't ask questions about spiritual matters unless God is at work in their lives."*
>
> *"When you see someone seeking God or asking questions about Christianity, you are witnessing God at work."*
>
> *"Right now, God is working all around you."*
>
> *"Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work." — Henry T. Blackaby, Experiencing God*

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ACTIVITY 2: COMMUNITY EVENTS AND EXPECTATIONS **(30 minutes)**

- **Brainstorm:** *1) Using the table: "Potential External Mission Opportunities," brainstorm calendar events for your location. Do this as a whole group—PWOC leaders and Religious Support Team members together. 2) Which events have the highest priority in each timeframe? Why? Respectfully negotiate. 3) Discuss the priority event(s) in your current calendar timeframe. What are the expectations? What is being asked of PWOC?*

Table: Potential External Mission Opportunities

PWOC Fall Semester (September—December)	
Religious Community Efforts/Events *Chaplain-sponsored events* *Events by other ministries/auxiliaries*	**Broader Military Community Efforts/Events** *Commander-sponsored events* *Non-religious events in the community*
PWOC Spring Semester (January-May)	
Religious Community Efforts/Events	**Broader Military Community Efforts/Events**

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PWOC Summer Session (June-August)	
Religious Community Efforts/Events	**Broader Military Community Efforts/Events**

PWOC Mission: Video #4 (2:11)

CONCLUSION **(3 minutes)**

- PWOC is a remarkable ministry that has stood the test of time. It is a Christ-centered community that embraces diversity while focusing on our common ground.
- PWOC's role alongside the Chaplain Corps is part of our identity and legacy. We are on the same team, seeking the best for our military community.

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Vision Quest

Module 4 Worksheet

Phase 1: Executive Board Research *President Meets with Chaplains*

Senior Chaplain Vision

What is the senior chaplain's vision for PWOC?

Chaplain Sponsor Vision

What is the chaplain sponsor's vision for PWOC?

Phase 3: Full Board Application *Second Vision Quest Meeting*

Our Vision

Actions & Themes

What actionable words and themes can be drawn out of the scripture? Create a tagline.

Scripture

What scriptures address these 3 needs AND the chaplains' vision? Which one does it best?

Phase 2: Full Board Brainstorm *First Vision Quest Meeting*

Needs

How would each of these issues be answered or met? What do they need from Christ?

Issues

What are the major issues facing our PWOC community? Group similar issues. (Aim for 3.)

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