



How to Develop an LWML Heart to Heart Sisters Program in Your District

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Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) Committee is to facilitate an intentional effort to welcome and encourage multicultural women to participate in the life and work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

This manual was created to be a resource for you as you work to build a successful district Heart to Heart Sisters Program. Included in this manual is some background information about the LWML and the Heart to Heart Sisters Program, as well as strategies and resources that you can use as you work with multicultural women leaders and LWML women in your district.

Additional resources can be found on the LWML website at www.lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters. The Heart to Heart Sisters Committee is excited that you are contributing your gifts, skills, and passions for the Lord's work as you participate in the LWML and assist EACH woman of the LCMS to use her gifts in ministry to serve the people of the world.

The Heart to Heart Sisters Program is designed to provide:

ACCESS

We share the message of the mission of the LWML with women who are not familiar with the LWML or have barriers of culture or language. We share the message that the LWML welcomes all women of the LCMS.

INCLUSION

As we are intentional about including every woman of the LCMS from every culture and language, our organization reflects the rich diversity of heaven. We make a personal commitment to welcome all women of the LCMS and to go the extra mile to invite women to the LWML journey.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

We encourage each woman to use her God given gifts to serve the mission of the Church. We can do this through the local, district, and international mission reach of the LWML.

JOYFUL SERVICE

We invite women to the mutual encouragement of the LWML sisterhood so that together we serve the Lord with gladness.

Benefits of a District Heart to Heart Sisters Program

At present, the LCMS has an ever-increasing number of multicultural congregations. Many of these congregations have yet to hear of the sisterhood and global outreach of the LWML. We can invite, encourage, and equip women leaders in these congregations to learn about and participate in the LWML using their gifts in ministry to the world.

As we reach out to multicultural women through intentional District H2H Sisters Programs at district conventions and in local events, we will be delighted to see or experience how God uses a variety of gifts and ideas to include more women in the sisterhood of the LWML.

How to Locate Multicultural Ministries in Your District

One of your first tasks is to figure out what multicultural ministries exist in your district.

1. Contact your synodical district president. Your LWML district president should be able to help you identify the LCMS district president and how to contact him. You can also look up the district office on the www.lcms.org site. Click on “Locators” and then click on “District Offices.” On the map that appears, click on your state and then on “View Information.” There you will see the name of the district president and his contact information.
2. Let the district president know about your H2H sisters work in your district and ask him for a list of multicultural ministries and the names of the pastors of those ministries. Some districts have mission executives or Mission and Ministry Facilitators. If your district has one, that would be the person that will have the most contact with multicultural ministries. He would be a good resource for you. Once you have the list of ministries, pray for each of those ministries.
3. Contact the ministries by telephone or email. If you choose to email the pastor, always follow-up with a personal phone call about a week later. See Appendix D for a sample phone script.
4. When you speak to the pastor of the multicultural ministry you may have to introduce him to the LWML and explain the purpose of the H2H Sisters program. Arrange a time that you can visit his ministry if you are able to do this.
5. Finally, you want to ask him about the women leaders in his congregation and if you could contact them with an invitation to a H2H Sisters or LWML event in your district or zone.
6. We recommend you contact these women leaders by phone or in person and follow up with an email or letter.
7. Pray for these women and pray for any invitations you make. Continue to keep in contact with them even if it is only to say hello and see how they are. Let them know that you are praying for them and their ministry. If possible, meet with them in person and begin a friendship with them.
8. This personal approach will bear fruit!
9. If you can't physically contact all the multicultural ministries in your district, consider asking local zone presidents to reach out to these sisters in Christ.

Sample Letter from the LWML District President (DP) to the Zone Presidents

Dear Sister in Christ,

Thank you zone leader for all you are doing to help the women of your LWML (Name of Zone) Zone. Your desire to serve the Lord through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is a blessing to so many of your ladies and people around the world. May God continue to bless you as you serve Him.

One of the concerns often expressed by leaders of the LWML is that our numbers are shrinking and there is still so much to do to spread the Gospel around the world. God in His grace and wisdom is already answering our prayers to send workers into the harvest fields and using the LWML to reach many others. God has opened The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to people from many diverse cultures. Multicultural congregations are part of the Synod, and new ones are being established throughout our districts. Other congregations that are more traditional are welcoming members from various cultural groups as the United States becomes ever more ethnically blessed.

The women in these churches can be wonderful additions to the LWML as sisters in Christ wanting to serve the Lord with gladness. What is needed is an intentional effort by all women of the LWML to seek out, meet, and invite women of all cultures to join in the work of telling others about Jesus through our words and actions.

As District President, I would like you to encourage your ladies to intentionally seek out, invite, and include women of all cultures in your LWML Bible classes, retreats, zone events, and participation in this sisterhood of caring women. Pray that God will guide you to women of other cultures in this effort. Be open to meeting sometimes at other cultural congregations, invite women who do not yet know about the LWML to come to an event, retreat, or rally. Take time to learn about various cultures and be open to new ways of doing things based on input from these multicultural sisters.

The Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters Program in the LWML is committed to assisting LWML Districts in establishing H2H Sisters programs so multicultural women may mutually encourage one another, support each other, and work together, living out the beautiful diversity that is the body of Christ. Check out <http://www.lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters> for more information. Please feel free to contact me or Vice President of _____ for assistance and information. (*Share her name and contact information here.*)

Someday may we with the Apostle John declare, *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands* (Revelation 7:9).

Your LWML Sister in Christ,

District President's Name

Contact Information

Sample Timetable for District H2H Sisters Convention Program

Shortly (within a month) after the LWML district convention, meet with the LWML Executive Committee (EC) and prayerfully consider implementing a H2H Sisters Program in your district. Review information available from the LWML website regarding why and how to have a H2H Program at <http://www.lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters>. Assign a Vice President or other appointed person with a heart for multicultural ministry to coordinate the program in your district. If your district has been blessed to have a Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader serving in your district, she would serve as the Coordinator for this program.

22 months before your next district convention, the District President (DP) should send a letter to the Zone Presidents informing them of the plan to start (or continue) a H2H Sisters program in your district. (See Sample Letter in these Guidelines.) Ask for responses from the zones as to their planned involvement.

20 months prior to the district convention, the DP meets with the District H2H Sisters Coordinator to sketch out a plan for inclusion of H2H sisters at the convention, determine a budget, and suggest ways to fund this program. These plans will need to be approved by the EC if your bylaws so state. Continue to meet or electronically converse about and refine the plans with the DP and the Coordinator until all is agreed upon and approved by the EC.

18 months prior to the convention, meet with the Convention Manager to determine how the H2H Sisters and mentors will be accommodated at the convention site. The number of participants will guide the assignment of the meeting location.

12 months prior to district convention, send application forms for multicultural women who have been identified as potential candidates to be H2H Sisters and who will attend the convention. If possible, also send application forms for mentors for each H2H sister to the Zone Presidents for distribution. Ask for responses on or before **10 months** prior to the convention. Explain what the program is about and what is expected of them in being accountable to the district following their training.

9 months prior to the district convention, contact each mentor and H2H Sister who has been selected to attend the H2H program. Explain transportation (if this is provided) and housing arrangements. Ask them to arrange for transportation if not provided by the district. Zone Presidents may be of help in arranging for transportation by LWML members planning to attend the convention. Reserve hotel rooms for the sisters. Explain that you will also be sending them via email (or US Postal service) a letter outlining the schedule for the H2H activities at the convention, housing arrangements, meal plans, and other pertinent items. Remember to keep praying for the H2H Sisters and their mentors.

6 months prior to the district convention, touch base with the H2H Sisters to make sure they are still able to attend the convention and have transportation (if this has been provided, be sure to check with the drivers to be sure they are aware they are bringing H2H Sisters to the convention). Ask if they have any questions prior to coming to the convention. Order any materials needed for the H2H Sister sessions at the convention. Be sure a room has been reserved for the H2H Sisters program. Coordinate this with the Convention Manager.

2 months prior to the district convention, if the District Board of Directors and convention committees are having a walkthrough of the convention site, be sure the H2H Coordinator or her representative attends. Order materials for the H2H room like white boards or projectors, if needed. Be sure food vendors, hotel, or restaurants can provide meals and snacks for the H2H Sisters and mentors.

1 month prior to the district convention, contact each Heart to Heart Sister to see if they have any questions or change of plans.

One day prior to the start of the convention, the H2H Sisters Coordinator should arrive at the convention site to ready the meeting room, ascertain that the housing is arranged, and pray with the District Board for God to bless all who attend the convention.

At the convention, if possible, the District President should personally greet the Heart to Heart Sisters. Welcome all the H2H Sisters and mentors. Have volunteers help them navigate their surroundings. Praise God!

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League

Heart to Heart SISTERS Application

Your district name – District Program



A Heart to Heart Sister is a multicultural woman of the LCMS who has a heart for spreading the Gospel to all people and serving the Lord gladly wherever He calls her. If you are selected as a Heart to Heart Sister (H2H), you will be expected to attend all sessions of the LWML District Convention as outlined in the H2H Sisters Program. After the convention, you will be asked to report to your church and others in your Zone about the H2H Sisters experience you had. When you hear from your Mentor, please reply via email, text, or phone to keep her updated on your LWML activities and seek her help and prayers in your efforts to promote the work of the LWML.

Name: _____ Nickname: (if any) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone Number: (_____) _____ Secondary Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email address: _____

Church Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Pastor’s name: _____ Pastor’s Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Pastor’s email: _____

What is your country of Origin: _____

Describe your involvement at church:

Tell us a little about your family:

When and how did you become a Lutheran Christian?

To accommodate all multicultural women who speak many different languages, the Heart to Heart Sisters Training program will be in English. You will also participate in the general convention which will also be entirely in English.

If selected, are you able to participate in the entire Heart to Heart Sisters program and convention from **mm/dd/yy to mm/dd/yy?**

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this form electronically by **mm/dd/yy** to **[District President or H2H District Leader or Coordinator]**

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
Heart to Heart Sisters MENTOR Application

Your district name – District Program



A Heart to Heart Sisters Mentor is a woman who is already active in the LWML, cares about multicultural people, and is willing to befriend the H2H Sister. The mentor will help the Heart to Heart Sister understand and be comfortable in the LWML experience. Through this relationship the Heart to Heart Sister will be successful in participating in the LWML with her gifts and serve in God’s kingdom with joy.

Name: _____ Nickname: (if any) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone Number: (_____) _____ Secondary Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email address: _____

Church Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Pastor’s name: _____ Pastor’s Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Pastor’s email: _____

Describe your involvement with LWML:

Describe your involvement with cross cultural ministry and/or mission experiences:

What is your country of Origin: _____

When and how did you become a Lutheran Christian?

If selected, are you able to participate and mentor your H2H Sister for the duration of the entire Heart to Heart Sisters program and LWML district convention from **mm/dd/yy to mm/dd/yy** ?

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this form electronically by **mm/dd/yy** to **[District President or H2H District Leader or Coordinator]**

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Heart to Heart Sisters Program**

EVALUATION

Your district name – District Program



1. What did you like best about the convention?

2. What did you learn about the LWML that you did not know before?

3. What action step will you take when you return to your congregation?

4. What could have improved your experience?

5. What else would you like to share with the H2H Sisters Committee?

Name and contact information (optional): _____

Suggested Program for the H2H Sisters at a District Convention

Each of the LWML Districts is unique in size, location, and ministry efforts. As such, their conventions reflect that diversity. In planning a Heart to Heart Sisters Program for your own district convention consider your ministry goals, time, and facility accommodations. Plan your program keeping in mind the goals of the H2H Sisters Program to intentionally include multicultural women in the life and work of the LWML.

The following are elements important to include in the H2H Sisters Program for your district convention:

- A short presentation of the history and ministry of the LWML. It is important to include the main purpose of the LWML which is to support the spread of the Gospel worldwide. Local societies do this through the gathering of mites and serving in their church and community.

Resources: Present the LWML Welcome Packet. (See appendix for how to start a local LWML group).

- PowerPoint introduction to the LWML H2H program which is a short presentation of the development of the Heart to Heart Sisters Program and the importance of multicultural inclusion in the LWML.

Resources: PowerPoint available online at <http://www.lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters>. Diversity document (see appendix).

- Give an ample amount of time for sisters to share their own stories. This not only builds a sisterhood among the women, but it helps them practice sharing their faith stories with other individuals and groups. This affirms their relationship with the Triune God and their sisters in Christ. Possibly include more than one session to do this.

For further suggestions, in the Appendix you will find sample Agendas from H2H Sisters District Programs that have been used at District Conventions. Feel free to glean ideas for your own unique program.

Additional suggestions for including H2H Sisters in the LWML District, Zone, and Local levels.

As District President or Heart to Heart District Leader, you will want to prayerfully encourage the Heart to Heart Sisters and their mentors on following up their relationship with the LWML after the District Convention in some or all of the following ways.

A. Establish a mentor relationship for each H2H Sister.

The goal of the mentor is to support and help the H2H Sister navigate the culture of the LWML joyfully. To do this, the mentor:

- will pray for her H2H Sister and her family on a regular basis;
- will contact her H2H Sister at least quarterly by written note, phone call, text, or email;
- will invite her H2H Sister to be her guest for coffee or lunch at least twice a year;
- will be available to seek answers to questions the H2H Sister may have about the LWML;
- will invite her H2H Sister to zone events and other functions that could support her sister in her walk with the LWML;
- will assist her in forming her LWML group or participating in her local group or lead her to district leaders who could help her; and
- will accept this relationship for at least a biennium.

B. Ask H2H Sisters to share their faith stories at rallies, retreats, and other events. Her mentor could provide support and encouragement in preparing this.

C. Appoint multicultural women leaders to various committees on the district and zone levels.

Financing a Heart to Heart Program at the District Convention

A. Tool to Estimate the Cost of Sending a Heart to Heart Sister to a District Convention

1. **Registration** — May be waived by agreement of the District Board.
2. **Supplies** — Items necessary for the H2H Sisters Program (Copies, giveaways, room rental, etc.).
3. **Hotel Room** — May be able to house up to four in a room. Often this promotes friendships among the sisters.
4. **Meals** — Convention meal packages may be very expensive. Sometimes area restaurants are a more economical source of meals. However, it is good to include the H2H Sisters at the District Banquet meals where all can attend, either as a group or preferably with their Zone President. Locally supplied food can be a viable alternative especially if the gathering is held in a local church. Check with hotel policy to determine whether outside food may be served in a conference room. Some districts host meals and snacks for the H2H Sisters and Mentors in the President's suite or a comparable hotel room where food can be supplied from outside sources.
5. **Transportation** —
 - a. Encourage ride sharing if travelling by car. Find ways to set up carpools so that the Heart to Heart Sisters may connect with other LWML ladies during the drive. This not only gets the ladies to the convention, but it could foster some friendships with other LWML ladies. Contact women who you know are friendly and interested in making new friendships with multicultural sisters.
 - b. Request donations of Frequent Flyer Miles for members who may have to travel long distances.
6. **Finalize Budget** — Add up all of the above to determine your expense budget.

B. Ideas for Raising the Funds

1. Expect that with advance planning most H2H Sisters can contribute up to \$100 toward their convention expenses. (see #5 below for suggestions). This helps the H2H Sisters value their own efforts to be part of the program. Some districts have a grant to cover expenses of the Heart to Heart Sisters Program at the convention.
2. Other districts have scholarship funds to assist H2H Sisters to partially defray the H2H Sisters convention expenses. Find out if your district has scholarship funds or grants available. Be aware that these often have deadlines for women to apply.
3. Some districts may have endowment funds available for special programs like the H2H Sisters.
4. Host an ethnic dinner with a relevant speaker or ethnic-inspired entertainment in your zone and donate the funds from the event to support the H2H Sisters' convention expenses.
5. If H2H Sisters are looking for ways to contribute to their convention expenses, the following are suggestions of how they might be able to raise funds in their own congregations:
 - a. Food sales are especially popular and can generate funds for a group of H2H Sisters to attend the convention. For example, one Hispanic group raised \$400 by selling tamales and Mexican food plates after worship services.
 - b. If there is a group of women in a multicultural congregation that especially enjoys cooking and sharing their ethnic dishes, consider inviting this group of women to prepare food for a zone gathering and designate those funds to cover convention expenses. Note: This is one example. Not every group of women may feel comfortable preparing food for a group of women from many backgrounds, but where it works, it is a very fruitful endeavor.
6. Seek grants from privately owned Lutheran businesses or foundations.
7. Talk to your District President about the possibility of approaching a larger group of churches in your district to see if they could extend scholarship funds for Heart to Heart Sisters.

Response Form to be Sent to National H2H Sisters Committee after Your District Convention

(This form is for the District President to complete and email to the national H2H Sisters Committee shortly after the completion of their District Convention.)

LWML District: _____

City and State of Convention: _____

District President: _____ Email or Phone Number: _____

1. Convention Venue: (Select One)

Church Camp or retreat center College Hotel Convention Center

2. Was a H2H Sister District Leader involved in the planning and presentation of the H2H Sisters convention program? _____

If yes, please list her name and email or phone number: _____

3. How many H2H Sisters/Mentors attended: _____

4. Briefly outline the H2H Sisters Program and length of sessions: (Use the back of this form if extra space is needed.)

5. In what way, if any, did the H2H Sisters participate in the convention program at large?

6. Describe how your Heart to Heart Sisters Program was funded?

7. Did you use the "How to Develop an LWML H2H Sisters Program in Your District" guide? _____

If yes, how else could the committee improve on the guide and how could we assist you further?

8. What follow up is planned for the H2H Sisters Program in your district?

Appendix

- A. Frequently Asked Questions about the Heart to Heart Sisters Program.
- B. Sample H2H Sister District Convention Registration Form.
- C. Sample Agendas for Heart to Heart Sisters Programs at the District Conventions and Sample Bible Study.
- D. Sample Telephone Script for a Conversation with a Pastor of a Multicultural Congregation.

**Appendix A:
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**



1. What is the purpose the H2H Sisters District Program?

Answer: The Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) District Program is an intentional effort to welcome and encourage multicultural women to participate in the life and work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML).

2. Is the H2H Sisters District Program the same thing as the national H2H Sisters District Leaders (DL) Training Program?

Answer: No, the national H2H Sisters DL Training Program is a unique program to train a woman with a passion for cross-cultural ministry and who has shown leadership potential in her district to lead a H2H Sisters program. This training takes place at the LWML (national) biennial conventions. The District President (DP) identifies a woman with a passion for cross-cultural ministry and submits an application to the H2H Sisters Committee for her to participate in the H2H DL training.

After completing the LWML H2H Sisters DL Training program, the H2H Sisters DL will work with her District President to develop and/or strengthen a Heart to Heart Sisters Program in their district, including a Heart to Heart Sisters program at their district convention.

3. Why is a separate H2H Sisters District Program necessary?

Answer: Because women connected with LCMS multicultural ministries are often new to the LCMS and this, together with possible language barriers, isolates women from the rest of the church body and organizations, such as LWML. Connecting with them requires an intentional and ongoing effort.

4. Why should multicultural women be a part of the LWML?

Answer: They are already part of the LCMS family and bring vitality and giftedness to the life and work of the church and the LWML. God's plan is for us to serve Him and the world with all the diversity He provides.

5. Why are multicultural women leaders the best leaders for a H2H Sisters Program?

Answer: They understand the cultural dynamics from the inside. The goal of H2H Sisters is to involve multicultural women as leaders, and women of multicultural communities will always be more effective in reaching women from diverse cultures than women who do not have that background. However, a woman with a zeal for multicultural outreach is welcome to apply as a H2H District Leader.

6. Is the H2H Sisters Program designed to enhance our evangelism efforts among multicultural communities?

Answer: Not exactly. The H2H Sisters Program is designed to connect, engage, invite, and mentor multicultural women leaders who are ALREADY in LCMS multicultural congregations. As we support and strengthen them, they will be better equipped to evangelize multicultural communities in their areas.

7. Must those multicultural women leaders identified for the H2H Sisters Program speak English?

Answer: They should have a working knowledge of the English language, or work through a translator, because they will be the bridge between the LWML and the women of their congregations.

8. I have a multicultural friend who is dynamic but isn't connected to one of our churches. Would she be a candidate for the H2H Sisters Program and is this a way to connect her to a congregation?

Answer: No. This program is designed for women leaders actively engaged in an LCMS congregation.

9. What if we have a dynamic LCMS/LWML woman leader from a diverse multicultural background, but she is not a member of a multicultural congregation? Would she be a good candidate to be a H2H Sisters Program leader?

Answer: Yes, because of her diverse multicultural background, she may be very effective at developing relationships of trust with women from multicultural backgrounds and congregations.

10. Does a H2H Sister need to belong to a local LWML group in her district?

Answer: No. Often, this is a first entry for multicultural women to the LWML.

11. Can a H2H Sister belong to the LWML as a member-at-large if her LWML group is inactive?

Answer: Yes. LWML has individual membership for women who do not have an LWML group in their congregation.

12. May a H2H Sister belong to an existing LWML group?

Answer: Yes, it would be great for her to be included in the sisterhood of an existing LWML group.

13. What if we don't have multicultural congregations in our area?

Answer: There are diverse communities throughout our country and the LCMS has developed multicultural ministry outreach in every district. Discover those ministries through your LCMS district office. If there are none yet, find out how you can support the district effort to reach out to multicultural communities in your area.

Appendix B



(Insert District's Convention Logo OR H2H Sisters Logo Here [optional])

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE
 (Name of District) **DISTRICT**
 (number) **BIENNIAL CONVENTION**
 (Insert Convention Date) (Insert Convention Location)
HEART TO HEART SISTERS (and Mentors)
REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for Registrations:
MM/DD/YEAR
Full payment must be paid with registration.

Mail this completed Registration Form and your check or money order payable to "LWML _____ District 20__ Convention" to:
 LWML _____ District 20__ Convention
 Street Address
 City, State, Zip Code
 If you have any questions, either call Convention Registration Chairman at (insert 10-digit phone #) or Email (insert email).

Attendee Information:

_____ Heart to Heart Sister OR _____ Heart to Heart Mentor

(Each person registering to attend must complete a separate registration form. Please print or use an address label.)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Congregation Attending: _____ City: _____ State: _____

LWML Zone: _____

Yes, please send my confirmation via email.

Special Needs:

- Special Diet. You will be contacted to discuss your dietary needs.
- Deaf Interpreter
- Large-print Convention Manual
- Bringing own wheelchair or walker

Note: Transportation, lodging (and meals for Mentors) are not included in the registration costs.

 You will need to make your own hotel reservations. (Insert contact information for housing reservations here.)

Registration Costs:

✓	Type of Registration	Cost	Total	Please choose specific items meals, and events on the reverse side. Make a copy of this form for yourself before mailing.
	Heart to Heart Sister (3 meals included)	FREE	FREE	
	Heart to Heart Sister (if ordering meals, insert amount from reverse side)		\$	
	Convention items (insert amount from reverse side)		\$	
	Total Amount Enclosed:		\$	

Use this side of the form to:

- List Bible classes from which H2H Sisters and Mentors could choose, if available.
- List servant events in which they may choose to participate.
- Note where the “Gifts from the Heart” items may be brought.
- List meal choices, times, and costs for the Mentors to select. The Heart to Heart Sisters’ meals should be paid by the District.
- List convention items and costs which may be purchased by the H2H Sisters and Mentors such as Convention charms, shirts, Walk/Run t-shirts if having a walk/run event, etc.
- Any other special event or item your district has available.

The above items can be a duplicate of what your district lists on the General Convention Registration Form.

**Appendix C:
Sample Agenda for Heart to Heart Sisters Programs at District Conventions**



This is a sample to guide your district's planning as you prepare for your own district's Heart to Heart Program at your next convention. Feel free to pick and choose the ideas that will work in your district.

Sample 1. Program for Heart to Heart Sisters at LWML District Convention

If you have a pre-convention H2H Sisters Program scheduled for the day when the convention opens with worship in the evening, it could go something like:

Time	Location	Agenda
7:00 am–7:00 pm	Pre-function Area	Registration Opens
10:00–10:15 am	H2H Meeting Room	Our first meeting with the H2H Sisters and Mentors 1. Welcome 2. Ice breaker to get to know each other 3. Marking the map where we all live 4. Take pictures of H2HSister & her Mentor
10:15 am–Noon	H2H Meeting Room	Introduction to the LWML 1. Short Bible Study (see the one in the Appendix for an example) 2. Short History of the LWML 3. Purpose of the LWML 4. How to start an LWML group
Noon–1:00 pm	President's Suite (or the District Leader's Room) or assigned lunch gathering area	Luncheon and Fellowship
1:00pm–3:00 pm	Hotel or homes where H2H Sisters are staying	Free time to rest and make sure all are settled in their rooms, etc.
3:00 pm–4:00 pm	Servant Event Area or, if doing a cultural presentation at Convention, Practice Area	Mentors and H2H Sisters help with Servant Event or H2H Sisters plan and practice Cultural Presentation for the Convention
4:00 pm–5:00 pm	H2H Room	Sisterly Gift Exchange - Ladies get together and make a project for one another as a keepsake.
5:00 pm–6:00 pm	Banquet Hall or Dinner Buffet Room	Mentors and H2H Sisters eat dinner together. Meet and Greet other LWML Convention Attendees
6:30pm–9:00 pm	Convention Hall or Church	Opening Worship Service for the Convention
Either Friday after the Opening Service or Saturday night after Entertainment (or both)	President's Suite or H2H Meeting Room	After hour unwind Meet and Greet, with refreshments. Share brief testimonies.
Saturday (or First Full day of Convention Sessions)	Convention Hall	H2H Sisters attend convention proceedings Later during the convention, H2H Sisters lead a Cultural Presentation. This should be part of the Convention program, not a private session.

Rest of Convention	Convention Hall	H2H Sisters and Mentors take part in the Convention as do all attendees.
After the Convention	From District President's Home	Contact H2H Leader for feedback and encouragement to her. Be sure H2H Sisters are contacted by their Mentors and DL and offered help to participate in LWML activities

Sample 2. Shortened Program for Heart to Heart Sisters at LWML District Convention

Because it is difficult for many multicultural ladies to leave home for an extra day, you may not have a pre-convention meeting day. Your schedule may then look something like the following:

Time	Location	Agenda
One-hour (or more) Prior to Start of Convention	H2H Meeting Room	H2H Sisters workshop is a one-hour program. Briefly describe the purpose of the LWML and how to start a group. Refer to LWML Starter Packet from web page. Introduce H2H Sisters and give out pins.
At Start of Convention Session	Convention Hall	H2H Sisters and Mentors Proceed with their Mentors following the District Board and Guests into the Convention.
During Convention	Convention Hall	H2H Sisters are seated with their Mentors and participate as do all attendees. Mentors help explain what is happening and why.
Prior to Convention to be done at the Convention if permitted	Convention Hall	The H2H Sisters District Leader should ask the District President to give 5-7 minutes on the convention program to talk about the H2H program in the district so all present will better understand.
Sometime during the Convention Breaks, e.g. Luncheon time.	Luncheon Breakout room or set aside area in dining hall.	H2H Sisters program breakout session – H2H Sisters, Mentors and H2H Sisters DL discuss perceptions of the Convention thus far and answer questions.
To be held in the Evening after the close of Convention Sessions	President's Suite (if snacks are served) or H2H Meeting Room	H2H Sisters Mentoring time - let each woman tell her story and pray together.
After the Convention	From District President's Home	Contact H2H Leader for feedback and encouragement to her. Be sure H2H Sisters are contacted by their Mentors and DL and offered help to participate in LWML activities

Throughout the Convention, have the H2H District Leader set up a table for attendees to visit and learn more about the H2H Program. This could be manned by different H2H Sisters and Mentors when the Exhibits are open.

Sample Bible Study for Use with Heart to Heart Sisters at a District Convention

Sisters, Sisters (of the Heart) written by Anita Beyersdorf, Past Michigan District President

Briefly describe a time when you showed love for each other despite being brother and sister! (Insert your own example here of someone who was like a brother or sister to you when you were young.) [The author Anita spoke of being a big sister to her brother Dan and how, even now, she looks to him as a friend and someone who she wishes to befriend and who continues to help her.]

Part I. Miriam befriended her little brother. Who was he and how did she help him? See Exodus 2:1–10. (Ask a volunteer to read this Scripture.)

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman.² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

1. What danger did Miriam face as she watched over her brother?
2. Have you ever had an opportunity to guard, protect, or watch over a sister or brother?
3. Has someone ever done this for you?

Part II. When our sisters and brothers, along with ourselves, age and face troubles in life, we often want to help them but feel helpless to do so.

Read John 11:1–6. (Ask a volunteer to read this Scripture.)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

4. What trouble did Lazarus face? How did his sisters try to help him?
5. According to verse 4, why was this happening to Lazarus?

Even as they looked to Jesus for help, the sisters had their own ideas as to how they wanted Jesus to intervene.

Read John 11: 17–21 and 32. (Ask a volunteer to read this Scripture.)

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Despite their despair at the death of their brother Lazarus, what made Martha and Mary still turn to Jesus for comfort? (See verse 22–24). (Ask a volunteer to read this Scripture.)

22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead at that time, yet as all people do, Lazarus faced earthly death again one day, but now along with his sisters lives with Jesus in blessed eternity.

As a Sister of Christ and a member of the LWML, you and I have been given the glorious job of caring for Jesus’ sisters and brothers here on earth. We can meet the needs of people around us with God’s help. We can care for our brothers and sisters in our families, our churches, and our communities.

The LWML has many ways to assist women of the church in serving others. Each local group can come up with unique ways of doing so. But just as Lazarus’ greatest need was to know and trust His Savior Jesus, the giver of eternal life, so that is the greatest need of all people we know. Through Bible study we learn to know the love of Jesus more. Through devotions we draw closer to Him. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can tell others about Jesus and in so doing, provide the best care of all.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for placing us in families and above all in Your family through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, Your Son, our Brother. Together, as Heart to Heart Sisters in the LWML, give us courage and wisdom to do all we can to care for others and introduce them to You and salvation through Your Son.

Provide opportunities for us, as Heart to Heart Sisters in the LWML, to share Your love with a world so in need of truth and love. May You have all glory as the Giver of life and goodness. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Appendix D

Sample Telephone Script for a Conversation with Pastor of a Multicultural Congregation



Hello Pastor _____.

This is (your name) _____ speaking.

I have been chosen by our district LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) to organize a Heart to Heart Sisters program in our district. Are you familiar with LWML?

(If not, you can explain that LWML is the officially recognized organization for women of the LCMS. Every woman of the LCMS is considered a member. We not only raise over two million dollars for missions every year, but we have wonderful resources for women to build them up in their faith. There are Bible studies, devotions, prayer books, and many other resources. Many of them are free and all have been through the synodical doctrinal review process.)

I was wondering if you have a women's group already established at your congregation.

(If yes, respond:) Wonderful. I was wondering if I could get your approval to set up a time when I could meet with them. Is there a woman who is the leader of the group whose name you could give me, and perhaps her telephone number, too?

(If no, respond:) Do you have a woman in your congregation who is a leader that I might contact? Maybe I could work with her and see if we could invite some of the women from your congregation to participate with the women of your zone in their LWML retreat. Do you have a telephone number where I could reach her?

I look forward to meeting with you and the women of your church. Let me give you my phone number. I would be happy to email you my personal information (my address and phone number) if that would be helpful.

It was a pleasure talking with you today. God bless you, and the work you and the members of your congregation are doing.

Goodbye.