A Quick Reference Guide for Facilitators



Women Helping Young Girls reach their full potential through spiritual, educational, cultural and moral enrichment venues.

Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory. (Proverbs 11:14)



The older women are to teach the younger girls by their example (Titus 2:4)

National Youth and Children's Facilitator Guide



Acknowledgements

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Special recognition to the following individuals for their outstanding contributions to this handbook: Sis. Karina Brown, daughter of Sis. Lillian Brown, who penned our DOE 's song while traveling back from the 2003 National Convention held in Orlando, FL. Sis. Hattie Kennedy, former DOE Facilitator from Seattle, Washington, who shared her testimony about the DOE ministry. The testimony letter was submitted by Sis. Jerri Thomas, former UCWM President of the Pacific Northwest Diocese. Sis. Yolanda Mondy who designed the logo and cover page for our 1st presentation at the National Convention in 2003.

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Welcome

Dear Facilitator.

I am pleased that God has placed upon your heart to become a Facilitator for the Youth and Children's Ministry under the auspices of the United Christian Women's Ministries of the Church of Christ Holiness (U.S.A.). I appreciate your willingness to work with our young ladies in the National Youth and Children's Ministry. It is an opportunity for you to witness, mentor and help our young ladies to develop the characteristics of Esther on this spiritual journey.

In this handbook, we briefly highlight our vision, mission, goals and other important information that gives you a better understanding of what we are all about. I trust you will find the information useful and helpful as you work closely with the National Youth and Children's Ministry.

The National Youth and Children's Ministry is a unique and consecrated ministry, one designed to help our young girls develop spiritual, social, mental and physical within a Christian environment. This journey we embark upon will be challenging, sometimes frustrating, yet ultimately rewarding. An effective godly leadership means giving what you have so that God may be glorified in all you do.

I am excited that you are now a part of this team. As part of this team, you are the eyes and ears of our ministry. Please feel free to share ideas and suggestions to make our ministry more meaningful to our young ladies. I look forward to working with you in the UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry.

Your Sister In Christ,

Sis. June Bond National Facilitator Youth and Children 's Ministry

Vision Statement

The Daughters of Esther will expand its outreach to and impact other young girls by letting their lights shine in such a way that the world may see Christ in them!

Lift your eyes now and look forward from the place where you are---northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. (Genesis 13:14-15)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide sound Christian values and clear directions for young ladies in the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. We will meet the goals and objectives of our ministry by creating opportunities for fellowship, outreach, spiritual growth, and development. We will strive to make a difference in the lives of our young ladies by sharing life experiences and serving as godly role models. We will show respect to others by demonstrating acts of kindness. We will seek God 's guidance for the direction and future of this ministry.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To educate and empower our young girls to be their best!

To embrace Sister to Sister Mentoring Relationships.

To provide training venues for God 's Truth

To help others (i.e. community service, volunteer).

To embrace our destiny ordained by God

To rely on God's word and promises for everyday living.



To accomplish the goals and objectives of this ministry, you can consider the following plan of action:

- Identify spiritual, educational and cultural activities of interest to the girls.
- Use the yearly curriculum to discuss topics or instill unity among our young sisters.
- Plan meetings or events to discuss or reinforce the goals of the ministry.

Benefits of a UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry

The UCWM National Youth and Children's Ministry offers wonderful opportunities to nurture our young girls' spiritual development, develop relationships, and foster community through bible-based activities.

Here are some of the benefits of a Youth and Children's Ministry

- Opportunities for teaching Christian traditions and values
- More time for cultivating relationships and friendships
- · Mentoring and Coaching
- · Outreach possibilities
- Develop and equip members for a successful Christian life
- Share testimonies
- · Venue to develop a personal relationship with God

Getting Started – Begin Now!

Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established. (Proverbs 16:1-3)

If the UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry is a new ministry at your church, your first step is to determine the needs of the young girls in your church and/or community, especially if you plan to outreach into the community. What do you want the Youth and Children's Ministry to accomplish? Do you need a monthly, weekly or an evening program? What resources do you have to make your ministry happen—space, staff and volunteers, budget and time?

Whether your goal is to equip the girls to be better Christians, to provide opportunities for friendship or to ministry to others in the church and community, the ultimate goal is to seek God for direction and guidance of your new ministry.



2010-2011 Curriculum

Theme: BE THE BEST YOU!

Goal: To encourage the Daughter of Esther to live a life that glorifies God!

Aug-Oct: Fruit of the Spirit Focus

Kindness, Self-Control, Love, Peace, Patience Joy, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness (Galatians 5:22-23)

Inner beauty shines from the inside out. Learning more about the Fruit of the Spirit can be a springboard for growth and spiritual development, thus teaching the DOE to reflect these nine attributes in her everyday life. Find opportunities to incorporate the teaching of the Fruit of the Spirit in your Daughters of Esther's meetings.

Nov-Jan: Book Review/Discussion (recommended for girls ages 13 and up)

Girls of Grace by Beth Moore



• This book was chosen for the girls to develop a closer relationship with the Lord. As you discuss excerpts from the book, talk about the importance of living a life to please God. Think of creative ways to review this book (i.e. skit, blogging, team presentations).



Feb-Apr: Get Moving – Get Healthy



• Look for ways to promote a healthier lifestyle (i.e. fun walk drive, plan fitness or health awareness day, invite a nutritionist to speak to the girls).

May-Jul: Get Involved – Help Others Identify volunteer opportunities for the Daughters of Esther to become aware of the needs of others, and to learn the importance of serving and giving.

Models

The UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry schedule or model may vary depending on the goals and needs of your ministry. You can consider the following model or schedule for your ministry:

- After School This approach ranges from one afternoon a week to a daily after school program. Young girls can participate in activities such as Bible study, games or homework help. This program is geared toward helping parents with extended day care.
- Wednesday Night There are special weekly events organized around a theme or topic. The youth can participate in a variety of activities. Wednesday nights may include Bible Study and/or praise and worship time.
- Monthly or Bi-Monthly The monthly or bi-monthly schedule can include Bible stories, praise dance, arts/crafts, music, lunch or recreation. This schedule can be centered on the theme from the National Youth and Children's Ministry curriculum.

It is recommended that the facilitator discuss the chosen —model or schedule with the Pastor for feasibility or approval.

2006 Model

First Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A., Houston, TX

Monthly Schedule	4 th Saturdays
Preparation or Opening Meeting Time	12 noon – 12:30p
Praise Dance Practice	12:30p – 1:30p
Children's Choir Rehearsal	1:30p – 2:30p
Bible Lesson and Craft	2:30p – 3:30p
Lunch and Fellowship	3:30p – 4:30p
Volunteer Downtime	4:30p – 5:00p

Staff	Facilitator and Volunteers
Youth and Children's Facilitator	Sis. LaShonda Fanniel
Mentors and Menu Coordinators	Sisters Jasmine Hooker and Brittany Byars
Children's Choir Director	Sis. Deidre Burton
Children's Choir Musicians	Sisters Yolanda Mondy and Mary Hooker
DOE Praise Dancer Coordinators	Sisters Edisha Magee and Arnisa Green
Bible Lesson Teacher	Sis.LaShonda Fanniel
Crafts Project Coordinator	Volunteers

Sis. LaShonda Fanniel coordinates all the DOE meetings at First Church/Houston, TX

UCWM President – Sis. Deborah Florence Pastor – Elder Rodney Magee

The Esther Story

While the Book of Esther never records the name of God, the story is one of the greatest biblical illustrations of God's providence in His use of a young woman to protect His Chosen people.

The story of Esther came from the humblest of origins, a Jewish exile, who rose to become a queen. More importantly, in her royal position, she saved her people from a genocide designed by a scheming court figure. Esther was born around 492 B.C. as Hadassah (a Jewish name meaning myrtle). The myrtle tree was native to Babylonia, but Jewish exiles who returned to Jerusalem took the tree with them, and it became a symbol of the nation of Israel. The name Esther itself means star and happiness. It is believed she adopted the Persian name Esther when she entered the Persian court harem when she was a young girl. According to accounts, when Esther's parents died, she was adopted by her father's brother, Mordecai, who later became a courtier of the Persian King Ahasuerus.

Esther, as depicted in the Bible, was a pious woman who demonstrated great faith, resolve, mercy, and courage combined with reasonable caution. To her adopted father, Mordecai, she was a dutiful daughter who was obedient to his wishes and heedful to his counsels. Esther reigned as the queen of Persia for a period of about 13 years. With King Ahasuerus, she had one son, named Darius II, who would later rebuild the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Esther was chosen a role model for the Daughter of Esther program because of Esther's strength, courage, wisdom, humility, faith and leadership. Esther left a rich heritage to honor hallmarked by services, sacrifice and a life devoted to God.

The Blossom Season

This rite of passage called —The Blossom Season can serve as a blueprint for the young ladies who will make the transition from a girl into womanhood.

This rite of passage targets the following age groups or levels within the Youth and Children's Ministry; however none of these groups is permanent or unchangeable. As you know, the girls advance and learn at different rates; therefore use this blueprint as a guide. The idea is to choose what you need to help you provide biblical principles that are applicable for the group's understanding, age or maturity.

Classification	Ages	School Years & Beyond
Level 1	5-10	Elementary School
Level 2	11-13	Middle School
Level 3	14-17	High School
Mentor	18 and above	Adult

We encourage our 18 and above young ladies to become mentors for our young ladies.

Kick off Meeting

This meeting will be the first meeting for the young ladies and parents to learn more about the ministry.

Before the Meeting

- ✓ Set date, time and location for the meeting.
- ✓ Advertise the meeting in the church bulletin or other means of communication
- ✓ Send out invitations to the girls and their families
- ✓ Review the meeting plans with your helpers or volunteers
- ✓ Decorate the room with the Daughters of Esther items (i.e. handbook, t-shirts, or color decorations)
- ✓ Plan an activity for the girls as they arrive to the meeting

Arrival of the Girls

Welcome the girls and family members as they arrive. Serve refreshments. Allow time for viewing the display and answering questions.

Opening

Introduce the pledge, motto, the song, the age or grade levels and a brief summary about Esther.

Have the girls participate in an activity that will help introduce the Youth and Children's Ministry.

Meeting

Share with the parents the vision statement, mission statement, goals and objectives, and the curriculum. Talk about the importance of living a Godly life as a Christian and as a Daughter of Esther.

Mentor Time

Discuss the role and responsibilities of the Mentor with the girls and parents

Closing

Gather together in a circle for closing prayer. Pray for the ministry, the leaders, the girls, and the parents.

Thank everyone for coming to the meeting. Schedule the next meeting.

After the Meeting -Pick up trash or clean up the area.

Meeting Agenda

Here is a sample of a regular meeting

OPENING

(Use an icebreaker or activity to open the meeting)

WELCOME

(Greet the girls, guests and parents)

INTRODUCE THE LESSON

(Introduce the lesson before you pass out the activity or worksheets to the girls. Your goal is to gain the girls' attention and open the door for discussion/group interaction)

SET RULES

(Establish ground rules prior to the discussion)

LEAD THE DISCUSSION

(The facilitator should encourage group participation and interaction)

BE CREATIVE AND FLEXIBLE

(Use your own imagination or volunteers to plan activity or craft time)

USE THE BIBLE

(Read verses that are applicable to the lessons)

INVOLVE THE MENTOR (S)

(The mentor (s) can share life experiences or help lead the discussion).

CLOSE THE DISCUSSION

(End the discussion on a positive note such as a word of encouragement or prayer).

SCHEDULE THE NEXT MEETING -(Inform the young ladies of the next meeting)

Ceremony Service

Here is an example of the Recognition or Rite of Passage Service

People Involved: Facilitator

Mentor

Pastor

Guests (i.e. parents, family and friends)

Facilitator

Order of Service

Prelude (processional of the Daughters of Esther wearing our colors such as pink, fuchsia, or red). The young ladies can carry candles to represent the light of God reflected in their lives.

Welcome Facilitator

Song Daughters of Esther

Prayer Mentor or Facilitator

Pledge Daughters of Esther

Special Reading Daughter of Esther

DOE Recognition or Rite of Passage

(Presentation of Awards)

Praise Dance Daughters of Esther

Words of Encouragement Mentor or Facilitator

Closing Remarks Pastor

Ceremonies can be held for different reasons: to give awards or certificates for the completion of a lesson, to highlight an accomplishment, to celebrate a special Daughter of Esther Day or the Rite of Passage.

Mentoring Program

Checkout our —Mentoring Handbookll which was developed in January 2006 for mentors and mentees. If you have any questions, please contact Sis. Beverly Owens, Mentoring Coordinator.

Our Logo



Esther means —hiddenll and is the Persian word for —star. The Hebrew word Hadassah means —myrtle. The myrtle bears a flower which looks like a star. The myrtle branches were used during the Feast of Tabernacles and the branches represents peace and thanksgiving. The word —peace signifies completeness, wholeness, soundness, fullness and harmony.

This logo represents a circle of girls, the Daughters of Esther, who can experience God's presence from all points of their lives when they yield themselves to God in every situation.

Our Motto

—THIS IS OUR TIME

—For such a time as this (Esther 4:14)

The Book of Esther shows that when you yield yourselves to God in every situation—even during the times when God seems hidden from view, it opens the possibility of being used in ways that affect generations to come. As Daughters of Esther, you can be used as an instrument for God's service.

Our Pledge

If an example of excellence I want to be,

Then it begins right here with me

When I see trouble, no matter what others say
I must always REMEMBER to just walk away
In my home, community, and school,
I must be willing to follow the golden rule,
I will do my best to keep my words few,

And always ask myself, —What Would Jesus Do?
I know I can if I really try.

Success is mine and the limit is the sky.

Written by
Sis. Geraldine Drake
Former National UCWM President

Our Flower

—The Myrtlell



Esther's Hebrew name Hadassah means —Myrtlell. The myrtle bears flowers which looks like a star. Myrtle branches, still used during the Feast of Tabernacles, represent peace and thanksgiving. The myrtle was chosen as the DOE's flower because of its authenticity, durability and radiance. These are traits that should be displayed by our young ladies: 1) *Authentic*—real, true and genuine. It is important to be authentic in one's behavior and actions. For example, if you profess to be a Christian, you should display behavior that validate your beliefs and values, 2) *Durability*— the ability to endure; long lasting, existing for a long time. For example, you can always rely on God to help you endure difficult situations or any issues of life, and 3) *Radiance*—glow, shine with reflected light. You can radiate **True Beauty** by letting your light shine before others in such a way that they may see Christ in you!

Our Colors



The Crepe Myrtle produces foliage in almost every color you can imagine including pinks, light pinks, pinkish-whites, deep reds, bright reds, watermelon reds, fuchsias, lavenders, lavender, blues, violets, purples and so forth. We opt for the chosen colors (pink, fuchsia and red) to reflect the progression or maturity of the girls from one level to the next level. One gardener suggested that the summer is the ideal time to purchase crepe myrtles. It is in the heat of the summer that the crepe myrtle's true colors start to show.

Our Song



Chorus: We are Daughters of Esther

Walking in power, guided by the Father

Daughters of Esther

It's now we submit for such a time as this.

Verse 1: We are Daughters of Esther

She was beautiful from the inside out God's providence made way for Esther

To be the wife of the King.

Verse 2: In my home, school, and community,

I am willing to follow the golden rule
I will do my best to keep my words few,

Asking, —What would Jesus do?

Verse 3: Pink and fuchsia, red and purple

The colors of the Crepe Myrtle

Every year we grow stronger and higher, Cause success is mine and the limit's the sky

Verse 4: Every time I read my Bible

I see how God can work in me.
I know that He is able and willing

And by faith I believe

Chorus: We are Daughters of Esther

Walking in power, guided by the Father,

Daughters of Esther

It's now we submit for such a time as this.

Words and Music by Karina M. Brown

A little bit about me:

When I was younger, I wrote songs from time to time as a hobby out of my love for music. As my family and I were returning home from a trip to Georgia shortly after the National Convention, my mother was busy as usual working on a project. This time it was for the Daughters of Esther. She shared that the auxiliary was in need of a theme song. As a young lady growing up in COCHUSA, I was President of the Sunbeams & Bearers of the Jackson & Terry Districts of the South Central Diocese for about four years. I remember singing Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam, as our theme song, and how the Sunbeams took ownership of it. I wondered if I could write a song for the Daughters of Esther, and how it was similar and different from Sunbeams and Standard Bearers. As she shared, I could hear the melody of the song in my head. She gave me literature to read for more information. Within about 30 minutes, my nine-year-old knew most of the words by heart and we were riding down the highway singing, —We are Daughters of Esther.

Written by Karina M. Brown (daughter of Sis. Lillian Brown) COCHUSA South Central Diocese Jackson, Mississippi

Role and Responsibilities of the Facilitator

- Work together with the mentor or volunteers to meet the goals and objectives of the National Youth and Children's Ministry
- Strive to make a difference in the lives of our young ladies
- Provide information and ideas to assist in developing effective youth ministries
- Chair program committee for youth activities
- Ensure youth are involved in effective spiritual and social training, which should include weekly Bible Study and verse memorization
- Other activities may include lock-ins, adopt a buddy church and engage in sports, Bible bowls, discussion on do's and don'ts of dating, building self-esteem, homemaking, cooking, arts, and crafts.
- Plan Christian entertainment
- Develop standard for induction of members from the Children's Ministry group through a —Rite of Passagell into the Youth Ministry group.

Facilitator's Testimony

July 2005

Hi Sister Jerri,

Here are some of my thoughts about the Daughters of Esther program of Seattle, WA

As a Daughters of Esther Facilitator, I've seen the young girls grow to become bolder in their walk for the Lord. The girls are more confident to express their thoughts in our monthly meetings. Also, some of the girls now lead in opening our meetings with the opening prayer. In addition, I have seen the girls grow closer to one another and they have begun to treat each other as sisters.

As a matter of fact, the girls demonstrated an example of their boldness for the Lord with a praise dance at the 2005 Diocese Convention held at Bethany Church.

Plus, I have seen growth in myself as a result of being a part of the Daughters of Esther Ministry. I have made many friends with the sisters at Bethany also I have become a bolder & more confident Christian.

God shows us that we find strength in ourselves as we help someone else. I truly believe this with all my heart.

In this together! Sister Hattie Kennedy

What kind of person makes a good leader?

He appointed judges throughout the nation in all the fortified cities, and he gave them these instructions: —Always think carefully before pronouncing judgment. Remember that you do not judge to please people, but to please the Lord. He will be with you when you render the verdict in each case that comes before you. Fear the Lord and judge with care, for the Lord our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes.

(2 Chronicles 19:5-7 NLT)

Fit for Leadership

When Jehoshaphat appointed leaders for the people of Israel, he told them they would represent God in their decisions—a solemn responsibility.

Second Timothy 2 describes the kind of person fit for leadership. Those who want to become leaders should ask God to develop these traits in them: honesty, kindness, patience, purity, and integrity. Verses 24-25 explain:

The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth.

Leaders who teach God's Word have an even greater responsibility to use their authority carefully. Paul urged his friend Titus to model Christian character and to guard his integrity. People watch Christian leaders very carefully—they must be above reproach. Titus 2:7-8 and 15 states:

And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Let your teaching be so correct that it can't be criticized. You have the authority to do this, so don't let anyone ignore or disregard what you say.

From Living Water for Those Who Thirst Tyndale House Publishers (2000) pp. 121-122.

10-Question Pop Quiz

Use this 10-question —Pop Quizl to keep you focus on the ministry and its goals.

POP QUIZ

- 1. Why are you working with children?
 - a) Because no one else will do it.
 - b) Because someone asked me.
 - c) Because this God's ministry and I feel blessed to be a part of His plan.
- 2. How is your spiritual life?
 - a) I manage to pray before meals sometimes.
 - b) I have my ups and downs.
 - c) I am excited about serving God, and I am growing spiritually.
- 3. Do you have goals for yourself and your young girls?
 - a) No, I never thought about it.
 - b) Yes, but I need to focus more on them.
 - c) Yes, I know exactly where we're heading and how we'll get there.
- 4. Do you understand the age and spiritual maturity of the young girls in your ministry?
 - a) No, I never thought it really made a difference.
 - b) Yes, but I am not sure what difference it makes in my ministry.
 - c) Yes, I take advantage of learning all I can about the girls spiritual maturity.
- 5. Do you use different teaching methods in order to reach different learning styles?
 - a) I am best at teaching the same way all the time.
 - b) What's a learning style?
 - c) Yes, I use different approaches in teaching.
- 6. Do you build relationships with the young girls by showing interest in them individually?
 - a) Who has time?
 - b) I don't know how.
 - c) I enjoy the young girls and care for them as individuals
- 7. Do you build in time for response during your lessons?
 - a) Who has time?
 - b) I don't know how.
 - c) I enjoy the young girls and care for them as individuals
- 8. Do you seek to know where your young girls are in their faith development?
 - a) That is a private matter
 - b) If it comes up, we talk about it

c) I always give the girls time to talk about their faith and how it relates to their life.

Pop-Quiz Questions Continued

- 9. Do you have a plan to reach out to other girls to get them involved in your ministry?
 - a) I am not very good at that kind of stuff
 - b) I depend on the girls to ask other girls
 - c) I am currently in touch with several girls to encourage them to join our ministry
- 10. Do you have a discipline plan that works well in your ministry?
 - a) Yes I do! I have low tolerant for mistakes
 - b) Not really, but things seen to be working okay.
 - c) Yes. We have a few rules for our class, and I enforce consequences consistently.

Scoring:

If you marked mostly —c, congratulations. You are on the right track most of the time. Keep on moving and remember to look to God to help you change the young girls' lives.

If you marked mostly —b, you probably feel sidetracked some of the time. This is the perfect opportunity for retooling with consistent facilitator/mentor training.

If you marked mostly —a, you may feel you are about to derail. And you are not alone. This is how some facilitators/mentors might feel. Choose one or two areas you would like to grow in and ask your pastor or prayer partners to pray for you that you will become stronger in those areas.

Order Form

Make your checks and money order payable to: **National UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry** Send payment and order form to: **June Bond, 13118 Ensley Wood Dr., Houston, TX 77082**

Name of Requesto	r: Phone No:
Mailing Address: _	
Diocese:	Date of Request

Description	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Other	# of Items	Unit Price	Total
Handbook (Website)								
Prayer Wristband (Y)							\$3.00	
Prayer Wristband (A)							\$3.00	
T-Shirt (Pink)							\$10.00	
T-Shirt (Fuchsia)							\$10.00	
T-Shirt (Red)							\$10.00	
Membership Cards							\$2.00	
Total Order								\$

Please allow at least 15 days to receive your order. Your order and support is greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Budget

Item (s)	Number of Items	Cost per item	Total
			\$

Evaluation Form

After each meeting, evaluate the meeting to determine whether the meeting accomplished its goal and objective. Were the goals or objectives accomplished in this meeting?
What areas of the meeting needed improvement?
Were resources (fund, supplies) sufficient for the meeting?
What spiritual growth was realized from the meeting?
Suggestions or Comments:

References

Daughters of Esther Handbook, UCWM Youth and Children's Ministry

Living Water for Those Who Thirst *Tyndale House Publishers* (2000), pp 121-122

King James Bible NIV Version

Building Children's Ministry – Pop Quiz Questions (revised 2006)