How can my church become even more pro-life?

It’s hard to quantify something without a gauge for measurement, so Life Matters Worldwide has identified five key elements that can measure a church’s level of pro-life engagement. How is your church doing in each of the following areas? Where could there be improvement?

Do members and groups in the church pray for a pro-life ministry (or individual staff member) on a daily or weekly basis? Is there an exchange of prayer requests? Does the ministry regularly alert prayer warriors to specific needs and update them as prayers are answered?

Have members or groups from the church toured the pro-life ministry’s facilities? Have leaders from the ministry been invited to speak to the church family as a whole, or to smaller groups within the body? Do church members receive newsletters and updates from the ministry?

Do members of the church volunteer regularly with the pro-life ministry? Do church groups participate in ministry events, or take on special projects for the ministry?

Have church members been trained by the ministry so they can graciously and confidently address pro-life issues in one-on-one conversations and in social media?

Do individual members and the church as a whole contribute to the needs of the pro-life ministry—not only out of their pockets, but also from their skill-sets?

Note that giving comes last, and doesn’t necessarily (or only) involve a financial commitment or donations of diapers and baby wipes. What pro-life ministries need most is people: ultrasound technicians, advertising consultants, web designers, experts in finance, law, medicine, and so on.

Why is a deeper level of engagement important?

Life Matters Worldwide recently conducted an informal survey of pro-life ministries. We limited it to ministries that are on the front lines of the battle for hearts and minds, who deal directly with abortion-minded, abortion-vulnerable, and abortion-determined women: pregnancy care centers, maternity homes, and sidewalk counselors.

We asked a variety of questions (What’s the most difficult thing about your role at the center? What keeps you going back? How do you recharge or renew yourself for ministry?), but keyed in on two: Do you ever feel lonely in ministry? And, What is the greatest resource your center lacks?

This is what they said: 60% of respondents, most of whom are in leadership positions, admitted they do feel lonely. And while the number one deficit in pro-life ministries is volunteers (followed closely by the lack of funding support), the needs vary widely for people who can help with:

- Ultrasound scans
- Advertising strategies
- Financial decision-making
- Housing and educational resources for women

Local churches can be the solution for these problems because the Body of Christ is often a great, untapped storehouse of generosity, love, and support.

Our goal is to connect pro-life ministries with local churches and help them form meaningful, mutually engaging relationships. We want pregnancy care centers and other similar ministries to be fully staffed, spiritually built up, sufficiently equipped, and serving their communities as effective Gospel outreaches. We want local churches to gain a better awareness of what these ministries do and be able to confidently articulate the biblical pro-life message.

May we come alongside your church to help facilitate a new or renewed relationship with a pro-life ministry? Please call us or email. Learn more on our website: www.lifemattersww.org/PCCs/Church-Engagement-Model and www.lifemattersww.org/CHURCHES/Pro-Life-Ministry-Engagement.

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**Pray**

Do members and groups in the church pray for a pro-life ministry (or individual staff member) on a daily or weekly basis? Is there an exchange of prayer requests? Does the ministry regularly alert prayer warriors to specific needs and update them as prayers are answered?

**Learn**

Have members or groups from the church toured the pro-life ministry’s facilities? Have leaders from the ministry been invited to speak to the church family as a whole, or to smaller groups within the body? Do church members receive newsletters and updates from the ministry?

**Serve**

Do members of the church volunteer regularly with the pro-life ministry? Do church groups participate in ministry events, or take on special projects for the ministry?

**Tell**

Have church members been trained by the ministry so they can graciously and confidently address pro-life issues in one-on-one conversations and in social media?

**Give**

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