

MCC TRANSformative Church Ministry Program “Gender and Me 101
Symposium/Retreat” – Opening Plenary Speech & Readings

Opening Plenary Speech & Readings

The following is meant to be an opening plenary conducted by the Symposium/Retreat leader(s). If possible, involve your pastor/religious leader in at least one of the readings below.

Open Plenary Welcome (5 minutes)

Use your symposium/retreat planning worksheet to fill in the variable information in this welcome.

Welcome to [ORG NAME]’s Gender and Me 101 Symposium/Retreat! My name is [NAME] and I am [SPEAKER ROLE]. Our Symposium/Retreat is designed to [ENTER YOUR EVENT GOALS AND DESCRIPTION].

Schedule Overview (10 minutes)

Please take out your symposium/retreat schedule found in your information packet. We will stick to the times on this schedule as closely as possible. In order to provide workshops sufficient time to be completed, as well as to guarantee you time to process and discuss, we will need your help to maintain this schedule. Let’s take a close look at the activities and workshops you will be asked to do during our time together.

[GO THROUGH SCHEDULE AS A GROUP]

Opening Activity – Small Group Delineation (20 minutes)

In order to allow you the chance to connect with one another in your small groups, we will identify your groups now, and keep them for the duration of our symposium/retreat. Each of you has a piece of colored paper in your packet. Take a moment now and separate into your small groups. Once in your small groups, please answer the three questions on that colored sheet of paper.

Opening Reading (35 minutes)

At the end of this activity, bring your small groups back into the larger group to share any insights, questions, or ideas. WRITE DOWN SHARED INFORMATION to evaluate accomplishments at the close of the symposium/retreat.

Reading & Discussion – “The Ethiopian and Phillip: Acts 8 – A Contemporary Rendition” by Lewis Payne, 2002. Answer the discussion questions at the end of this reading.

Plenary Conclusion

Our first workshop, [TITLE OF WORKSHOP] will begin in [TIME TO NEXT WORKSHOP]. Please take a quick break as we set up.