

THE SHAWL MINISTRY CHARTER (First Draft)

Article1: Mission Statement. Members of The Shawl Ministry meet twice a month to knit and crochet Shawls, to be given at times of significant life transition to members of the congregation and others as tangible expressions of our shared concern, comfort, or joy. Other special knitting projects for outside groups, identified by the Shawl Ministry, may be undertaken on an annual basis.

Article2: Annual Goals.

At the start of each program year, usually September, goals for that year shall be established by those attending the first knitting session. Such goals may include such topics as: increasing communication with the TUCW Ministers and Pastoral Care Associates to help identify congregates who might appreciate shawls and outside projects such as knitting scarves for Beardsley School children, blankets for Mercy Learning Center or other organizations, and need for specific kinds of shawls. If a knitter is unable to attend that first meeting, suggested goals may be emailed in advance to the leader and other members. Goals shall be used at the end of the year as a means of self-evaluation. How many shawls were distributed? How many projects were undertaken? Was there adequate communication? Did we accomplish what we set as our objectives?

Article 3: Roles

There shall be no term limits. Should the leader or any other role holders need to resign during the year (we need to discuss how this is to be handled)

Leader: There shall be one person designated as leader for the year. The leader, or her designated alternate is responsible for running the meetings, sending reminders of meetings, circulating the sign-up sheet for the music and readings at the start of each meeting, making sure that a shawl is delivered

to designated persons, (Jan, help me here, what else should be included).

Additional roles: may include:

- Reader and Music Arranger for knitting group meetings. Members attending these sessions are encouraged to volunteer to be responsible for the music and/or a brief reading twice a year.
- Liaison position(s) to maintain contact with each partner organization such as Beardsley School, Mercy Learning Center, and any others.
- Record Keeper(s) to maintain lists of recipients of shawls, number of scarves, blankets et al given out. and to report at the year-end evaluation as to the number of shawls, and other projects.

Article 4: Membership and meetings

Any congregant with a basic knowledge of knitting or crocheting is welcome to join the shawl ministry. There are no attendance requirements, or individual expectation of output per person. A chalice lighting is followed by silent knitting with music for about thirty minutes. A reading then transitions the group into a shared conversation as knitting continues for the next hour. The closing of each session includes a group blessing of the shawls and any other knitting projects being worked on.

Article 5. Amendments

Upon written proposal by two or more members of The Shawl Ministry,(TSM) and submitted to Leader or her designee, the amendment shall be discussed by the knitting group within a month and voted upon the following month. Members, for this purpose, are defined as anyone who has attended at least two meetings during the year, or donated one knit or crocheted item to TSM..

Accountability: As a ministerial committee, the Shawl Ministry shall be accountable to the Senior Minister.