

CARE NETWORK

PHILOSOPHY

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Early on, the needs of our attendees quickly outgrew our staff's capacity. We were forced to begin narrowing the focus of what we spent our time on. We made the same hard choices every other church makes when confronted with limited time and resources. One of the areas that presented a difficult challenge was our approach to Care Ministry. In the beginning, we were led to do what comes naturally—meet immediate needs. However, it quickly became apparent that we were not going to be able to meet every need that a large church would require. We knew we would have to narrow our focus. As hard as it would be, we knew we would have to say no to some in order to say yes to most.

We took time to reflect and realized the majority of requests we received concerned marriage issues and divorce recovery, so we focused on these two areas. This meant saying no to a number of recovery groups and other good ideas.

Eventually, we began to investigate the potential of partnering with organizations that were already offering programs that would serve those we could not. It was more effective for us to resource what they were doing and to refer our attendees to them. If we couldn't find a good partner in meeting a particular need, we would evaluate whether it was necessary for us to add a ministry.

We have added a few things over the years, but each time the question we have asked ourselves is not, "Is this a good idea?" but "Is this something we absolutely must do?" We always want to be sure that we are keeping our focus narrow. If we try to be everything to everybody, we will dilute our potential to reach anyone.