

We hold the unique personhood of all God's people as crucial, and diligently work to preserve this principle. In ministry, we must act in ways that honor, respect, and affirm one another and we use *Seven Effective Practices for People in Ministry*.

1. *Ministry is always affected within the authorized limits set by the one in spiritual authority. Matthew 21: 23*

All ministry is conducted within the limits set out by the DFC/PRMI leadership. At times, special or kinds of ministry are discouraged because the Biblical and theological foundations for these kinds of ministry have not yet been set into place.

Participants may have had prior experience in specialized kinds of ministry, but until they are introduced in the teaching, we must insist that participants refrain from any specialized ministries.

Deliverance ministry is not to be affected except under the express and specific permission and authority of the DFC/PRMI leadership.

2. *Ministry teams always respect the dignity and privacy of people. Romans 13:7*

This dignity is preserved more easily when men minister to men, and women to women. Ministry teams with mixed sexes are also effective. In those cases, persons of the sex opposite to the one receiving ministry may be asked to excuse themselves to allow "personal" ministry matters to be affected. One of the most important factors of a prayer team is trust. During a prayer session many things are discussed. A prayer minister must treat all of what happens during a prayer session with total confidentiality.

3. *Ministry should always be done with permission. Mark 10:51*

We affirm the necessity of receiving permission before moving into any ministry. This means that we move forward in a trust relationship, within bounds which are comfortable to the one seeking prayer.

Always ask for permission to touch the one seeking prayer. Always ask for permission to move ahead in a particular area of ministry.

4. *Ministry is best done in small ministry teams. Luke 10: 1*

Scripture teaches this principle, and experience teaches that teams of two to four persons normally are the optimal ones. Larger teams are often fertile grounds for confusion.

5. *Ministry teams have only one leader or point person. Exodus 7:1*

One team member serves as the leader or *point person* within a ministry team. Several people all feeling "led" to minister in different ways at the same time cannot operate in spiritual unity.

The Holy Spirit often works through all members of the team, but only one member leads ministry and makes ministry decisions. This provides clear direction and avoids diversion of focus.

6. *Ministry may be affected through the laying on of hands and anointing. Hebrews 6: 1,2; James 5: 14,15*

There is Biblical precedent for these practices, but there is none requiring either. There are many times when the laying on of hands may cause undue anxiety on the part of the one seeking prayer.

When either practice accompanies prayer, it should always be done in a polite, proper, decorous and respectful manner, and with permission of the person seeking ministry and healing.

7. *Ministry is learned in an atmosphere of mutual accountability. Mark 6:30*

The best way to learn about ministry is by doing it, and a part of learning is to discover some things that usually are helpful to do and some things that usually are helpful not to do. Learning involves doing and doing often involves making mistakes.

We are all responsible to each other and need to talk about what happened or didn't happen through us, as well as what happened to us and questions that arise. Therefore, Debriefing Sessions are an essential and crucial ingredient of DFC/PRMI events.

Manifestations Ministry is not effective because of outward signs or manifestations.

Ministry is affected through prayer not outward signs. (Acts 9:40)

Signs do not insure or assure the efficacy of prayer. Manifestations are never fabricated, sought after, or forced upon individuals. If they occur, they occur entirely at the initiative of the Holy Spirit. We are called to be obedient to and to cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

There are many manifestations. For some people, these may be new, while for others they are not. There is one about which we wish to comment, namely **Resting in the Spirit**.

It is not unusual for the Holy Spirit to come upon a person receiving ministry in a unique way, resulting in one's physical yielding to the spirit 2 Chronicles 5:14, Daniel 10: 9, Acts 9: 4, and Revelation 1: 17. If this happens to you, and that person becomes gently relaxed and unable to stand, do not be alarmed.

There are many different descriptions of what happens within people at this time, but the end result normally is the same - the person *Rests in the Spirit* and the Lord is often able to minister in a deep, special, and highly personal way understood only by the one who is *Resting*. Precisely what happens in this manifestation cannot be fathomed and falls into what theologians call *mystery*.

If your ministry team prays for someone who *Rests in the Spirit*, **only one** team member should remain with the person until the *Resting* is completed. The **others need to withdraw** for private prayer or other ministry opportunities. The one remaining may engage in general kinds of silent prayer. Physically touching the one *Resting* may be more distracting than helpful and is normally discouraged.

Praying in the Spirit You may hear some people praying in words which you don't understand. This is a prayer gift from God given to help us pray in His Spirit when we do not know how to pray (1 Corinthians 12:10).

DFC/PRMI Style of Ministry

All streams of Christian renewal have different traditions, customs and guidelines that arise out of many different theologies. DFC/PRMI is no exception.

The information contained in this brochure has been prepared to acquaint you with the DFC/PRMI style of ministry. We offer our thoughts to enable a uniform understanding of the ways in which we affirm ministry to be done as a part of DFC/PRMI.

We believe that all the specifics with which we concern ourselves find themselves grounded and rooted in the same Reformed perspective as does our teaching. The scriptures affirm that knowledge is never just an abstraction; it is also experiential. Putting it another way, the practice of ministry is never separated from the teaching of ministry.

Our teaching and practice of ministry have some distinctive characteristics that set them apart from other streams of Christian thought.

You may believe that your style is better or preferable. You may determine that what we affirm is not congruent with your needs, experience, and understanding. That's fine.

You are free to elect not to continue using the Seven Effective Practices for People in Ministry after you leave our time together. While you are with us, we ask you to adopt these Seven Effective Practices for People in Ministry. We appreciate your understanding.

About DFC/PRMI

DFC/PRMI is a growing worldwide fellowship of Christians from Presbyterian and Reformed churches who are committed to spiritual renewal and to doing the work of Jesus Christ in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.

PRMI

- ❖ Biblically grounded
- ❖ Rooted in the overall context of the Reformed ethos and Reformed theology
- ❖ Located in a specific stream of Holy Spirit renewal
- ❖ Presents Holy Spirit empowered ministry in a distinctive manner

Our Vision and Purpose

Exalting Jesus Christ!
Igniting the Church in the Power of the Holy Spirit
under the authority of Scripture as the Word of
God,
through prayer, leadership development,
congregational renewal and mission outreach
so that the church will be empowered to do all that
Christ commands to the glory of God the Father.

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Effective Practices For People in Ministry



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