

## **Congregational Doula**

In biblical Greek, the word doula means a female servant or slave. When Mary exclaims in Luke 1:38, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord,” she uses the word doula. In Acts 2: 18, when Peter quotes the prophet Joel, saying, “Yea, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy,” he uses *doulous* (menservants) and *doulas* (maidservants).

In contemporary usage, a doula is a trained and experienced professional who provides physical, emotional, educational and practical support to a birthing mother and her family before, during, and for a time after childbirth.

We ask our congregational doula, Sally Weaver Glick, to draw on her MDiv training and her congregational experience to help us with worship, vision, administrative and nurture details, as we continue to develop our understanding of what a network of house church/fellowship/worship circles might be.

### **Open Table Mennonite Fellowship**

.2 FTE Doula/Pastor Job Description (8 hours/week)

1/1/2018

- **Worship Planning**
  - Schedule worship leaders (ask for volunteers, invite specific individuals, assign Sundays as needed)
  - Develop worship themes (invite planning groups for specific seasons, work with leadership group etc.)
  - Gather materials (written resources, visuals)
  - Mentor others; drawing out gifts/training (music, drama, biblical storytelling)
  - Plan and lead contemplative and/or liturgical season services at least quarterly and provide back-up in case of illness or emergency
  
- **Discernment**
  - Spend time on vision work, on what’s emerging longer term
  - Work with leadership group to plan agenda for monthly discernment meetings
  - Meet monthly with leadership group (email or phone follow-up as needed)
  
- **Administrative**
  - Keep track of schedule, send out reminders
  - Update website
  - Coordinate ad-hoc committees and provide back-up if needed
  - Purchase OTMF supplies as needed
  - Connect with Faith House committee

- o Maintain connections with broader church (local congregations, conference, denomination)
  - o Find resources for small fellowships
  - o Keep track of hours worked and present summary to the leadership group three times a year (April/August/December)
- Nurturing: Congregation
  - o Pastoral care contact person (communicate concerns to the network and coordinate follow-up care as needed)
  - o Help small groups form
  - o Help others discern their call, and assist with life-direction questions
  - o Develop and maintain Conference connection (Pastor-Peer group, annual sessions)
  - o Prayer or retreat time for focusing on attentive listening on behalf of the group
- Nurturing: Doula
  - o Develop and maintain relationships with peers for support
- OTMF Network
  - o Attentive listening and discernment regarding worship circles

NOTE: The paid duties outlined here are in addition to the Doula's participation as a regular and active member/participant of OTMF