



Renewing Ministry Wives Through Extravagant Nurturing

What is Lavish HOPE?

Lavish HOPE is a HOPE Network ministry providing spiritual, emotional and physical care to wives of ministers through retreats. These retreats give women the opportunity to share their stories and experience God's nurturing presence.

Each retreat done in conjunction with York's Center for Ministry will consist of 10 ministers' wives and three caregivers, each gifted in ministry and experienced in ministry life, leading each retreat. Each participant receives her own room and bathroom. Group gatherings include times of focused prayer, teaching centered on self-awareness and spiritual disciplines, and opportunities to connect and share our stories. Information below is for our first retreat in Fall 2026.

Where? When? And Cost

Where: Magnolia Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska

When: September 11-13, 2026

Cost: Hotel accommodations and meals during the event are provided by the Center for Ministry. Attendees are responsible for their own transportation to and from the event. Airport shuttle service is available through the hotel.

How do I apply?

Apply beginning March 17, 2026 at york.edu/center-for-ministry. Applications are due by May 15, 2026. Qualifying women will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Who Qualifies?

Women who are married to men who have been preaching for five+ years in rural churches in the Midwest, Rockies, and Great Plains states.

Why come?

In the words of a few of our past Lavish HOPE participants:

"It can be hard to open up or step into a new space—especially when ministry life already feels full or lonely. But I would tell you this: you are not alone here. Lavish HOPE is a safe place

where women truly understand the unique challenges of ministry life. You'll find encouragement, laughter, and a reminder that your story matters."

"Go! Lavish Hope is healing. It's restful and energizing, it's serious and fun, and it's a weekend you don't know you need. You'll leave Lavish Hope feeling seen and heard and ready to continue in the good work with the support of your new friends behind you. So, sign up. Commit. Go."

"Try it! I'm not big into group sharing, but I learned a lot from listening to others. And I learned a ton about myself. Knowing I'm not alone in this has helped me carry on."

For more information email: centerforministry@york.edu

Lavish HOPE Caregivers (for more info visit lavishhope.org):

Kaley Ihfe serves as the Director of Lavish HOPE ministries. She has a B.S. in Communications, an MEd in School Counseling, and an MA in Christian Ministry and is certified in the Enneagram Spectrum Training through Dr. Jerry Wagner. She has served alongside her husband, Karl Ihfe, in ministry for 26 years first in Austin and currently in Lubbock, Texas.

Jackie L. Halstead, Ph.D., LMFT, MDiv serves on the faculty of Abilene Christian University as a professor and administrator in the Marriage and Family Therapy online program. She is also the CEO of Selah Center for Spiritual Formation which offers a certificate program in Spiritual Direction in collaboration with the Siburt Institute. Jackie has been a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for the past forty years—specializing in ministers and their families--and a Spiritual Director for twenty-five years. Jackie has been married to Randy for 44 years. They are proud graduates of York College (1981).

Dr. Chelsie Sargent is a licensed professional counselor and supervisor (LPC-S) specializing in self-care, depression, anxiety, grief, life-transitions, trauma, and the Enneagram. Chelsie is certified in the Enneagram Spectrum Training with Dr. Jerry Wagner. She lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Steve, and their 11 year old daughter. Chelsie has been in ministry alongside her husband for over 20 years. When Chelsie is not in her office or out speaking she enjoys traveling, running, and all things Disney.

Funding provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc's Ministry in Rural Areas and Small Towns Initiative through Pepperdine University and Lavish HOPE donors.