

Instructor: Maria Winchester

Class: Social Media at Church I

Administrative Personnel Association-Pacific Region

Maria Winchester has been an Administrative Personnel Association (APA) member since 2011. She has been the Administrative Assistant for St. John's Presbyterian Church-Reno, Nevada, since 2007.

Since joining APA, Maria has completed Level I (2013), Level II (2016), and Level III (2018) and has kept active within the APA organization. She has been the Hospitality Chair and President of the APA-Pacific Region and has attended several APA-National conferences around the country, from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Charleston, South Carolina. Maria's administrative experience started at the age of 16 working for Coachland RV Park and Campgrounds (Truckee, California); she began in maintenance and worked her way up to Registration/Sales and showing new park homes; she also worked part-time for the Tahoe-Truckee School District as an assistant. Maria received an Associate Degree in Computerized Business Management while working part-time as the Receptionist and Financial Aid Assistant at the college she was attending; in 2003 she also assisted in starting up a vocational college in Sparks, Nevada, starting as the Receptionist, becoming one of the College Advisors, and moving her way up to the Registrar position.

In 2007, Maria left the "corporate world" to work for a "church." She became a member of St. John's Presbyterian Church in 2009. She was ordained as a Deacon in 2011 and as an Elder in 2014. As an Elder she has chaired the Christian Education Committee, held the Clerk of Session position, taught Middle School Sunday School, and been active in youth group activities. Currently she has been assisting in a midweek evening program called ReGeneration—a program that includes prayers, contemporary music, a brief message, and an assortment of other activities. She is active in Sunday morning worship (ushering, serving communion, occasionally assisting in parts of the worship service) and is a member of the Fellowship and Nurture Committee, and she is the current website, Facebook, and E-newsletter administrator.

Maria has been married since 2003 to Philip. They have one daughter Chyannah, who is 19 years old. They have an 11 year old chocolate lab named Kally Roo. When Maria is not glued to her chair at work, she likes to imagine she is at the spa at the Peppermill Casino in Reno, Nevada. When her imagination gets out of control, her family forces her to spend time with them instead.

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