

Leader to Leader, Facilitating Workshops & Coaching— Schools and Non Profits

"Every team can benefit from having a facilitator like Diane who communicates with passion on the topic of team-building and strengths. She was able to weave her own story in a way that inspired us to write our own narrative as we learn more about ourselves and our colleagues and grow together into a stronger team!"

Clint Rogers, Principal

Antigo High School, Antigo, WI

"Our administrative team participated in a Leader to Leader Strengths workshop. The biggest take-away from the experience was to have our leadership team know both their individual and group strengths—we realized how we can use our strengths to work together to meet the needs of those who look to us for leadership. We were inspired to focus on investing more of our time in our areas of strength, and I now believe that by having our team work in roles that support their strengths, Nekoosa Public Schools is moving forward and accomplishing more for the learners in our community. I would highly recommend the Leader to Leader experience to anyone who desires to invest in their leaders."

Terry Whitmore, Superintendent

Nekoosa Public Schools, Nekoosa, WI

"Part of our mission at Love INC is to strengthen leaders and teams within the local church. To do this, we are pleased to partner with Leader to Leader Network to offer their workshops in our Love iNC Training Center. We believe that every team would benefit from their principles, vision, and strategy for leadership development.

"Over the years I have experienced both personal and team coaching through Leader to Leader. I found their tools and coaching techniques to be exactly what I needed to move forward in my leadership roles. And through team coaching I was able to learn more about each of my team member's strengths and values. This gave me insight into what motivated them and how they made decisions. Understanding our team dynamics helped us move forward as we worked together more efficiently, and helped us better respect each other in the process. We are privileged to have Leader to Leader right here in central Wisconsin—what an asset to the Wisconsin Rapids community and surrounding area!"

DaNita Carlson, Director

Love INC of South Wood County
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Ongoing personal growth makes the joy of life's journey much sweeter for me. Learning about and capitalizing on my God-given strengths has truly been a blessing. I have had the good fortune of learning about how to apply those strengths daily from master teacher Diane O'Connor. Diane's style of sharing her expertise with passion and clarity in her workshops has taken me to a

level of self discovery never imagined. **Connie Wilfarht**, Mid State Technical College

Churches

“Leader to Leader™ has been one of the most beneficial ministries we have offered in the past 10 years. This leadership development experience continues to bear fruit in our church. It is a great tool to develop strong leaders who know their gifts and talents.

I would highly recommend the facilitator training as an opportunity to help any pastor develop his or her staff in the area of leadership development and team-building.”

Chuck Schumacher, Senior Pastor

High Mill Church, North Canton, OH

I feel that in order for a church to survive, it is vital for leaders to attend group coaching. Even if a person has been leading for years, this is a must for them to attend. It teaches people how to become the Godly leader that Christ has called them to be.

This training has allowed me to learn who God has called me to be as a leader. It is very easy to be a passive leader and miss out on opportunities to impact the Kingdom of God. This training reinforces how we are to be “like Jesus: and not lead from our selfish ways. This course helped me to refocus on the importance of discipling one-on-one as a coach / mentor.”

Doug King, Participant

“I want to take time to thank you and Julie for facilitating the Leader to Leader™ training here at Mount Olive Lutheran Church. The impact on our leadership team here was immeasurable. The resource material and the group sessions were always insightful, relevant, and pertinent to the subject matter. As a team we learned a lot about each other, our strengths, our values, and our abilities. Through the knowledge gained, we will no doubt become better and stronger leaders, which in turn will help us move the church and congregation forward to a successful future.”

Terry J Halligan

Director of Operations

Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Weston, WI 54476

“I would highly recommend group coaching to any man or woman who is starting to become a leader, or who has been a leader for years. Investing eight months of growing, learning, ministering, envisioning, and fellowshiping – along with worshipping and hearing God’s voice and will for your life is a very small amount of time in my eyes.

God truly invested in two wonderful, God-filled women to train and teach others. Through group coaching and one-on-one leadership training, I have grown in all areas of my life. God has

opened many doors for me in life, and this door was very educational, spiritual, and fun - not to mention great food, as well! If you come with an open heart, expecting to hear from God, you won't be disappointed! It truly was worth eight months and more".

Karen Peterson, Participant

Leader to Leader Facilitator Training

"The training was beyond excellent! Do not miss this opportunity to receive life-changing teaching on leadership. Your team's confidence will soar after receiving these valuable tools."

Pastor Maykay Moore, OH

I highly recommend the Leader to Leader training. Diane and Julie are fun trainers and generous with their knowledge and resources. The L2L curriculum is a turn-key curriculum for any coach or trainer that helps people develop personally and professionally. I feel like the training has fast-tracked me into business because I can do the work of equipping, inspiring and transforming without having to first develop all the tools and content. If you are a coach looking for a way to offer your clients a results oriented process, this is it! It's well worth the investment. They model the way as instructors and want nothing more than for you to share the tools and invest in leaders to lead others well.

Heidi Lewerenz

Uncontainable Coaching

"I found Leader to Leader Facilitator Training to be challenging, thought-provoking, and encouraging. It has forced me to re-evaluate both how I lead and how I follow. I have learned to use the gifts I've been given more effectively and to appreciate the different strengths in others. It has made me a better person." **Kurt Overturf**

Coaching Coaches

I have used Diane's values and passions cards as I meet with high school students and people who are in a transition time. They have become valuable tools to help these individuals better define their values and passions which enhances their ability to make decisions that actually fit with who they truly are. It has been fun to watch so many "aha" moments as people see what is a below-the-surface motivator for many of their hopes and dreams.

Sheri Simpson, Life Coach

"Diane has been an unexpected voice of encouragement, coaching me as I've struggled to climb out of the box I was in. Her consistent yet inviting approach, as she has faithfully relied on the Holy Spirit, has been an

important tool to my growth as a Life Purpose Coach and in my walk with the Lord. Generous with her time and talents, she has gifted me with insight that has been surprising and profound. I respect her as a coach and field mentor in my own training and would not hesitate to entrust my closest friend into her care. She is a rare jewel and trusted friend, adding stability to my life. **Teri Alderson, Life Purpose Coach, Coeur d'Alene**

Coaching

Having Diane coach me on ways to use StrengthFinder 2.0 with clients was a value-packed, energizing time for me. It not only gave me more insight and clearer definition on the various strengths and practical ways to use StrengthFinder 2.0 with future clients, but it also clarified some core values with my own signature strengths. I also gained valuable information on how to leverage my strengths and enhance my own skills by partnering with others who have complimentary strengths. The resource tools she gave me will be very helpful for coaching small leader groups in both secular and Christian arenas. Diane has both a passion for coaching leaders and an energy for training others in how to use StrengthFinder 2.0. I highly recommend her.

Kristi Olson

"Diane is an insightful and caring mentor who is very in tune with the spiritual needs of others. She plays a very encouraging and affirming role in the lives of all she meets. Her creativity and vast life experience combined together make her one dynamic leader and coach!"

Dr. Richelle Hoekstra-Anderson, PsyD., Clinical Psychologist, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

"Diane, you are an awesome encourager! You ask great questions and you're a great listener. We had a wonderful discussions and time of prayer. It was good - and challenging! You are a very solid Christian woman and it is evident in the way that you live your life and reach out to help and encourage many other people. God is definitely using you to help people become all that God is creating them to be. You are an amazing woman of God, and you have blessed my life!"

Kris Olson, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

"I have encountered a woman who has a true servant heart! My time with Diane has been a blessing. She truly is a genuine listener, nurturer, and encourager. Diane includes the small details in follow-up and goes the extra mile in helping her client succeed. Thank you for your guidance and support Diane! May God continue to pour His Holy Spirit on your ministry!" **Shilhi Seibel**, Hawaii

'Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.' (Proverbs 16:24) I just want to say thank you for always speaking words of Life to me! God bless!"

Nichole Passineau, Springfield, MO

“Diane, thank you so much for meeting with me last week. I really appreciated the time we got to spend together. You are such an easy person for me to talk to. Thank you for really listening to all I had to say and shedding light on my answers to those questions. I left our conversation feeling so blessed and encouraged.

I can picture God sitting right beside you at your kitchen table with us. He really used you to speak into my life. I have walked away reminded that God loves and has accepted me just as I am. I also realized, through our conversation, that sometimes I'm a little harder on myself than need be. You've really encouraged me to let God use me as I am. He made me the way I am for a purpose and I know I sometimes try to be who other people want me to be, not who God has called me to be.

Diane, you were made to do what you are doing! God has used you significantly in my life as a coach, a mentor, and a confidant. Thank you for being who you are!! You make such a difference!! Love ya!” **Ashley Nieman**, San Diego , CA

Ministry Development

“Leading a grace group for women who have been sexually abused is not an easy task! But through the development, implementation and actual running of this ministry we had a wonderful leader, Diane O'Connor, offering guidance and encouragement through every step of the way. Her warm, insightful advice helped guide us as we helped women with pain and healing from their past sexual abuse. Diane has been gifted with skills that allow her to gently and effectively "come along side" of others and help them find their God-given gifts and bring healing and restoration to their lives.” **DaNita Carlson**, Co-Founder and leader of *Restoring the Heart for Women*, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Intensive 2-Day Life Plans

Diane helped me put together so many details and scattered thoughts. She was able to put order and organization to what I had been feeling for a very long time. In the way the time is spent, your plan is revealed. You know it is exactly perfect because it is what you have thought, dared to dream and hoped for. It is called a plan because when your done, there is something specific for you to do, direction, and goals. This gave me a purpose and I have promptly put into motion my plan. This experience was well worth the time. Diane, it was very evident that there was a theme and God was the director. We were able to put together a plan that was unbelievable, and so exciting. It was bigger than I had ever imagined, and even though it was hard to look at the junk in my life, God showed me my purpose and put goals and direction to exactly what I knew He was calling me too. The time I spent with Diane was well worth the time and I would recommend this to anyone who needs help with putting it all together. Did I mention how fun it is too. Thank you Diane. **Alonna Hoogesteger RN**

“Diane O'Connor facilitated a LifePlan for me and it has helped and encouraged me greatly! I **do**

have a life!!! Last August I got married and in the recent transitional months from the single life to married life I have been confused and struggling to find just where I fit and what my purpose is in all of these changes. Diane helped me to see my life and the themes in my life in a new way.

We posted a timeline of significant times in my life from my childhood through that day and it reminded me just how faithful God has been and how He has and will continue to have His hand woven throughout my life. Through our prayer times and discussions God showed me that maybe there are some fears that paralyze me from time to time and I need to surrender those things to God. He did have a purpose for my life in the past and those passions He created in me are still there and He has more plans for the future.

I am excited! We prayed and I am so thankful for God and His direction and His amazing purpose and plans for me. Diane is truly an amazing woman seeking after God with all of her life. She has a wonderful gift and ability to see the God-given abilities and potential in people and to encourage and inspire them to discover their passions and dream big, allowing God fulfill His plan and purpose in each one.

Thanks Diane – you are awesome!!! Things are so much clearer – He’s not finished with me yet! Love you!” **Kris Barteck, Wisconsin Rapids, WI**

“I can’t thank you enough for spending two days out of your busy schedule with me, to go through the LifePlan session. Since Friday I have had much time to go over my Plan and talk about it with JR- and with God. I am so excited for what the future may bring. But most of all, the greatest accomplishment of the session was for me to be able to see myself as God sees me; as he has made me! For the first time in my entire life I have actually realized that God loves me for me! After all, He created me to be me! This has been such a life affirming experience for me . . . thank you from the bottom of my heart for being the one to go through this with me! I love you like a sister!”

Sue Siewert, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

“My sincere thanks to you for the gracious way you embraced me, helping me to take notice of the fingerprint of God in my life and stimulating hope and vision for the journey ahead. Working with you to do my LifePlan far exceeded my expectations!”

Lynn Kagarice, Hayden, Idaho

Diane is an amazing coach. "I know my life's purpose! I know it with 100%certainty."

Diane works in collaboration with the Lord. She begins with a heart-felt prayer and I know she prayed for me months before seeing me in person.

What I love about Diane is she listens intently. Her fingers move quickly as she types and makes sure to get down all the important details. She is completely engaged and energized with the life-purpose coaching process. When I talked about the "hurts" or the difficult parts of my life, Diane provided complete unconditional positive regard. We are all human beings, but to me, Diane is truly "being" like Jesus. Diane doesn't see where I've been, or stereotype me, but instead she sees where I'm going. I am a woman on a journey. I am a work in progress and everyday God and people like Diane, give me hope for my future. Diane has a gift for seeing

strengths and encouraging others to use these for God's glory.

I fondly remember the ritual of the trail experience where Diane had me walk on a lake path and surrender everything I could brainstorm to God. I'd tried to do this before on my own, but it was only through Diane's facilitated experience, that I was able to just let go and let God more completely take away worries from my life.

One of my favorite parts of the experience included putting my purpose statement together. It was like the grand finale for me. Diane used what she called her "collection of verbs." She scattered these on a table and I picked out verbs that spoke to me and then we created the statement together. When we first created the statement, it was good, but then Diane used her God-given gift as a maximizer and helped to make it better.

The whole time I was with Diane, I felt the Holy Spirit working in and through her and also through me. I left Diane's presence, given up fully for what God has for me and excited about the difference I can make for the people God loves on this earth.

Cheri Maben-Crouch, Iowa

Dear Diane,

It was only four weeks ago I was up here praying and going over my notes from the three amazing books by Katie Brazelton. I also glanced at some older notes on Class 301, Network, LifeKeys, Spiritual Gifts, and entries in my quiet-time journal. I was eagerly finishing up preparing for the next two days in the Life Plan process. I was excited about the potential answers and clarity to come from our time together. I felt God would use this process to finalize some of the things He'd been showing me these past few years. As I awaited our October 18 -19 time of reflection on God's next purpose for my life, I was also a little nervous. After all, this would be a very personal time of sharing.

I'm so grateful you could be my Life Coach! From start to finish you radiated God's love to me. Your home was an oasis that set a relaxing tone for the conversations we had. What a privilege it was for me to learn from you. From our opening devotion Thursday morning, to our parting Friday night, I felt comfortable sharing any aspect of my life story with you. Your passion to help women find "Godly Purpose" radiates from you! That seems to be confirmation that He "designed" you for this important work,

I have always respected the knowledge you've gathered doing personal study on "Purpose", "Knowing God's Will", and "Living a Godly Life". I now have additional respect for the way you apply God's Word and the Holy Spirit's leading to coaching women who are hungry for Godly answers. This goes beyond knowledge...this is Godly wisdom.

Thank You for Blessing My Life,

Connie Souba , Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Dear Diane,

I want to thank you for insisting and persisting until I relented and spent the two days in your family room chatting with you while you pulled out many hidden aspects of my life that are strategic in God's plans and purposes for me on my future trek. To say I was reluctant is an understatement. How many times did I try to back out? You gently (and then not so gently) persuaded me that my time would be well spent and reveal some ideas taken from where I have been to shed some light on where I might be heading.

Since I don't do introspection well or often, it was a challenge to find some of the "answers" to your questions. However, it had a refreshing result, giving me some definite guidelines for how God has designed me and steps to move forward in looking for where to use my strengths and talents to work for His kingdom and self-fulfillment. There were several "ahha" moments, lots of laughing, some tears, and brain-strains, all of which was cathartic. I have a clearer view of who I am, and why, and how that can be used in ministry.

Anyone who is considering joining you for the Life Plan workshop needs to stop making excuses and just do it. It is well worth the work and effort to find the treasures hidden inside.

Thank you for following His plan for your life because that has helped so many to discover His plan for their lives, furthering His kingdom purposes.

Your sister in Christ,
Carol Corfman

Hi Diane,

It's hard to believe that a whole month has passed since we spent 2 enlightening days together, designing my Life Plan. It has been most amazing to track the handiwork of our Creator God in my life, especially over these past few years as I have begun to embrace 'intentional living'. I've only begun to taste the richness of what He has in store for me and the precious people in my life. His leading became more defined in August of 2005 when I first purchased 'Pathway' and the Devotional Journal. I have been challenged and inspired by the testimonies of the influential, godly women who shared their stories. This prompted me to checkout the Pathway website which opened the door to connecting with a life coach. It was by His sovereign design that we should become acquainted and develop a heart connection.

There is so much I could say about you, the process, and our time together. I'll try to condense my thoughts. When I was searching on the Pathway website, reading the bios of various coaches I could connect with, you were the 'cream that rose to the top'! Meeting you certainly confirmed that. You are truly a woman of grace and truth, who offers a role model worth following-- both in your character, speech, and actions. You embrace the calling of God on your life as a holy privilege and pursue it with your whole heart, fashioned with beauty and joy. I'm so grateful that you have become part of my life story!

As for the process, working thru the Life Plan was such a flowing, enlightening journey. Even though we didn't have much 'history' together the template and the means of working it out was so enjoyable and empowering. I'm glad you added your Spiritual Gifts assessment as

groundwork. The booklet that you compiled helps clarify my roles and means of ministering with His power to the family of faith. Selecting my 'most powerful verbs' also made writing my purpose statement a breeze!

The Life Plan template was thorough, creative and thought provoking. It was and will continue to be, a valuable tool for me, taking the seeming disjointed pieces of my life and interlocking them to create a pattern to follow. Using the poster board and stickies to create the life timeline was especially valuable. It was so amazing to see the correlation between the seasons of life ladden with challenges and the valuable life lessons that resulted from trusting God in those dark times. So we should really 'welcome them as friends'. Although you were a skillful listener, extracting the nuggets of truth from my spoken responses, I tend to process by writing rather than speaking. Perhaps a bit of a preview before each session giving me time to consider the questions and write out brief responses would have given us more accurate info in a shorter time. (I'm also in the process of a health restoration, so clear thinking and verbal expression are still a challenge.)

As for our time together, it was so rich and sweet I hated to see it end! But I'm confident that our budding relationship will continue to grow as we pursue His purposes for our lives. In time, with more training, and input from other godly women, I believe I could honor Him as a fellow life coach/facilitator, if that's His best. And so today I'll continue to work through the 'Pathway' book and will make myself accountable to my kindred spirit, Lisa as we share "10 conversations with Purpose" together. I'll just keep taking another step.

May the Lord Himself continue to enrich your life as you guide and encourage others,
Lynn Marie Kagarice, Hayden, Idaho

I am writing to share with you my pleasure in having Diane O'Connor facilitate a Life Plan session with me this past June. Diane not only set the stage for an intimate, comfortable place to work, but was able to work with me in an undisturbed atmosphere. In looking back, I see this as highly desirable and important when working through a Life Plan.

Diane was extremely organized and had the time we spent together well planned out. We began with doing a timeline of my life. I found this very informative, as well as eye opening. Through this timeline, we were able to see trends, changes, and growth, as well as some of the stumbling blocks in my life. What I appreciated most about doing the time line with Diane was although there were things that emerged as negatives in my life, we did not try to 'analyze' them, we worked at seeing how God has used these situations in my life. I found the timeline to be eye opening, as well as encouraging.

One of the things that I found most helpful was the way Diane is able to ask just the right question at just the right moment! Diane has a gift of being able to get to the heart of the matter and help bring clarity to a thought process.

Through this Life Plan process, Diane was able to help me see the unique way in which God designed me, and how He has gifted me with certain gifts that are unique to me. I have always had a problem with feeling 'worthy' and through this Life Plan session, Diane helped me to see that God loves me just the way I am, because He designed me to be who I am...and it is good! And because of how He has designed me, there are plenty of opportunities to serve Him with the talents and abilities He wants me to use!

I would like to close by saying how happy I am that Diane O'Connor was able to be my Life Coach. The Life Plan session was a truly uplifting experience for me, and well exceeded my expectations. I would definitely recommend Diane O'Connor to anyone seeking to work through a Life Plan!"

Susan L. Siewert, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Life Purpose Coaching Instructor

"I was privileged to have experienced Diane O'Conner's expertise as a Private Ministry Instructor during my Level Two Life Purpose Coach Training. Diane has a natural, yet professional presence about her that instantly puts one at complete ease. Diane has a God-given ability to inspire, a willingness to set higher standards, and a passion to help others learn, grow, and perform. Her shared talents and love for teaching and instruction are very apparent and her desire to emerge another into leadership will not be stifled. Diane was willing to go that extra step and supply me with additional information and will continue to be an available and helpful resource for me. Diane is certainly being used mightily and an incredible asset to this Ministry Team and we are very fortunate to have her among us. Grateful for your goodness and giving."

Nancy Gardner, Morrison, CO

"My experience with Diane was not only a cheerful and thorough experience of the material with an instructor, Diane was willing and able to share information and helpful resources that, she noted during our conversation, may be helpful to me in the future as I move forward on my journey and as the Lord builds my ministry.

What a joy to work with her!" **Norma Hart** - Safford, AZ

"Diane's understanding of how to reach women effectively in the context of women's ministry is unparalleled. She knows that God is honored as the feet of those who give out are washed and they are motivated and restored to their kingdom purposes and being all that God intended them to be. I learned so much from her!" **Dawn Paduganan**, Irvine, CA

"I really enjoyed a time of coaching with Diane! It was very easy to connect with her. Diane affirmed my vision. She challenged me to broaden my thinking; while at the same time, to seek a specific path so that I can be

most effective. She left me with resources to research to further my walk. More than anything she reminded me several times that the power of prayer is not just important, but imperative!!! It is obvious that she is very skilled and gifted at what she does. I was very blessed in the short time we had together and I now know I have someone to call on if I need more guidance." **Jill White**, Broken Arrow, OK

Recently Diane O'Connor was my instructor for Ministry Consultant training. Diane proved to be an inspiration and a genuine blessing. Diane's training enabled me to investigate opportunities available to me as a Women's Ministry Consultant. She was informative, inspiring, and thorough. Her love for encouraging leaders, and emerging leaders, was such a blessing. Her creative passion for consulting and casting vision challenged me. I would recommend Diane as an instructor. Be prepared to be encouraged and strengthened. **Jo Ann Fore**, Johnson City Tennessee

"Diane brings a warm and gentle teaching style along with rich experience that brings the training material alive. Her heart for women shines through in her sharing and in the resources she shares. It is evident that prayer and being alert for God's guidance are a backbone in her ministry. I enjoyed working with Diane very much. What a wonderful woman!" **Judy Turnbull**, Ludington

Book Study Facilitation Anonymous Short Comments

- Enjoyed her teaching
- Diane really helped me relate to the book with her own real-life experiences.
- It was enriching & thought-provoking. It also helped me sort through a big decision I'm working through as far as God's plans & purpose for my life at this time.
- I enjoyed listening
- She was very helpful in leading us through the discussion time. She radiated the love of God & gave the feeling that we were all welcome and warmly incorporated into the large group of women. The environment was great for sharing at our tables as well as in the large group.
- She shared relative things and I enjoyed listening. Only occasionally did I have a hard time concentrating!
- Diane is a very "real" person. Easy to relate to without feeling like she's way above you spiritually.
- Diane is great! She is very clear on what she is teaching. She's very well versed & interesting.
- Each of the stories she shared- and had others share- were very moving to me.
- She was helpful! Great!
- Diane is very informed on the subject.
- She was inspiring
- It was neat & fulfilling to hear her share her life experiences & to know that others have the same feelings and experiences
- Diane was exceptional. She really opened my eyes to how "real" you can be
- She was very helpful

-I appreciated Diane's transparent sharing. She was genuinely honest and I really appreciated that!

"I want to tell you how much I enjoyed my study time this winter/spring with the ladies group at CLF. I feel renewed and refreshed. It was a time of blessing for my soul. The "Pathway to Purpose" materials were inspiring. I learned a lot from your teaching time, from the guest speakers who shared from their lives, my daily study time, and the group discussions. The ladies were all so friendly, and I found them so comfortable to get to know. Thank you for putting together a study group to go through "Pathway to Purpose". Thank you for the important things you brought to our attention each class. Thank you for sharing yourself with all of us!!! You have a joy and passion for the Lord's work that radiates from your whole being." **Connie Souba, Wisconsin Rapids, WI**