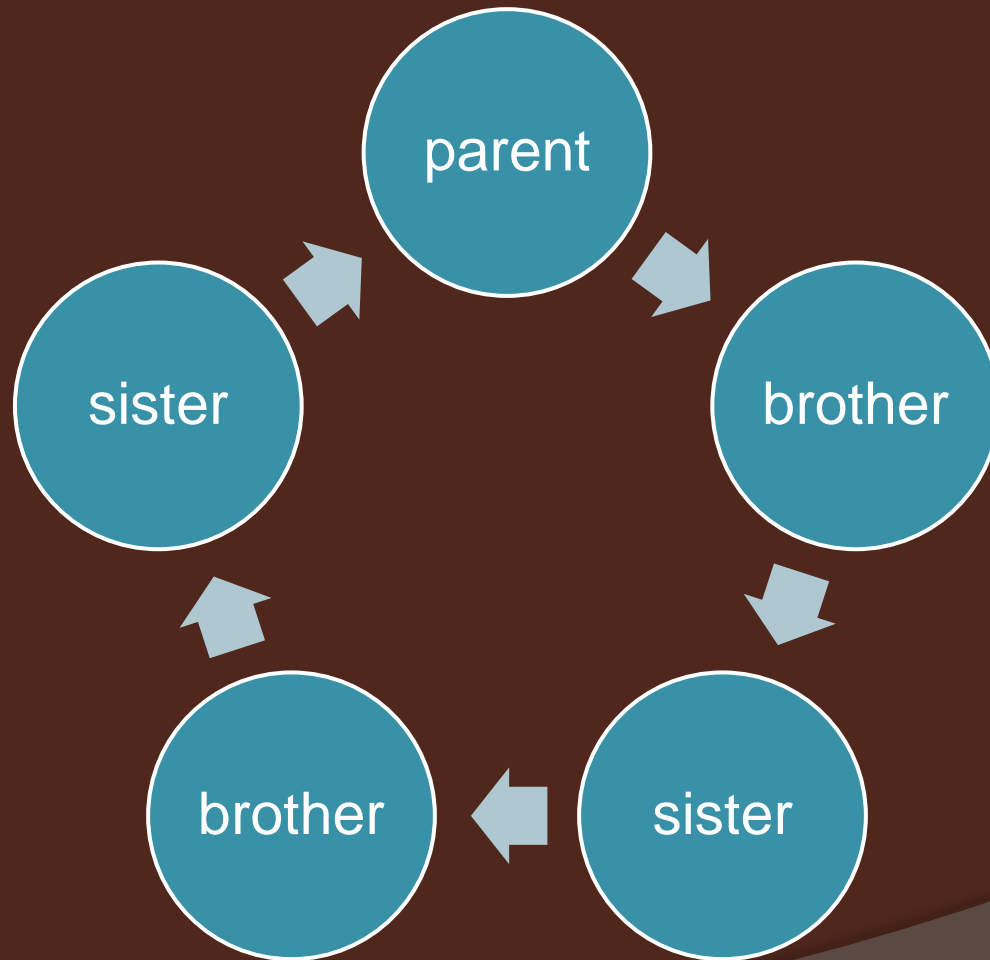


Family Ministry in Our Congregations

# MISSION POSSIBLE

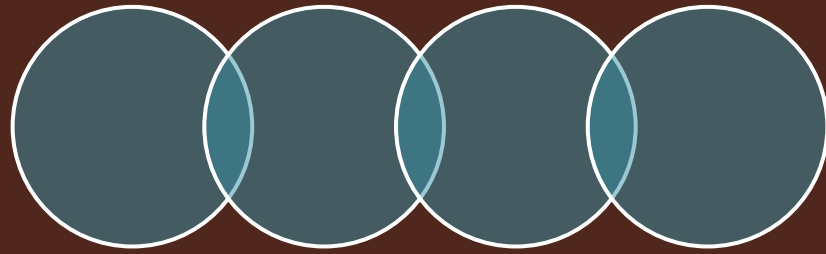
*Workshop for General Assembly  
June, 2010  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

# What is a Family?

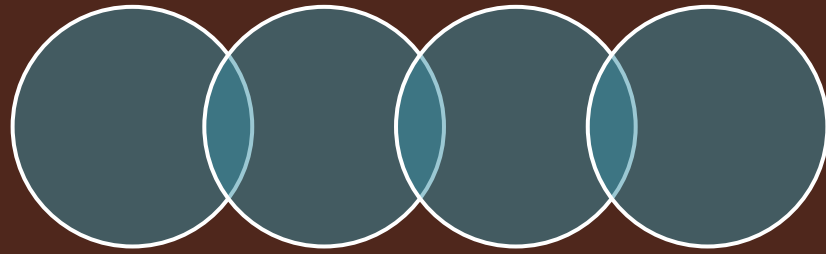


# What is a Family?

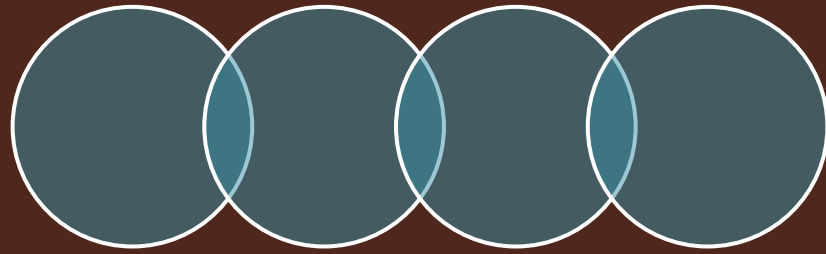
- Collection of Individuals
- Dynamic and continuously developing system of interconnected individuals



*Effective Family Ministry  
supports and encourages  
the family members  
as individuals  
and  
as a dynamic unit*



*Effective Family Ministry  
recognizes **the needs**  
and  
**the demographics**  
of today's families*



*Effective Family Ministry  
supports and encourages families  
where they are and who they are  
NOT  
for how they ought to be*

# Modern Demographics

- As of 2005, an estimated 270,313 children in the U.S. live in households headed by same-sex couples
- Nearly 4 in 10 (41%) births in the U.S. are to an unmarried woman and half of all non-marital births are to a cohabiting couple

# Modern Demographics

- Only about half of all adults (18 years and older) in the U.S. are married
- Approximately 7 in 10 children live with two parents
- Both men & women are delaying marriage and planned pregnancy

## Other Unique Challenges

- Military families are dealing with longer and more extended tours of duty lasting more than one year
- Parents are working more hours and taking work home with them to be done on their own time

## Other Unique Challenges

- “Sandwich Generation”
- “Attachment Parenting”
- Over-scheduling
- Advances in technology

*Families with children no longer feel a sense of obligation to attend church.*

*Participation in a religious community is often considered one option among many competing interests.*

*Since each family must learn to structure, organize, and manage itself around what it believes is important, what makes our congregations become priorities in family life?*

*Does your church schedule bring the individuals of the family unit together or keep them apart?*

*Is your congregation responsive to the unique needs of families in your area?*

*Does your congregation offer support and information to parents as the primary religious educators of their children?*

*Does your congregation offer support for parents in terms of relationship enrichment and parenting issues?*