

# FOUNDERS ROUNDTABLE

## CREATING A PRIVATE DOORWAY

*Responding to Women in Hidden Abuse—Safely, Wisely, and Biblically*

### WHY ARE WE HERE?

One in three women will experience abuse in her lifetime.

That means there are women sitting in the pews of your church who do not know who to turn to—and who are working very hard to make sure no one knows what is happening inside their homes.

They pray. They serve. They stand beside their husbands. From the outside, their lives appear steady. Inside, something may be unraveling, and they have never found a protected place to speak about it.

No one instructed them to stay silent.

Often the silence grows out of loyalty, hope, confusion, and the desire not to disrupt what looks whole.

Most churches care deeply. They simply have not been given a clear, practical way to receive this kind of quiet truth.

The Founders Roundtable is an opportunity to build that pathway—calmly, wisely, and before crisis forces exposure.

### FORMAT

- 90-minute live Zoom
- One designated leader per church
- Limited to eight churches
- Conversational, guided working session

### PURPOSE OF THIS SESSION

This is not abuse training.

This is not counseling.

This is not investigative protocol.

This session helps your church quietly establish a simple, confidential first-response structure before a crisis escalates.

The goal is clarity and preparation—not reaction.

### WHAT WE WILL BUILD TOGETHER

By the end of the session, your church will have:

1. One designated, steady point of contact
2. – A trusted woman with defined boundaries
3. – Not a rescuer
4. – Not a fixer
5. – A calm first listener
6. A protected contact pathway
7. – How a woman reaches out privately
8. – How privacy is maintained
9. – What is documented—and what is not
10. Clear response boundaries
11. – What the church can do
12. – What the church should not do
13. – When referral is appropriate
14. Referral wisdom
15. – Local professional support categories
16. – Legal, therapeutic, and safety resources
17. – How to guide without diagnosing

### SESSION FLOW

#### Part I — The Framework (30 minutes)

- Why hidden abuse goes unseen in faithful Christian marriages
- Why silence is often shaped by shame, not rebellion
- Why escalation happens when no private doorway exists
- The difference between pastoral care and first response

#### Part II — System Setup (35 minutes)

We will walk through:

- Selecting the right designated woman
- Creating a confidential intake pathway
- Establishing communication boundaries
- Protecting leadership from liability and overreach
- Protecting the woman from exposure

#### Part III — Leadership Discussion (25 minutes)

Open floor conversation.

#### Bring:

- Real situations you've carried quietly
- Questions you've never had space to ask
- Concerns about risk, backlash, or complexity

This portion is guided and moderated.

### WHAT YOU WILL LEAVE WITH

- A clear internal structure you can implement immediately
- Written summary framework (12-page leadership guide)
- Language to introduce this pathway inside your church
- Confidence that you are offering refuge without overstepping authority

### WHAT THIS DOES

It creates a private doorway before desperation forces public fallout.  
It allows the church to offer space without forcing a woman into exile.  
It reflects the heart of Christ—presence before performance, refuge before exposure.

# CREATE A PRIVATE DOORWAY

## IN YOUR CHURCH

*Responding to Women in Hidden Abuse—Safely, Wisely, and Biblically*

### OVERVIEW

A woman in your church is already living in hidden abuse—and she may have no safe way to tell you.

#### **I know this because I was that woman.**

For years, I sat in pews, served in ministry, worked alongside pastors I respected, and still could not find a private, protected way to speak the truth about what was happening in my own home.

No one told me to be silent.

The silence was mine—shaped by shame, confusion, spiritual pressure, and the fear of not being believed.

Churches are not uncaring in this area. They are simply unprepared.

This conversation is about changing that.

### WHAT THIS IS NOT

I am not a therapist, and I am not offering counseling.

I am not asking churches to diagnose abuse or replace professional care.

This is about creating a *wise and confidential first response*—a way for a woman to speak safely and be guided toward appropriate support.

### WHAT LEADERS WILL BUILD

We'll begin with a lightly structured framework for understanding hidden abuse and why it so often goes unseen in faithful Christian marriages.

Then we will walk through what it looks like, practically, to create a confidential mechanism inside your church:

- One designated, steady woman
- A protected contact pathway
- Clear boundaries
- Clear referral wisdom

After that, we open the floor.

Bring your questions.

Bring the situations you've carried quietly.

Bring the concerns you haven't known how to voice.

This will be thoughtful. Honest. Grounded in Scripture. And practical.

### WHO THIS IS FOR

- Women's ministry directors
- Pastor's wives
- Women serving in leadership
- Church staff who want to respond wisely

### FOUNDERS ROUNDTABLE

\$295 per church  
(One designated leader per church)  
Limited to eight churches.

### ABOUT ROSEANN MAYER

Roseann Mayer is the author of *Bones Beneath the Prairie*, a memoir of hidden spiritual coercion and abuse inside a respected Christian marriage.

She speaks not as a clinician, but as a woman who lived it—and who now believes the church is capable of becoming a true refuge when it is willing to see clearly and respond wisely.

### TO BRING THIS CONVERSATION TO YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Email [Roseann@RoseannMayer.com](mailto:Roseann@RoseannMayer.com)

