



**eleven:28**  
*restoring rhythm*

**“Learn the unforced *rhythms* of grace.”**

Matthew 11:28

## Executive Summary

At the 7-year mark, **Eleven:28** has grown from dream to reality and has served more than 800 people in spiritual settings designed to cultivate and establish rhythms for the sustainable health of women and men in ministry.

Currently, our founder, **Rhesa Higgins**, is lead spiritual director of Eleven:28. We have expanded to 3 part-time spiritual directors and 6 group facilitators offering services in 8 states and 3 countries. The board of directors has expanded from 7 members to 10 members.



It's an exciting time for Eleven:28. The demand for our services has increased faster than our annual fundraising. As we acknowledge our impact and envision the future for this ministry, we have supported and accelerated our growth with the addition of a full-time executive director. **Trey Finley** had previously served on the board of directors. Beginning in an interim role, he will ensure the organization's mission remains the highest priority while deepening our fundraising efforts.



## Mission and Vision

Eleven:28 exists to offer spiritual vitality to all who serve in the Kingdom of God. This mission is executed in three tiers of care offered. Our foundation of care is one-on-one spiritual direction, which we offer in person, via phone, and online technology. The second tier is in group spiritual direction, which encompasses our covenant groups and church staff spiritual formation with partnership churches. The third tier is large-group teaching and presenting at conferences, etc.

“I came across **Eleven:28 Ministries** at a time years ago where life and ministry had left me dry. Through spiritual direction and a covenant group with Rhesa Higgins, I learned, connected with others in ministry, grew leaps and bounds, and was able to *breathe new life!*”

— an associate minister

## Who We Serve

Our primary target market is vocational ministers. We have found a niche with young ministers, in their first 5 years of ministry, and with female ministers. Some of these vocational ministers are within the continental United States and some are planting churches abroad.



## Case for Support

Eleven:28 seeks to raise **\$120,000** in order to rapidly **expand our influence** nationally.

We are scaling our efforts to **enrich the lives** of faithful servants in faith-based organizations across the nation.

## Why Our Work Matters

In 2017, the Barna Group reported that:

**90%** of pastors report working between **55- 75** hours per week

**50%** of pastors report feeling **unable** to meet the demands of their jobs

**70%** constantly fight **depression**

**50%** of pastors starting out will **not last** 5 years

**50%** of pastors' marriages end in **divorce**

**70%** of pastors do not have a close **friend**

## Our Programs and Services

- **Personal Spiritual Direction** is a one-on-one experience which supports spiritual growth.
- **Covenant Groups** offering group spiritual development and community learning environments
- **Lavish Hope** events for ministers' spouses to foster spiritual community
- **Partnership** churches host Eleven:28 on site to provide staff spiritual formation and personal spiritual direction.
- **Sending** Eleven:28 representatives to Come Before Winter to encourage the spiritual health of missionaries.
- **Seeking** to launch cohort retreats targeting ministry couples in support of the marriages of those who serve.

## Financial Goals

### Increase our charitable donations by \$120,000

over the next eighteen months. By raising these funds in 2018-19, we will:

1. Increase our opportunities to travel, so that we can **build awareness** of our services.
2. Double the number of spiritual direction hours by investing in more covenant group leaders who can **multiply our efforts**.
3. Manage the costs associated with covenant groups by providing **scholarships for ministers** with limited budgets.
4. Build a marketing engine so that we can **reach more people** digitally.
5. Provide appropriate compensation for an executive director who can **guide and monitor** the organization's mission and vision.

### Apply for the Thriving in Ministry Grant, Lilly Foundation

We have taken a leap of faith in applying for the Thriving in Ministry Grant from the Lilly Foundation, a large grant that will **exponentially increase our opportunities to grow**.

The Lilly Foundation grant will allow us to:

- **Support the Community of Women in Ministry** yearly conference with travel scholarships and speaker honorariums
- **Begin Marriage Cohort** retreats for vocational ministry couples meeting 3 times over 18 months in order to strengthen marriages
- **Fill out our staff** to include administrative personnel.

## Evaluating Our Impact

**68 donors** and ministry partners contributed financially to the ministry of Eleven:28 in 2017;

10 of them were new donors/partners raising over **\$80,000**.

Directees are located in **eight states** and **three countries** worldwide.

**890 hours** of spiritual direction offered in the first quarter of 2018 compared with 900 hours for all of 2017!



“For a few months I had been feeling stuck, lost and unsure of where God is leading me. I began meeting with Rhesa, and through her, God was able to open my eyes to the many mysterious ways that *He is working*...I am still a work in progress, but now I can move forward and better understand my deep emotional need for God and spiritual direction in my life personally and for my full time ministry.”

— a veteran youth minister

“Ministers are often adept at doing the work of ministry, but receiving God’s grace in their own lives comes less easily....As a result of Rhesa’s spiritual direction, I am more deeply aware of God’s presence and activity in my own life and I am *better equipped* to view my ministry as meaningful partnership in God’s ministry”

— a lead pastor

“Words cannot describe what this ministry has meant to me. Ministers are often so busy planning for other’s spiritual growth that sometimes their own gets neglected! I’m so thankful for Rhesa Higgins and her team at Eleven:28 Ministries for their *care and support* of ministers!”

— an experienced youth minister

## Empower Pastors Through Growing Our Scholarship Fund



Eleven:28 welcomes individuals, churches, and other organizations who share our commitment to spiritual vitality to support this work. Here’s how you can make an impact:

**You can support our commitment to pastors with:**

- A \$50 one-time or monthly recurring gift
- Matching \$300 gifts
- \$600 one-time gifts

## Extend Our Influence Through Our Executive Director



We are seeking unrestricted gifts or in-kind donations of \$5,000 or more in order to supplement our cash-flow to cover expenses related to hiring an executive director.

Eleven:28’s new executive director will be a center of influence in the faith community and an advocate for pastoral care for those in full-time vocational ministry.

## Expand Our Impact Through High Caliber Marketing



A one-time \$5,000 gift (or in-kind donations) will help us create a digital marketing engine with a new website, graphic design work, marketing assets, and upgraded audio/video resources.

## Expand Our Partnerships Through Prayer



Eleven:28 is seeking 100 prayer partners who will commit to consistently keeping us in prayer. By joining our email list, you’ll receive monthly prayer requests for the organization, anonymous prayer requests from our constituents, and resources to help you maintain spiritual equilibrium and rhythm.



[www.eleven28ministries.org](http://www.eleven28ministries.org) | 214-342-6060

eleven:28 ministries is a 501 c3 nonprofit. All gifts are tax deductible.