Church Libraries:

More than Books on a Shelf

Yes, church libraries are much more than books on a shelf!  That's just the beginning.  There must be the selection of the appropriate media, the cataloging, processing, promotion, promotion and promotion!  Even that's not enough.  Team members of the library must work together to provide the necessary help for customers to choose their media.  That means that a team member should be present when the library is open.

There is more--much more!  The church library should be a visible part of the church program.  Work with the church staff and leaders of the organizations of the church to find out what role you can play to help them.

after that first step it will be easier to find your role in being an integral part of the church program.

Get the entire library team involved.  Meet regularly for making plans.  It is a gradual process and one that will take time.  Brainstorm about what the library can do and then try it one at a time.  Don’t try to do too many things too fast.    There are so many opportunities to become a vital part of the church life as you reach out beyond the books on the shelf.

The church library must play a vital role in church life for its own existence.  Begin making plans.  In doing so, let one of the church library conferences be a part of those plans.