

8000 DISCIPLES
140 CHURCHES
30/15% FEMALE LEADERSHIP
25% ETHNIC/MULTI-ETHNIC

From the Superintendent

Friends,

Fall is an incredibly busy season in the life of the church.



This can be a particularly hectic time for the pastors and ministry staff who bear the responsibility of implementing fall programming while also beginning to plan for advent. This October, many of our conference pastors and ministry staff will gather for our annual fall retreats. Please join me in praying that this time of connecting with colleagues will energize our pastors for the busy months ahead.

As a reminder, October is also Pastor Appreciation Month. I invite you to be thinking of ways to show love to these women and men who invest so deeply in the lives of those they shepherd. Perhaps you could deliver a favorite snack, send a card of appreciation or encouragement, or gift her or him with admission to a favorite activity. Let's make sure our pastors know just how much we appreciate all they give through their ministries!

To God be the glory!

Tammy

Catalyzing a Movement

The Midwest Conference hosted three regional meetings in August with Shaun Marshall, Director of Congregational Vitality of the ECC. These conversations explored



multiplication centers and networks—how can we grow out as well as up? Each session had its own personality and focus, but each percolated good thinking around movements. How can we broaden our ecclesiology and mission for the sake of the Kingdom?

Update from Restoration Church Loveland

Restoration Church Loveland, one of our newest church plants, has been busy this summer! Below are just a few of the amazing ways God worked through Restoration this summer:

- Playground equipment built for local school
- 17 new families at Winona Pool Party
- 225 people at Back to School Bash
- 50 launch team members
- 5 new financial partners
- 100+ each night at September movie nights
- 2 widows helped with property needs

We invite you to continue praying for Pastor Josh Ferris and the Restoration launch team as they prepare for their preview service to be held October 14.

Embracing Female Leadership

As we wrap up our reflections on the female clergy survey results, we explore how the church would be impacted if women were fully deployed in its mission. According to the survey, we would see increased mission potential and a greater understanding of God and his Kingdom.



The Church will only reach her full potential when all, both female and male, who are created in God's image are fully empowered and encouraged to follow Jesus in whatever role he has called them to. To be fully empowered to follow Jesus includes the difficult and wonderful work of sitting with Jesus, worshiping God, serving those around us in the power of the Spirit and sharing the good news of Jesus wherever we go. Having all of our sisters join fully in each of these life-giving activities would allow more and more people to join this Gospel movement. Imagine all the people who would be reached by God's voice moving through each and every one of us if all of us could fully participate in that kind of life. Let us be bold and encourage all of our sisters into this full life! – Pastor Greg Applequist, First Covenant, Omaha, NE

How has your Christian formation (and possibly your vocational ministry) been impacted by female leaders? And what can you do to advance female leadership in your church? Some churches are being intentional in making space for women leaders and pastors by giving them opportunities to be up front on Sunday mornings in the worship service and, in particular, to preach. Others are teaching their congregations about biblical gender equality through the *Biblically Side by Side* video series.

Where is your church in embracing female leadership and how can you take the next step?

Shalom Covenant Church

On Saturday, September 22, Shalom Covenant Church in Urbandale, IA, hosted an annual revival conference for African congregations from both Iowa and out of state. This year's theme focused on building strong and healthy families. The Shalom choir performed as part of the event.

The Shalom choir is available to sing and dance in your church. To schedule, contact Pastor Eugene Kiruhura at eugenekiruhura@yahoo.com. We encourage you to take advantage of this amazing worship opportunity!



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