



To encourage, equip, and connect women in Covenant Community as they pursue the fullness of Christ in their lives and within their sphere of influence.

April 7, 2021

Greetings Covenanters!

At the turn of the new year 2020, none of us anticipated the events that we were about to experience. Like all of you, Women Ministries (WM) had a great number of events that were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While we were quite disappointed at the many losses we experienced, we also look forward with great expectation to where God is moving us to in 2021 and beyond.

As some of you may know, a major ministry shift in WM between the denomination and the regional conferences took place in 2019, where all aspects of WM moved from the denominational (national) to the conference level. This shift was part of ministry realignment and the creation of new ministry focus called the Fostering of the Flourishing of Women, chaired by Marilyn Williams. The shift was somewhat abrupt in that there was not much time to preplan or prepare for it before it took place at the denominational level. As a result, immediately following our 2019 annual meeting and throughout 2020, our leadership team prayerfully sought and identified next steps in our missional ministry. We covenant together to:

- raise up and train new leaders from all generations and to provide opportunities for women to use their gifts in ministry within the Midwest Conference,
- provide opportunities for cross conference discipleship and spiritual formation,
- develop mission ministry partnerships both nationally & internationally,

At the 2019 WM Annual Meeting held at the Kansas Women Ministries Retreat new officers were elected and installed. Those elected to WM positions are: Tamara Hutsell - President, Amber Eaton - Vice President, Cindy Myers - Treasurer (also serves as secretary), LaDonna Rossander - Financial Secretary, Caroline Ecklund - Serve Global, and Jennifer Hedberg - KCMO Area Coordinator. Since this meeting, Jennifer Hedberg moved out of our conference and vacated her position. After graciously serving well beyond her appointed time, Caroline Ecklund has also finished her time on the MWC WM Board. We are grateful for both Jennifer and Caroline's contributions to the Midwest Conference in their respective ministry roles and with thanksgiving for their time and service, pray for God's continued leading in their lives as they continue to serve Him.

With the denominational changes mentioned above, the board has been discerning the best direction for our ministry as well as considering necessary updates to our constitution. These will be presented at our annual meeting this year in October. Part of the discernment process has been to identify and adapt some of our former board positions to more accurately and effectively administer the newly articulated ministry priorities of WM. With that, we are hopeful to identify three women to fill roles on our ministry team this summer. We are looking for women with gifts and passions in the areas of Mission Ministry, Spiritual Formation/Discipleship, and Communications.

We are excited to share the plans for two in person gatherings in 2021. The Colorado Women Ministries Retreat will be held at Glen Eyrie October 24-26 and will feature Sharon Garlough Brown, author of the Sensible Shoes series of books. The second gathering, which is new this year is the Breathe Gathering. We are partnering with Covenant Cedars to host a combined gathering for Kansas, Nebraska, & Iowa on October 1-3. Breathe will introduce a new format, featuring a speaking/equipping team comprised exclusively of women from the Midwest Conference. The gathering will also launch our conference mission project for 2021-22. More information about Breathe can be found at www.breathegathering.com. The Breathe Gathering will also host the 2021 Women Ministries Annual Meeting.

It is our prayer that you will join us in our excitement for the future of Women Ministries in the Midwest Conference. We believe you will be encouraged by the connection, growth, and ministry opportunities that are to come. We hope that you will partner with us, engaging in the work that the Lord has and is laying in front of us for 2021 and beyond.

Thank you for your prayers, your involvement, and financial support! We couldn't do what we do without you!

In Christ,

Tamara Hutsell, Midwest Conference Women Ministries President

