



The American Baptist Women in Ministry of the Central Region is a loosely organized group whose purpose is to support and encourage women who are serving in professional church ministry.

Some of us are full-time, some part-time; some retired, and some are in the middle of their ministerial life. Some are ordained and some are lay women; some have received a call from a church, while others are working at other professions, waiting for a church to recognize that God is calling a woman to fill their pulpit. Some are pastors and some chaplains. All of us are serving God in whatever we do and following God's call on our lives the best way we know.

The following letter comes from the National American Baptist Women In Ministry (ABWIM) Advisory Board. You may go to the link at the bottom of this page to add your name to the more than 800 signatures. (Or you can sign the letter at the ABCCR Women In Ministry booth, and Rev. Cheryl Harader, ABCCR WIM Adjunct, will add your name on-line.)

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The Biblical record and history teach us that through the Holy Spirit, God uses both women and men to fulfill God's purposes. Both men and women are created in the image of God. Both women and men are gifted for and called to ministry in God's plan.

Baptist women have served in ordained ministry for well over 100 years, and yet there are still places— even amongst our own beloved American Baptist Churches—where women's calls are denied or gifts for ministerial leadership dismissed.

American Baptist churches need the full array of gifts of both women and men to grow and flourish. When they are rejected, our churches lose rich resources. And our world suffers.

We, the undersigned American Baptist leaders, refuse to deny the calls or dismiss the gifts women bring to ministry.

We thereby urge all churches and call on church leaders to recognize and celebrate women's gifts for and call to professional ministry.

We further invite you to join us in taking bold and meaningful steps towards the full inclusion of women in American Baptist ministry and the full expression of their gifts.

It is our hope and prayer that we all may fully utilize our God given gifts and fully live out our God given call for the good of all and the glory of God!

http://www.abc-usa.org/what_we_believe/abc-organizations/abwim/openletter/ (Or you can go to www.ABWIM to click on the link in the middle of the first column.)

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