



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

advocating • connecting • networking

January 2017

Taking Risks, Standing Up by Pam Durso

I have never thought of myself as a risk taker, but lately I have begun thinking that about how I can be a



person of courage, one who takes risks to bring change, to work for renewal, to follow Jesus. One of my favorite stories about a risk-taking hero goes like this:

A twenty-six-year-old graduate student who was in the final stages of his doctoral work, began sending out resumes to churches. He had several opportunities but the church he felt drawn to was a smaller one. His pastor father had nothing good to say about that church or the town in which it was located. His mentor warned him not to accept the church, telling him that he would be intellectually stifled there and that the church would be the end of his ministerial career. Despite the discouragement, the young graduate student moved his young family to the new town and settled in to pastor and to write his dissertation.

About a year later his new town was in crisis. An angry conflict had erupted between the town's people and the town's leadership. Community leaders sought out the young pastor and asked him to step and negotiate a solution. He refused . . . after all he had sermons to preach, a dissertation to write, AND he was in the midst of finalizing the church budget for the next year. He was a busy pastor.

"Lord, I'm down here trying to do what's right. I still think I'm right. I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But Lord, I must confess that I'm weak now. I'm faltering. I'm losing my courage. Now I am afraid. And I can't let the people see me like this because if they see me weak and losing my courage, they will begin to get weak. The people are looking to me for leadership, and if I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone."

And then King heard a voice, saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness. Stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And lo, I am with you. Even until the end of the world."

On that evening, at his kitchen table, Martin Luther King, Jr. embraced a vision for a new world, a radically transformed world, but it a vision that would require great courage, great persistence . . . and would require taking a great risk.

He was an ordinary man—a young husband and father, a new pastor. He wasn't looking for a movement or a cause. He was just trying to get a sermon written every week and do a little research for that dissertation but then God called on him to take a risk.

Just like King, I am an ordinary person—a wife and mother, a leader, a minister. I don't see myself as a crusader or protester.

Just like King, I am busy. I spend my days living in the details of daily life and ministry work. I don't have time on my calendar for any additional causes or

But the community leaders were persistent—and they wore him down. The young pastor finally agreed to head up anew committee. His heart wasn't really in it, but he decided that he could get this problem straightened out in a few days. But the conflict went on and on—despite his articulate and persuasive leadership.

And then one late night, the young pastor was at a turning point. He had been arrested earlier that day, put in the back of a police car. The officers drove not toward the police station but in a direction that he was not familiar with. Suddenly he realized that his life might be in danger. The officers eventually took him to the police station, but the pastor now knew that he had to either give himself to this cause or walk away. He could no longer be a half-hearted leader. He was going to have to take a risk if this bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, was going to bring real change.

When Martin Luther King, Jr. finally got home that evening, he paced around the kitchen and then sat down and prayed:

efforts.

But just like King, I have heard the voice—the one that says, "Stand up for righteousness. Stand up for truth. Stand up for justice."

This week we have celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and in the midst of remembering his leadership and courage, I have heard the quiet call of the Spirit to take more risks, to open myself more fully to the messy work of grace and reconciliation. And I know without a doubt, because of the example that King provided for us all, that one ordinary person who is willing to follow the Spirit, one ordinary person who decides to take risks for the sake of the gospel, one ordinary person who takes a stand . . . that one person can make a huge difference in the community, in the nation, in the world.

May we all hear the call of the Spirit and be willing to stand up for righteousness, for truth, for justice.

Pam Durso

Support Baptist Women in Ministry



All the work Baptist Women in Ministry does and all the ways in which this organization contributes to the shifting Baptist culture are happening because of people like you who believe in and support our ministry and who share in our mission of affirming all those whom God has gifted for ministry. Please consider this an invitation to be part of all these good things that BWIM is doing. Your support makes all of this and more possible.

You can mail in a check to BWIM at P. O. Box 941294, Atlanta, GA 31141-1294, or make an online contribution by clicking below on

GIVE TO BWIM. Every contribution matters, and we are grateful for the faithfulness and generosity of all who support this ministry.

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Ordination Resources



In Baptist life, ordination to the gospel ministry is a church's recognition of God's calling and gifting. Baptist churches are widely diverse in the process of ordination, but most Baptist churches are unified in that the service of ordination provides a time of affirmation and blessing for the minister.

Because careful planning and preparation can add depth and richness to that time of worship, Baptist Women in Ministry has gathered resources meant to assist in the planning of an ordination service. Those resources may be found on the [BWIM website](#) and include litanies,

poems, blessings, responses, and charges, all used in previous ordination services. We hope these resources will be helpful to you.

Lisa Zahalka was ordained on January 9, 2017 by Trinity Baptist Church in Bloomfield, Kentucky.

Placement Resources Available

Have an ministry interview coming up soon!? Check out the Baptist Women in Ministry website for resources that will help you know what to expect and to prepare.

The Placement Page has real questions used by real churches in interviews like: "Describe your management and leadership style. What are your strongest skills and abilities as a leader? How do you work with and utilize lay leaders in your current position?"

Baptist Women in Ministry has compiled the following resources to help those of you in the search mode:

"Finding a Ministry Position: Tips for the Journey" by Pam Durso

"Questions for the Candidate"

"Questions for the Candidate, Congregation, and Committee"

More resources are coming soon. If you have suggestions or have found a helpful resource, please email Ashley Robinson at ashleyrobinson@bwim.info.

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching is fast approaching! **February 2017** is almost here! Last year 211 churches joined together in affirming their support of women in the pulpit. We hope your church will be among those who will publicly voice a commitment to women in ministry.

If you already have made plans to participate, send in your church and preacher's name to Ashley Robinson at ashleyrobinson@bwim.info.

If you need help connecting with a preacher, please contact Pam Durso at pamdurso@bwim.info.

For more information about Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, visit the [BWIM website](#).

Deborah Reeves was the 2016 MSM preacher at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.



Leading Women Gathering



Baptist Women in Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will co-host Leading Women, a three-day gathering that will include conversation, worship, leadership development, and networking opportunities.

The gathering will be held **April 26-28, 2017**, at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Preachers for the event are **Carol McEntyre** and **Meredith Stone**.

Key speakers include **Kasey Jones**, **Molly T. Marshall**, and **Suzi Paynter**.

Registration is open! Cost is \$90. Students can attend for \$50. [Learn more and register here.](#)

We hope you will join us in celebrating the influence and voices of women from across the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship movement. All women, laity and clergy, are welcome.



Meredith Stone



Ordinations

Lisa Zahalka was ordained on January 9, 2017 by Trinity Baptist Church in Bloomfield, Kentucky.

On the Move

Stephanie Bohannon is associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Amy Hamilton is minister of preschool and children at First Baptist Church, Kannapolis, North Carolina.

Shelby Jones is youth minister at Oakland Baptist Church, Gum Spring, Virginia.

Elizabeth Maye is associate pastor of youth and family life at First Baptist Church, New Bern, North Carolina.

Carrie Nettles is chaplain at the Julie Valetine Center, Greenville, South Carolina.

Betsy Perkins is pastor at First Baptist Church, Delavan, Wisconsin.

Alicia Porterfield is associate pastor of adult education at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington, West Virginia.

Linda Rackliffe is pastor at Chester Congregational Baptist Church, Chester, New Hampshire.

Sally Sarratt is co-pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Katie Stamps is director of children's ministry at Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Maria Swearingen is co-pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Candy Wilson is associate pastor of music and adults at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

Baptist Women in Ministry of South Carolina

Baptist Women in Ministry of South Carolina has a new blog! Visit bwimsc.com to read more about the reflections, resources, and stories this blog will offer.

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry

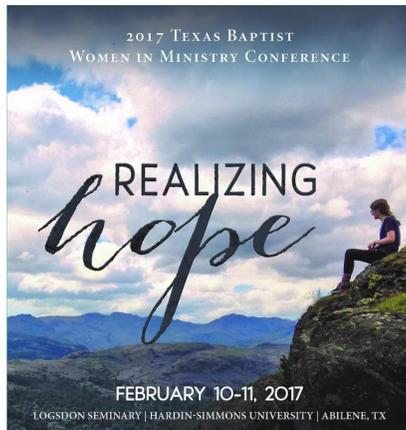
Texas Baptist Women in Ministry invite you to its annual Women in Ministry Conference, "Realizing

Hope" on **February 10-11, 2017** at Logsdon Seminary in Abilene, Texas.

The conference keynote speaker is **Reinta Weems**, a biblical scholar, academic administrator, writer, and ordained minister. The conference preacher is **Meredith Stone**, director of ministry guidance and Instructor of Christian Ministry and Scripture on the faculty of Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University.

The cost is \$25 and \$5 for students.

For more information about speakers, schedule, and registration, visit the [Texas Baptist Women in Ministry website](#).



Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia will host their annual gathering on **March 25, 2017** at Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. Be on the lookout for more details in the coming months.

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia has recently unveiled a new website. You may now visit Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia at www.bwimga.com.

Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina

Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina's 2017 Convocation. Convocation will be held at First Baptist Church in Hickory on **March 31, 2017**. **Pam Durso** will be the convocation preacher. More details will be coming soon.

Women's Pilgrimage to France

Beth McConnell and Christy McMillian-Goodwin are leading a pilgrimage to France on **April 21-30, 2017** to visit places that hold special significance for women of faith, who served and sacrificed much. The trip will include visits to the Shrine of Saint Genevieve and Saint Joan of Arc Church and Tower as well as conversation with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel, Julie Brown.

The total cost of the trip is \$3750. Learn more by [viewing the brochure](#).

Please contact [Beth](#) or [Christy](#) with any questions.

Open Ministry Positions

Positions are listed by state, city, open position, church name.

BWIM collects these openings from a wide variety of sources, and the degree of openness to women ministers among the listed churches varies. In its effort to advocate, network, and connect, BWIM provides this list as a resource to those searching for ministry positions.

ALABAMA

McCalla-Minister to Students-The Baptist Church at McAdory

Mountain Brook-Minister to Children and Families-Brookwood Baptist Church

CONNECTICUT

Wilton-Pastor-Wilton Baptist Church

DELAWARE

Dover-Pastor-Calvary Baptist Church

FLORIDA

St. Petersburg-Minister to Children-First Baptist Church

Tallahassee-Pastor-First Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Atlanta-Associate Pastor-Northside Drive Baptist Church

Augusta-Minister of Contemporary Worship and Worship Technology-First Baptist Church

Dahlonega-Pastor-Dahlonega Baptist Church

Decatur-Pastor of Christian Education and Community Engagement-Oakhurst Baptist Church

Hawkinsville-Minister to Youth and Children-First Baptist Church

Madison-Minister of Music-Madison Baptist Church

Newnan-Pastor-Central Baptist Church

INDIANA

Terre Haute-Associate Pastor of Music and Worship-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Georgetown-Music/Worship Position-Faith Baptist Church

Louisville-Associate Pastor of Youth and Their Families-Highland Baptist Church

Louisville-Minister to Families-Ridgewood Baptist Church

Williamsburg-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church

LOUISIANA

Zachary-Media and Communications Director-First Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Rockville-Minister/Director of Music-Twinbrook Baptist Church

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor-Chaplain-University of Michigan Hospital System

MISSOURI

California-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Nevada-Worship Pastor-First Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Boone-Associate Pastor with Youth-First Baptist Church

Buies Creek-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Chapel Hill-Contemporary Worship Leader-Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

Chapel Hill-Minister of Children-Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

Chapel Hill-Pastor-Binkley Memorial Baptist Church

Clinton-Associate Pastor for Music Ministries-First Baptist Church

Drexel-Associate Pastor of Youth and Families-First Baptist Church

Durham-Director of Music Ministries-Watts Street Baptist Church

Hendersonville-Pastor-Providence Baptist Church

Huntersville-Minister of Worship-First Baptist Church

Morehead City-Children and Families Outreach Minister-First Baptist Church

Mt. Airy-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church

New Bern-Associate Pastor of Christian Education-First Baptist Church

Shelby-Minister of Discipleship and Administration-Elizabeth Baptist Church

Smithfield-Minister to Children and Families, First Baptist Church

Williamston-Youth Minister-Williamston Memorial Baptist Church

Wilmington-Associate Pastor-Masonboro Baptist Church

Wilmington-Pastor-Winter Park Baptist Church

Winston-Salem-Associate Pastor for Youth, Adults, and Missions-First Baptist Church on Fifth

Winston-Salem-Programs Manager-Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Winston-Salem-Chaplain-Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries

PENNSYLVANIA

Valley Forge- General Secretary-American Baptist Churches USA

TEXAS

Bartlett-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Chappel Hill-Associate Pastor, Worship and Ministry Development-First Baptist Church

Corpus Christi-Pastor-Calallen Baptist Church

Cuero-Youth Minister-First Baptist Church

Granbury-Pastor to Families and Children-First Baptist Church

Kilgore-Associate Pastor of Student Ministries-First Baptist Church

Plainview-Family Minister-First Baptist Church

Queen City-Worship Leader-First Baptist Church

Rosebud-Pastor-Cedar Springs Baptist Church

San Marcos-Music of Music and Church Administration-First Baptist Church

Vernon-Minister of Music-Calvary Baptist Church

Waco-Minister of Music-Bosqueville Baptist Church

Waco-Pastor-Calvary Baptist Church

Yoakum-Pastor-Austin Street Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Bremo Bluff-Pastor-West Bottom Baptist Church

Charlottesville-Pastor-University Baptist Church

Earlysville-Associate Pastor for Youth-Chestnut Grove Baptist Church

Greenville-Pastor-Greenville Baptist Church

McLean-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Mechanicsville-Youth Minister-Mechanicsville Baptist Church

Newport News-Associate Pastor of Student Ministries-Orcutt Baptist Church

Norfolk-Pastor-Freemason Street Baptist Church

Powhatan-Minister for Children and Youth-May Memorial Baptist Church

Richmond-Accompanist-Ginter Park Baptist Church

Richmond-Pastor-Jahnke Road Baptist Church

Roanoke-Director of Children and Youth Ministries-Rosalind Hills Baptist Church

Troutville-Pastor-Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

West Point-Pastor-Colosse Baptist Church

Woodbridge-Minister to Children-First Baptist Church

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Baptist Women in Ministry exists to be a catalyst in Baptist life, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate and nurture the gifts and graces of women.

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