



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

advocating • connecting • networking

August 2016

Back to School

by Ashley Robinson

I have a recurring nightmare that I am back in high school math class and the teacher won't let me leave until I can solve a quadratic equation. These nightmares usually leave me dammy-handed and wide awake, until I can soothe myself back to sleep by repeating in my head, "That's not real. You're done with school. You never have to do that again." But, I was reminded that my "nevers" always catch up with me as I was preparing for my first seminary class through the [Women's Leadership Initiative at Central Baptist Theological Seminary](#).

Before I arrived to our first intensive spiritual formation class this past weekend, I was afraid that I would be just as out of place in seminary as I was in the math class of my recurring nightmares. It turns out that "first day jitters" are still with me, even though, if we're counting, I just started 20th grade. Many of the same first day questions and doubts swirled in my head. Will I make any friends? Will I belong? What if I don't know the answers? Will I be able to watch my mouth so I don't get kicked out—surely there is not a principal's office in seminary, right?

Thankfully, all of my nerves and questions were put to rest within the first few minutes around the table with the cohort that will be on this seminary journey with me. We listened to each other's stories, and with each, "me too," we relaxed into a sisterhood. We asked hard questions and made sacred space for all of our unique answers. But, still there was one question that I was dreading—the one about my call.



The members of the 2016 Women's Leadership Initiative Cohort of Central Baptist Theological Seminary pictured at Conception Abbey.

The first time someone said to me, "tell me about your call," I realized very quickly that "Um, um, I really just want to be the [Vicar of Dibley](#)," is not a sufficient answer. So, after much time struggling to voice *why* I am going to seminary and *what* I feel called to, I stumbled into this answer: I am called to a ministry that involves showing up for the hurting, speaking up for the oppressed, welcoming the questioners, and giving all that I am to all of the God that I know. Even though it took me a while to craft, that answer is still a bit too long for someone who just wants an "elevator spiel."

The trouble is that I have been operating under the false assumption that calling is just a churchy word for job title, which explains why it has been so hard for me to answer questions about my calling. But, after each member of the



The WLI cohort's first meeting around the table in the "zoom room" at Central Baptist Theological Seminary.

cohort spent time telling our stories, Central's president, Molly T. Marshall, shared this wisdom with us, "A calling is not just about what we are going to do for other people. A calling is an expression of God's delight in us."

Learning to settle into the truth that there is a God who not only called me to something, but also delights in me is the first lesson from seminary that I am walking through. I don't have to walk this journey alone, as I will have the companionship and support of my WLI cohort, Baptist Women in Ministry, my church, and my friends and family.

Thanks be to God.

-Ashley Robinson

BWIM's Annual Gathering Recap

The annual Baptist Women in Ministry gathering was held on June 22, 2016 at First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

A sanctuary full of over 500 worshipers sang together, led by **Ossie McKinney**, minister of music at Faith Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, and heard a powerful, prophetic sermon on preached by **Emily Hull McGee**, pastor of First Baptist Church on Fifth.

Communion was led by **Tonya and Jeffrey Vickery**, co-pastors of **Cullowhee Baptist Church, Cullowhee, North Carolina**.

Following worship, 400 people enjoyed a fun food truck lunch.

[WATCH THE WORSHIP SERVICE](#)

Support Baptist Women in Ministry

Be a supporter of our work. Help us as we seek to advocate for women ministers, provide resources for ministers and churches, and continue in promoting Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, our e-newsletter and blog, and placement assistance!

We welcome you to be one of our givers. Give a **one-time gift** or **become a monthly giver!** A small monthly gift of \$10 or \$20 or a larger monthly gift of \$50 or \$75 makes a significant difference in this work that God has entrusted to us! Every contribution matters, and we are grateful for the faithfulness and generosity of all who support this ministry.

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.

Placement Resources

Searching for a ministry position can be a full-time job. Knowing where to start can even be challenging. To help reduce some of the anxiety of the search, Baptist Women in Ministry has compiled a variety of resources to help those who are in search mode, including:

"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.

Monday Devotions

Each Monday Baptist Women in Ministry posts a devotion written by our friend, **Nikki Finkelstein-Blair**. The devotions are based on lectionary texts and the church calendar! For those who are in lectionary-using churches, be sure to read Nikki's devotion each Monday as you prepare for the coming Sunday's worship.

In her most recent lectionary devotion, **"What Cannot Be Shaken,"** Nikki wrote:

"Forgive us for thinking we could live unshakable lives. Thank you for shaking us, for shaking away everything that is not you, so that we can at last be truly yours."

May the day come soon when we hear God's voice, when the worlds we have built begin to tremble under our feet. May it even be today."



Nikki Finkelstein-Blair blogs at [One Faithful Step](#).

[Read more on the BWIM blog](#)

Ordinations

Zana Kizzee was ordained by Fredericksburg Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia on July 31, 2016.

Kelly Lashly was ordained by First Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on July 2nd, 2016.

Luminitza Nichols will be ordained by The Baptist Church of West Chester, West Chester, Pennsylvania, on August 7, 2016.

On the Move

Shana Bailey is music minister at First Baptist Church, Sherman, Texas.

Lisa Baker is minister to children and families at Wake Forest Baptist Church, Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Elizabeth Banks is worship leader at Brook Hollow Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Belinda Ferguson is interim children's pastor at First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Katie Fields is pastor at Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Debbie Moody is director of festivals for the Academy of Preachers, Lexington, Kentucky.

Nancy Moore is administrator and disaster relief coordinator at Blackwater Baptist Association, Windsor, Virginia.

Megan Pike is executive director at Lake Nixon at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Rebecca Sommons is pastor at First Baptist Church, Manchester Center, Vermont.

Diane Touch is pastor at First Baptist Church, Huntington, Indiana.

Leading Women Save the Date: April 26-28, 2017

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Women in Ministry will host **Leading Women**, a three-day gathering that will include conversation, worship, leadership development, and networking opportunities and will be held **April 26-28, 2017**, at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Join us in celebrating the influence and voices of women from across the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship movement. All women, laity and clergy, are welcome.

Women in Ministry Conference

A Women in Ministry (WIM) Conference sponsored by Cynthia L. Hale Ministries will be held **September 19-22, 2016**, at the Westin Atlanta Airport in Atlanta, Georgia.

The conference will be an inspiring, powerful, and informative week of coaching, developing, and mentoring for professional women serving in ministry. The theme for this year is "What Does the Lord Require? Exploring the Tension of Doing Ministry in Changing Times!"

The registration deadline is August 15, 2016. For additional info and to register, [visit their website](#).

Women of Color in Ministry Conference

The Fourth Annual Women of Color in Ministry Conference will be held **October 13-October 15, 2016**, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville, California, and will feature national Asian American, African American, and Hispanic women leaders and preachers.

Workshops include:

"Financial Literacy and Retirement Planning for Millennials and Older Women Clergy"

"Living into Your Identity as a Leader Step by Step"

"Balancing Spiritual and Physical Well-Being and Family"

"Bivocationalism and the New World of Work in Ministry"

"Branding and Social Media: Why Many Women Clergy Do Not Exist"



MILLENNIALS & MOTHERS OF THE FAITH:
Women of ALL Ages and Races Working Together

**4TH WOMEN OF COLOR IN
MINISTRY CONFERENCE**

SAVE THE DATE
OCT. 13-15, 2016

HILTON GARDEN INN San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge (510) 658-9300	AMAZING SPEAKERS and Workshops Women Clergy Need	INFO: womenofcolorinministry@gmail.com	WEBSITE: www.womenofcolorinministry.org
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COLLABORATING PARTNERS

- ◆ American Baptist Seminary of the West
- ◆ Church Divinity School of the Pacific
- ◆ GTU Women's Studies in Religion Program
- ◆ Institute for the Study of Asian American Christianity (ISAAC)
- ◆ Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- ◆ Pacific School of Religion
- ◆ Star King School for the Ministry

The registration fee is \$ 150.00. For more information, visit the [Women of Color in Ministry website](#)

The 21st York-Hall Women's Preaching Annual

Wayland Baptist Theological Seminary will host the 21st York-Hall Women's Preaching Annual on **November 28-December 2, 2016** at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The theme is "Every Hero Has Herstory!" Confirmed preachers, presenters, and personalities include Pam Durso, Marissa R. Farrow, Bernadette Glover, Joel Gregory, John Harris, Carolyn Ann Knight, Thomasine Reid, Sophia Steibel, and Deshawnda Williams.

Early Bird Registration is \$125 through August 20. General Registration is \$200.00. For more information [visit their website](#).

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

Anniston-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Birmingham-Executive Pastor-Brookwood Baptist Church
Huntsville-Minister to Young Adults-First Baptist Church
Huntsville-Student Ministry Residency-First Baptist Church
Jacksonville-Minister of Music, Family, and Children-First Baptist Church of Williams
Mobile-Pastor-Spring Hill Baptist Church
Mountain Brook-Minister to Children and Families-Brookwood Baptist Church

ARKANSAS

Little Rock-Executive Director, Lake Nixon Ministry-Second Baptist Church

CALIFORNIA

Anaheim-Pastor-Anaheim Baptist Fellowship
Oakland-Church Business Manager-Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church

FLORIDA

Jacksonville-Minister to Youth/Students-Deermeadows Baptist Church
Orlando-Professor of Theology-Asbury Theological Seminary
Tallahassee-Senior Pastor-First Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Augusta-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Augusta- Business Administrator- First Baptist Church
Augusta- Interim Children's Director- First Baptist Church
Cartersville-Youth/Associate Pastor-Heritage Baptist Church
Claxton-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Dalton-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Demorest-Campus Minister-Piedmont College
Forsyth-Senior Pastor-First Baptist Church
Gainesville-Chaplain-Gentiva Hospice
Jefferson-Minister of Children and Families-First Baptist Church
Lyons-Pastor-Oaks Baptist Church
Macon-Customer Service Representative-Smyth & Helwys Publishers
Macon-Editorial Production Associate-Smyth & Helwys Publishers
Monroe-Pastor-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green-Minister of Music-First Baptist Church
Brandenburg-Minister of Youth and Children-First Baptist Church
Carlisle-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Elizabethtown-Youth and Families Minister-Living Faith Baptist Fellowship
Georgetown-Associate Pastor of Children and Family Ministries-Georgetown Baptist Church
Jefferson-Minister of Children and Families- First Baptist Church
Louisville-Pastor-Okolona Baptist Church
Louisville-Pastor-Buechel Baptist Church
Louisville-Youth Pastor-Mount Everest General Baptist Church
Midway-Student Minister-Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church
Morehead-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church
Owensboro-Pastor-Third Baptist Church

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge-Pastor-Broadmoor Baptist Church

MAINE

Westbrook-Pastor-First Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Dunkirk-Senior Pastor-Dunkirk Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Clinton-Children's Minister-First Baptist Church
Gainesville-Pastor-First Baptist Church

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hanover-Pastor and Campus Minister of Dartmouth College-Trinity Baptist Church

NEW MEXICO

Clovis-Senior Pastor-Central Baptist Church

NEW YORK

Brooklyn-Assistant Pastor-Plymouth Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Boiling Springs-Associate Pastor for Music and Adults-Boiling Springs Baptist Church
Burgaw-Pastor-Burgaw Baptist Church
Cary-Associate Chaplain-Glenaire Retirement Community
Candler-Pastor of Student Life and Community Engagement-Hominy Baptist Church
Canton-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Charlotte-Minister of Music-Myers Park Baptist Church
Clayton-Pastor-White Oak Baptist Church
Durham-Minister of Discipleship and Children-Durham Memorial Baptist Church
Durham-Interim Director of Child Development Center-Yates Baptist Association
Edenton-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church
Elkin-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church
Elon-Senior Pastor-Elon First Baptist Church at Morgan Place

Goldsboro-Minister of Music-First Baptist Church
Kernersville-Minister of Church Life-First Baptist Church
Lenoir-Student Minister-College Avenue Baptist Church
Locust-Minister to Children and Youth-First Baptist Church
Marble Springs-Youth Minister-Marble Springs Baptist Church
Mt. Airy-Pastor-Antioch Baptist Church
New Bern-Minister of Youth-First Baptist Church
North Wilkesboro-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Raleigh-Associate Pastor of Families-Tabernacle Baptist Church
Raleigh-Chaplain-Meredith College
Raleigh-Camp Mundo Vista Year-Round Program/Summer Camp Director-WMU of NC
Raleigh-Associate Chaplain- Springmoor Retirement Community
Richlands-Pastor-Bethany Baptist Church
Rose Hill-Pastor-Evergreen Baptist Church
Sims-Pastor-Nobles Chapel Baptist Church
Wake Forest-Minister of Youth and Missions-Wake Forest Baptist Church
Wilmington-Pastor-Temple Baptist Church
Winston-Salem-Associate Pastor-Ardmore Baptist Church
Winston-Salem-Programs Manager-Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina
Winston-Salem-Chaplain-Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministries

OKLAHOMA

Bartlesville-Worship Pastor-Highland Park Baptist
Lindsay-Youth/Worship Pastor-Calvary Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Clemson-Minister of Youth and College Students-First Baptist Church
Clinton-Associate Pastor for Music Ministries-First Baptist Church
Columbia-Minister to Families-St. Andrews Baptist Church
Columbia-Pastor-Eau Claire Baptist Church
Easley-Children's Minister-First Baptist Church
Greenville-Chaplain Residency Program-Greenville Health System

TENNESSEE

Jefferson City-Senior Pastor-First Baptist Church
Maryville-Senior Pastor-First Baptist Church
Memphis-Minister of Music and Worship-Second Baptist Church (PT)
Murfreesboro-Field Coordinator- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Tennessee
Nashville-Senior Pastor-Criewood Baptist Church
Nashville-Senior Pastor-Woodmont Baptist Church

TEXAS

Aspermont-Pastor- First Baptist Church
Austin-Senior Pastor- First Baptist Church
Bagwell-Pastor- Leesville Baptist Church
Conroe-Pastor- Riverpointe Baptist
Dallas-Pastor-Royal Lane Baptist Church
Jewett-Pastor- First Baptist Church
Kingwood-Pastor- Woodridge Baptist Church
Lubbock-Minister of Youth- Indiana Avenue Baptist Church
Queen City-Worship Leader- First Baptist Church
New Braunfels-Music Minister- First Baptist Church
Sandia-Associate Pastor- West Shores Baptist Church
San Antonio-Pastor-Oak Ridge Baptist Church
San Antonio-Minister of Music and Worship Arts-Trinity Baptist Church
Van Horn-Pastor- First Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Blacksburg-Minister of Youth and Communications- Blacksburg Baptist Church
Blacksburg-Associate Minister to Students-Blacksburg Baptist Church
Charles City-Associate/Youth Pastor- Samaria Baptist Church
Charlottesville-Senior Pastor- Broadus Memorial Baptist Church
Collinsville-Associate Pastor of Families and Youth- First Baptist Church
Culpeper-Senior Adult Minister/Chaplain- Culpeper Baptist Church
Franklin-Minister of Music, Youth, and Children- Sycamore Baptist Church
Lynchburg-Senior Pastor- College Hill Baptist Church
Manakin-Sabo-Interim Pastor- Goochland Baptist Church
Mechanicsville-Senior Pastor- New Highland Baptist Church
Mechanicsville-Associate Pastor to Youth and Families-Black Creek Baptist Church
Mechanicsville-Minister to Students and Families/Associate Pastor-New Bethesda Baptist Church
Midlothian-Pastor-Tomahawk
Milford-Minister to Students and Families- Salem Baptist Church
New Kent-Pastor- Hopewell Baptist Church

Newport News-Associate Pastor of Student Ministries- Orcutt Baptist Church
Norfolk-Senior Pastor-Freemason Street Baptist Church
Richmond- Minister of Music- Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church
Richmond-1-2 year Residency- First Baptist Church
Richmond-Pastor- River Road Baptist Church
Troutville-Pastor-Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Virginia Beach-Senior Pastor-King's Grant Baptist Church
Waynesboro-Minister to Families with Children- First Baptist Church
Williamsburg- Senior Pastor- Walnut Hills Baptist Church

WASHINGTON, DC

Pastor-Calvary 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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