

Baptist Women in Ministry News

October 2019

A Word from Pam Durso



September was a busy BWIM month! We kicked off our inaugural Come to the Table event, inviting Baptist women ministers to gather for conversation and a meal or coffee AND to share a photo of their time around the table. These gatherings are, of course, more than a photo opportunity or a social media share. These gatherings are about taking time to build relationships, creating space for meaningful conversations with other ministers, and sitting together to enjoy a meal.

During the week of September 15, nineteen Come to the Table events took place in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Uganda, Virginia/Washington DC, and 105 women participated! One of the events was a virtual lunch held on Zoom with women from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Kenya, and Virginia.

We hope that from these Come to the Table events will come new friendships, future shared meals, and good conversations!



September also was the month in which BWIM and Texas BWIM hosted a call discernment retreat at Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Our retreat began as Tropical Storm Imelda moved out of the city and as the flooding began to dissipate. Despite those weather challenges, eighteen students and eleven leaders came together for times of worship and small group discussion and bowling! New friendships were forged, and there were lots of tears and laughter.

Pictures: Huntsville, Alabama Come to the Table lunch and Kansas City, Missouri Come to the Table lunch



Finally, in September BWIM received applications for the 2020-2021 Mentoring Group Program. The program has undergone much updating and expansion as a result of a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. By the time the deadline for applications came, we had received fifty! Women from twenty states and one other country applied. Women from nine Baptist denominations applied. We are excited to have so many fabulous applicants! The only sad part is that our program only has space and funding for twenty participants, and in the next weeks, Julie Long and I will be making hard decisions.

Numbers are important—because each number represents an amazing woman, a woman who is seeking to connect to the work God is doing in this world and who is finding support and encouragement through the events, programs, and efforts of Baptist Women in Ministry!

SUPPORTING BWIM

All the work Baptist Women in Ministry does and all the ways in which this organization contributes to the shift in 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 possible.



MAKE A GIFT

SECOND SHORT FILM SET FOR NOVEMBER RELEASE

A second short documentary on female Baptist pastors will release this November.

“No. 2: Tonya,” produced in partnership by Baptist Women in Ministry and EthicsDaily.com, will be available to stream online for free via BWIM.info and EthicsDaily.com on Nov. 9.

Tonya Easterly Vickery, co-pastor of Cullowhee Baptist Church in Cullowhee, North Carolina, with her husband, Jeffrey, is the focus of this second film in the series.

“This newest film release by BWIM-EthicsDaily features funny stories, sweet stories, and hard stories from Tonya’s ministry journey and highlights her family’s commitment to and their vision for shared ministry and leadership,” says Pam Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry and a producer of the film.

The 20-minute film is structured around Tonya’s work within a co-pastoring model, and it features interviews with Tonya, Jeffrey, their two daughters, and four church members.



“A pastor friend once said to me, ‘Co-pastoring is impossible. It can’t be done. Someone has to be THE leader,’” says Durso. “My friend, Tonya Vickery, is living proof that co-pastoring can be done and done beautifully.” The Vickerys have co-pastored Cullowhee Baptist for 18 years.

“Theirs is a collaborative ministry,” adds Durso. “They share the pulpit. They make decisions as a team. And they have created a radically relational community at Cullowhee Baptist Church, where the priesthood of the believer is not simply a concept. It is the lived reality of their congregation.”

A release party will take place on the campus of Western Carolina University (Bardo Arts Center, Room 130) in Cullowhee, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8. The film will go online the next day.

MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS

In 2019, BWIM is hosting monthly conversations via the online meeting platform Zoom. Each month’s conversation will feature either a topic of interest or be intended for a particular group of women ministers. Some conversations will be educational in nature; others will offer support and networking opportunities.

The conversations will include special guest speakers. Sign up to below participate. Instructions for connecting to the call will be sent out the week prior to the conversation.

Conversation Topics and Dates

Thursday, November 14, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EST—“A Conversation about Ministry Transitions: Preparing to Leave and Leaving Well” with special guest **Zoricelis Davila**. Zoricelis is a bilingual psychotherapist at Puerta de Esperanza: Bilingual Counseling & Psychotherapy (Door of Hope), Fort Worth, Texas.

[SIGN UP FOR THE CONVERSATIONS](#)

ORDINATION RESOURCES

Baptist Women in Ministry has gathered ordination resources that can help with the planning of an ordination service, including litanies, poems, blessings, responses, and charges, all used in previous ordination services.

Our website also has resources for pastoral installation services. We hope these resources will be helpful to you as you prepare for your significant days of celebration.

[ORDINATION RESOURCES](#)



Allison Joy Rogers was ordained on September 29 by St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

THE BWIM BLOG

Baptist Women in Ministry posts blogs every Wednesday and Friday. The 2019 Wednesday blog theme has been "Find Your Voice and Use It" and has featured numerous writers. Every Friday, the blog, "THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE," features an interview with an amazing minister. Last Friday, October 11, Grace Powell Freeman was the minister interviewed. Grace IS what a minister looks like!



[READ THE BLOG](#)

MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES

Baptist Women in Ministry offers resources and assistance both to churches searching for a minister and ministers searching for a new position.

Churches and candidates in need of assistance may now submit information, job descriptions, and resumes online via BWIM's Ministry Search Registration Forms. BWIM's assistance is provided as a ministry, and there are no fees for these services.

[MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES](#)

SAFE CHURCHES and MINISTERS:

CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE RESOURCES

The Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a joint partnership between Baptist Women in Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, have released two significant resources developed for use by churches, seminaries, and partnering organizations. **"Safe Churches and Ministers"** is an educational video that introduces this tough topic and provides much-needed definitions, statistics, and stories that are designed to help churches, students, and leaders take seriously their responsibility in preventing abuse. The video is accompanied by a leader guide and a discussion guide and is available in both English and Spanish.

"Clergy Sexual Abuse Prevention Recommendations for Churches" is a collection of prevention guidelines and documents intended to prompt congregations to create their own policies, procedures, processes and covenants. This resource will assist churches in holding clergy and lay leaders accountable and will prepare churches to respond appropriately if abuse is reported.

The release of these two resources marks an important milestone in the work of the Task Force and we are committed to continue forward in our efforts. We ask that you pray for the task force as we keep working to bring attention to and educate those in our Baptist circles about clergy sexual abuse.

SAFE CHURCHES AND
MINISTERS VIDEO

SAFE CHURCH
RESOURCES

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

BWIM of Heartland

Baptist Women in Ministry of the Heartland hosts monthly lunches for ministers in the Kansas City area. Visit the Baptist Women in Ministry - Missouri Facebook page for more information.

BWIM of the Heartland



BWIM of Georgia

BWIM of Georgia and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia will host a celebratory dinner on Sunday, **November 3** at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The dinner and worship will be held at First Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia, and the preacher for worship is Emily Hull McGee. Both BWIM of Georgia and CBF of Georgia will present their annual awards and recognitions during the dinner.

Virginia BWIM

Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry will host a dinner on **November 12** during the annual Baptist General Association of Virginia meeting. The dinner will be held at Bonsack Baptist Church in Roanoke, and the cost is \$10. To reserve and pay for your meal, visit the [BGAV website](#).

Save the date for the annual Feast on May 1, 2020, which will be held at University Baptist Church in Charlottesville.

Texas BWIM

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry will host its 2020 conference on **February 18, 2020** at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas.

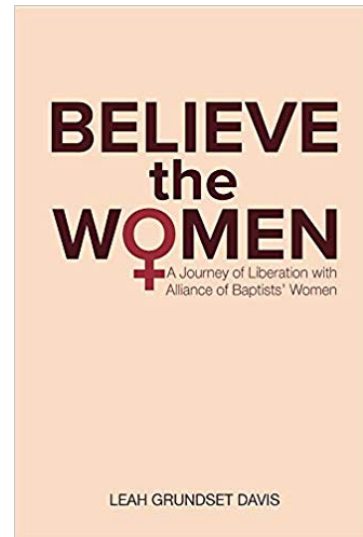
Texas BWIM



RESOURCES FOR WOMEN MINISTERS

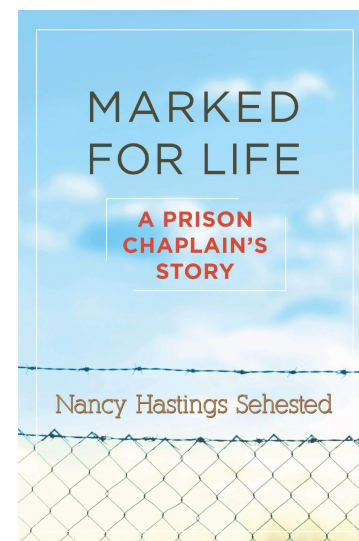
New Books

Believe the Women by Leah Grundset Davis celebrates the power and brilliance of sisterhood by interweaving the stories of ordained Alliance of Baptist clergy women with Mary's song. Davis centers the Magnificat and testifies to the ways in which women have used their voices to challenge and change the narrative in every aspect of society, especially in the church. This is the book that I desperately needed as a young Baptist woman seminarian in search of my voice and examples of women leaders in Scripture and ministry. --*Theresa S. Thames, Associate Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*



This beautifully told narrative of a church pastor who became a state chaplain in high-security prisons for men knits together the stories of inmates with those of her own. Chronicling events during her thirteen-year stint, Nancy Sehested in ***Marked for Life: A Prison Chaplain's Story*** describes how she bore witness to misery and miracles within an oftentimes inhuman system.

Nancy was one of the founding mothers of Baptist Women in Ministry.



Scholastica will host lunches on November 1 and December 6 at Glendale Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Vicki Violette, associate coordinator of Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, is the speaker on Friday, **November 1**. Her topic is "Preventing Sexual Abuse Within Churches."

The lunch costs at \$12.50 and begins at 11:45 a.m. and will be catered by Taziki's.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Women in Ministry Conference-Princeton

The Women in Ministry Initiative of Princeton Theological Seminary is pleased to offer "Leadership in a Time of Division and Fear" for women leaders of the church, both clergy and lay, who work within the church and beyond.

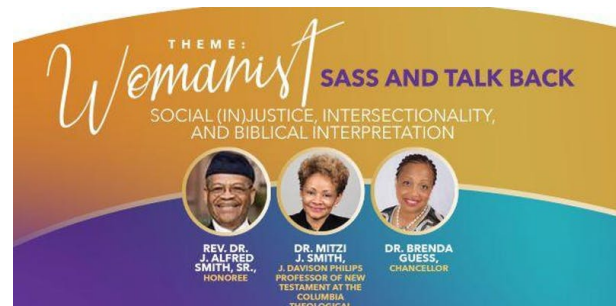
The conference will be held **October 23-25** and the cost is \$195.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

J. Alfred Smith, Sr. Lecture Series

The J. Alfred Smith, Sr Lecture Series will host its 8th Annual Lecture Series on **October 26** at Allen Temple Family Life Center in Oakland, California. The key note speaker is Mitzi J. Smith, the J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. Her lecture title is *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)Justice, Intersectionality and Biblical Interpretation.* Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Women at the Wellsprings

Women at the Wellsprings is a new program sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama.

They will host five eight-day sessions over two

and a half years for twenty women ministers, who will engage in theological, scriptural and experiential reflection in addition to simply having time to rest, renew, and experience community with other women ministers. **Applications are due by November 1.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION

RISE Together

In March 2018, RISE Together launched ten mentorship cohorts in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Nashville, Oakland, and New York City. Members of each cohort commit to a two-year cycle of ten monthly three-hour gatherings each year. In the regional cohorts, women of color journey together to learn from the wisdom of mentors, peers, an intergenerational, female-centered community and a multidisciplinary network of national experts.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Applications for RISE Together: are due on **November 15.**

Holy Women Icon Project

Holy Women Icon Project Retreat will host "Holy Woman Within: A New Year's Retreat for Spiritual Creatives" on **December 31, 2019-January 4, 2020** in Volcano, Big Island, Hawaii.

The retreat will feature guided painting and journaling, rituals, yoga, creativity, and radical self care and will be led by Angela Yarber, executive director of Holy Women Icon Project.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ORDINATIONS

Jennifer Baergen Davis was ordained on September 29, 2019, by Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Allison Joy Rogers was ordained on September 29, 2019, by St. Matthew's Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

ON THE MOVE

Rebecca Driscoll is minister of creation of justice for American Baptist Churches USA.

Carol Ann Forcus is interim minister of music at First Baptist Church, Shelby, North Carolina.

Doris García-Rivera is interim executive director for Bautistas por la Paz.

Emily Holladay is pastor of Village Baptist Church, Bowie, Maryland.

Christine Keddy is director of missions for American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

Heather Lewis is interim children's pastor at Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri.

Regina Johnson is director of church and community ministries at First Baptist Church, Weaverville, North Carolina.

LeDayne McLeese Polaski is the executive director of Mecklenburg Ministries, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Whitney Edwards Russell is associate pastor of outreach and discipleship at Vinton Baptist Church, Vinton, Virginia.

Shelley Varner is chaplain and senior program manager for spiritual care research at Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, Indiana.

OPEN 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

Birmingham-Pastor-Baptist Church of the Covenant

Huntsville-Minister of Contemporary Worship-First Baptist Church

ARKANSAS

Little Rock-Pastor-Pulaski Heights Baptist Church

CALIFORNIA

Vallejo-Executive Pastor-Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

FLORIDA

Orlando-Minister to Children and Families-Church on the Drive
Venice-Pastor-South Venice Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Atlanta-Pastor-Wieuca Road Baptist Church
Athens-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Ballground-Children and Families-Calvary Baptist Church
Cartersville- Associate Pastor for Youth/Families and Outreach-Heritage Baptist Church
Dalton-Minister of Children and their Families-First Baptist Church
Dahlonega-Associate Pastor of Family Ministries-Dahlonega Baptist Church
Harlem-Minister of Music and Media-Harlem Baptist Church
Jefferson-Minister to Children and Families-First Baptist Church

ILLINOIS

Springfield-Worship and Family Ministries Director-Central Baptist Church

INDIANA

Columbus-Worship Pastor-First Baptist Church
Evansville-Pastor-American Baptist East
Various-Multi-Bi-vocational Positions-ABC of Indiana and Kentucky

KANSAS

Shawnee-President-Central Baptist Theological Seminary

KENTUCKY

Corbin-Associate Pastor to Youth-First Baptist Church
Corbin-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Lexington-Pastor-Calvary Baptist Church
Louisville-Director of Operations-Broadway Baptist Church
Louisville-Pastor-Ridgewood Baptist Church
Louisville-Youth and Young Adult Minister-Woodland Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Ellicott City-Minister of Youth-Bethany Church

MASSACHUSETTS

Chicopee-Pastor-Beulah Baptist Church
Melrose-Pastor-First Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Ozark-Student Pastor-Firsts Baptist Church
Springfield-Pastor-University Heights Baptist Church

NEBRASKA

Scottsbluff-Pastor-Scottsbluff Baptist Church

NEW JERSEY

Haddonfield-Minister of Music-First Baptist Church

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque-Pastor-Del Note Baptist Church

NEW YORK

Glenville-Pastor-East Glenville Community Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Autryville-Pastor-Clement Missionary Baptist Church
Cary-Associate Pastor for Worship and Music-Westwood Baptist Church
Chapel Hill-Minister of Children-Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Charlotte-Minister to Students and College Students-Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church
Clayton-Director of Music-First Baptist Church
Elon-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Elizabethtown-Pastor-Elizabethtown Baptist Church
Enfield-Pastor-Enfield Baptist Church
Henderson-Pastor-Island Creek Baptist Church
Hickory Rock-Pastor-Hickory Road Baptist Church
Hudson-Chaplain and Faith Community Liaison-Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care
Kannapolis-Minister of Children-First Baptist Church
Louisburg-Pastor-Hickory Rock Baptist Church
Morehead City-Associate Minister of Children and Youth-First Baptist Church
Murfreesboro-Associate Minister to the University-Chowan University
New Bern-Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Life - First Baptist Church
Newton-Pastor-Trinity Baptist Church
Pendleton-Pastor-Roberts Chapel Baptist Church
Providence-Pastor-Covenant Reformed Baptist Church
Raleigh-Minister to Youth-Forest Hills Baptist Church
Raleigh-Fund Development Coordinator-North Carolina Council of Churches
Raleigh-Chaplain-Springmoor Retirement Community
Rowland-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Shelby-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Sylvia-Teaching/Lead Pastor-The Summit Church
Valdese-Pastor-Cornerstone Baptist Church
Wilson-Pastor-Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church
Windsor-Pastor-Cashie Baptist Church
Winston-Salem-Church Administrator-Ardmore Baptist Church
Winterville-Pastor-Winterville Baptist Church

OHIO

Middletown-Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship-First Baptist Church

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City-Staff Chaplain-Integrus Hospital

RHODE ISLAND

Ashaway-Pastor-Pilgrim's Baptist Church
Middletown-Bi-Vocational Pastor-Middletown Baptist Church
Newport-Pastor-Community Baptist Church
Warwick-Pastor-Warwick Central Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson-Staff Minister (Administration plus Senior Adult or Children's Ministry -First Baptist Church
Conway-Next Generation Pastor-First Baptist Church
Darlington-Associate Youth Pastor-Black Creek Baptist Church
Greenville-Pastoral Residence-First Baptist Church
Greenwood-Associate Pastor and Minister of Students-First Baptist Church
Lakeview-Pastor-First Baptist Church
Rock Hill-Associate Minister for Spiritual Formations and Missions-Oakland Baptist Church

SOUTH DAKOTA

Buffalo-Pastor-Community Bible Church

Sioux Falls-Pastor-First Baptist Church

TENNESSEE

Erwin-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Knoxville-Chaplain-Amedisy's Hospice of Knoxville

Knoxville-Associate Minister of Worship and Arts-Central Bearden

TEXAS

Austin-Administrative Pastor-Sunrise Community Church

Buda-Student Minister-First Baptist Church

Crawford-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Cureo-Youth and Family Minister-First Baptist Church

El Paso-Executive Director-El Paso Baptist Association

Fredricksburg-Minister of Youth and Recreation-First Baptist Church

Grandview-Student Pastor-First Baptist Church

Grapeland-Pastor-Grapeland Baptist Church

Killeen-Minister of Children-First Baptist Church

Mont Belvieu-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Orange-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Perryton-Worship Pastor-First Baptist Church

Port Arthur-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Port Lavaca-Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries-First Baptist Church

Rosenberg-Pastor-First Baptist Church

San Antonio-Pastor-Covenant Baptist Church

San Antonio-Children's Minister-Crossroads Baptist Church

San Antonio-Executive Pastor-First Baptist Church

San Antonio-Student Minister-Parkhills Baptist Church

Sanger-Youth Pastor-First Baptist Church

Snyder-Minister of Music-Colonial Hill Baptist Church

Tye-Minister of Youth-Tye Baptist Church

Universal City-Minister of Students-First Baptist Church

Victoria-Student Pastor-First Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Appomattox-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Blackridge-Next Generation Pastor-Olive Branch Baptist Church

Burkeville-Pastor-Burkeville Baptist Church

Chesapeake-Minister for Family Ministry and Media-Churchland Baptist Church

Chester-Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults-Chester Baptist Church

Clifton Forge-Pastor-Clifton Forge Baptist Church

Franklin-Pastor-Sycamore Baptist Church

Glen Allen-Associate Pastor for Students-Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Glen Allen-Minister of Children and Families-Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Glen Allen-Associate Pastor for Worship Arts and Missions-Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Haymarket-Associate Pastor for Outreach-Haymarket Baptist Church

Kenbridge-Pastor-Kenbridge Baptist Church

Lebanon-Associate Pastor-Green Valley Baptist Church

Lebanon-Minister of Children and Youth-Green Valley Baptist Church

Lowesville-Pastor-Piney River Baptist Church

Mechanicsville-Minister of Youth and Discipleship-Broadus Memorial Baptist Church

Nathalie-Pastor-Clover Bottom Baptist Church

Nathalie-Pastor-Mulberry Baptist Church

Palmyra-Family Minister-Effort Baptist Church

Red House-Pastor-Providence Baptist Church

Richmond-Student Pastor-Bon Air Baptist Church

Richmond-Worship Leader-Branch's Baptist Church

Richmond-Church Administrator-Fifth Street Baptist Church

Richmond-Pastor-Monument Heights Baptist Church

Scott Hill-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Smithfield-Minister of Youth and Children-Smithfield Baptist Church

Warrenton-Pastor-Warrenton Baptist Church

WEST VIRGINIA

Martinsburg-Associate Pastor of Families-First Baptist Church

Princeton-Pastor-New Zion Baptist Church

Wardensville-Pastor-First Baptist Church

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