

# THE 2021 DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD



*Dorisanne with Maria Swearingen & Sally Sarratt*



## **DORISANNE COOPER**

**2021 Frankie Huff Granger  
Distinguished Mentor Award**

Baptist Women in Ministry recognizes and honors **Dorisanne Cooper** as the recipient of the 2021 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dorisanne has been mentoring women called by God since her earliest years as a youth minister.

Jennifer Ingold Asbill, minister of children and pastoral care at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church in Durham, North Carolina offered these words about Dorisanne: “There has been no greater mentor in my life than Dorisanne Cooper. She was the first person I talked to as an awkward seventh grader when I felt God’s initial call to ministry. From that moment on, she encouraged me at every opportunity. Even now, she is still often the first text or phone call when I’m in need of a safe space to process, a creative mind for brainstorming, and a reminder that this calling is one that matters.”

During Dorisanne’s time as pastor of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, she mentored several women as they were attending Truett Seminary.

Morgan Caruthers Fletcher, a pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado, offered this praise of Dorisanne’s mentorship in her life: “Dorisanne Cooper is the person who taught me what gentle-strength leadership is within this pastoral calling. Thanks to her I have learned what it is to be grounded in grace, open to what could be, and patient to meet people where they are.”

Natalie Webb, pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, echoes this affirmation: “I felt called to preach and pastor as a teenager, but it wasn’t until I met Dorisanne that I actually saw a woman doing it! Dorisanne’s preaching and pastoral care looked completely different than anything I’d experienced. I had been working so hard to be like my male mentors, but watching Dorisanne made me realize that I didn’t need to be like anyone but myself.”

Erica Lea-Simka, pastor of Albuquerque Mennonite Church is another minister whose ministry was impacted by Dorisanne’s example. She writes, “As my seminary field education supervising pastor, Dorisanne invited me into the heart of congregational life at Lake Shore. She also invited me to be as fully myself as I could be. This freedom probably helped save my life as I experienced deep struggles with my personal identities in coordination with my pastoral identity at that time.”

Jaime McGlothlin, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Valley View and Cayote, Texas, adds, “I grew up with the WWJD (‘What would Jesus do?’) bracelet trend. That always seemed a bit hard to get my mind around. But through my years as a pastor, I return again and again to, ‘What would Dorisanne do?’ She nurtures with a warmth and gentleness that gives her the power to share truth in her calm, wise way.”

Dorisanne’s investment in others has continued during her time as pastor of Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, NC, and recently through BWIM’s mentoring program.

One of the mentees in her mentoring group, Emily Hull McGee, pastor of First Baptist Church on Fifth in Winston-Salem, wrote: “The greatest witness she offered to me during our time as mentor and mentee was that of the ‘wounded healer,’ modeling for our group during her season of cancer treatments what leading through suffering looks like. We saw one whose broken body taught her (and by extension, us!) ways for the caregiver to receive, for the shepherd to be tended and led, and for the unexpected gifts and graces of it all to become tender nourishment for the weary soul.”

Finally, Maria Swearingen, senior co-pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC, summed up Dorisanne’s great impact with this: “*Good* mentors impart their wisdom to those willing to slow down long enough to listen. But the best mentors help us encounter and, ultimately, develop deep trust in our own wisdom. This is what I mean when I say that Dorisanne isn’t just a *good* mentor; she’s the *best*.”

For her intentional efforts to mentor, nurture, and advocate for women ministers, we give thanks to God for Dorisanne Cooper.



*Dorisanne and Erica Lea-Simka*