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WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER, YOU DO BETTER!



OUR VISION

Baptist Women in Ministry will 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.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL GATHERING

We were so pleased to be able to gather both in-person and online for the 2022 BWIM Annual Gathering. We enjoyed connecting with one another, celebrating our 2022 award winners, and being profoundly inspired in worship and through the powerful preaching of Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart. If you were unable to join us, you won't want to miss watching the video of the service at: www.bwim.info/annual-gathering. Through the service and the knowledge we have gained from the *State of Women in Baptist Life Report 2021* released the week prior, we KNOW BETTER, and we WILL DO BETTER!





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WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE 2021-22 BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM!

These leaders have sustained BWIM in days of transition and have done immeasurably more than they thought would be asked of them. For their sacrifices, leadership, voices, presence, guidance, and

unwavering support, we are truly grateful. Rotating off the team this summer are Micah Pritchett, Ashton Wells, Ossie McKinney, and Tripp Martin.



Left to right: Tripp Martin, Ashton Wells, Ellen Di Giosia, Meredith Stone, Lynn Brinkley, Leah Reed, Rebecca Mathis, Michael Mills, Xiomara Reboyras-Ortiz, Laura Ellis.

Not pictured left:



Ossie McKinney



Micah Pritchett

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 ADDIE DAVIS NOMINEES

ADDIE DAVIS AWARD WINNERS



OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Adrienne Aiken Morgan
Campbell University
Divinity School

Lindsay Bruehl
SMU's Perkins School
of Theology

Geneece Goertzen
Baylor's Truett Seminary

Emily Niehoff
McAfee School of Theology

Janet Pace
Central Seminary

Aundrea Shepherd
Wake Forest Divinity School

Elizabeth Swett
Duke Divinity School

EXCELLENCE IN PREACHING

Lesia Dae-Byars
Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Claudia Grainger
Duke Divinity School

Ashley Guthas
McAfee School of Theology

Keeley Shea Tarkington
Campbell University
Divinity School

Rebecca Stempniak
Baylor's Truett Seminary

Cheri Mills is the 2022 recipient of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry. With 29 years of ministry experience, Cheri is a church administrator, the founder of an ecumenical prayer movement, the author of three books, a student at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky (BSK), and a fierce advocate for social and racial justice.



Cheri Mills

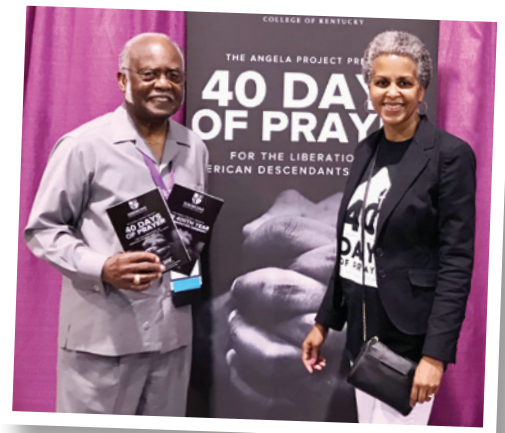
Cheri has been involved in the church since she was a child, and was strongly influenced by her mother and her grandparents who modeled their devotion to God through their selfless love in service to others. Following their example, Cheri has served as church administrator since 1993 for St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, where she led the expansion of the church from one campus to three campuses across two states.

Kevin Cosby, senior pastor at St. Stephen writes, "Cheri is the highest ranking Black female church administrator in the Commonwealth of Kentucky." He continues stating that Cheri's "influence and impact extend beyond church duties and programs. She has been a positive influence in the lives of many believers through prayer, counseling,

mentoring, and modeling. She is highly respected by religious and community leaders, as well as persons from every standing in life."

Cheri has focused her ministry efforts through prayer. She discovered her passion for prayer ministry in a season of darkness when she suffered from panic attacks and was often fearful of her surroundings. In this time of mental upheaval, she prayed to God constantly and felt strengthened by God through prayer. She writes, "God fanned a flame of fire in my heart for prayer." That flame grew into a passionate and purposeful ministry through Cheri's founding of the 1 Voice Prayer Movement, which connects churches in prayer with an emphasis on social and racial justice.

Additionally, in 2019, Cheri led efforts for a national observance of 400 years of institutional slavery in the United States in conjunction with the Angela Project and Simmons College. Her work included writing a prayer book for 40 days of prayer leading up to a national commemoration ceremony which was streamed live from St. Stephen for thousands to participate. She also wrote a commemoration ceremony booklet which has been widely received by churches across the US.



These two books are entitled, *The Angela Project Presents: 40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of The American Descendants of Slavery*, and *The Angela Project Presents: The 400th Year Commemoration Ceremony, Commemorating 400 Years of Slavery in America*. Then, in 2021, Cheri published her third book titled, *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery*, which has become a study tool for hundreds of ministers.

Her work during the 400th Year commemoration, which guided Black and white leaders across different faith traditions toward confession of historical and institutional sin, was so powerful that it was featured in the New York Times.

In 2017, Mills began pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at BSK. Professor of Theology, Mark Medley, describes Mills as “a strong and wise leader in the classroom. She is pastorally present to her peers, constantly encouraging a fellow student’s academic work and practice of ministry. Cheri also exercises prophetic pastoral leadership by her fierce commitment to racial justice.” About her own studies and call to ministry, Mills writes, “Just as God called Paul to be an apostle of Christ, I believe that God has called me out to the ministry of intercession with Christ. It is my belief that when we begin to pray, we join Christ who is already in prayer.”



Angela Zimmerman

Angela Zimmerman is the recipient of the 2022 Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching. She is a student at Central Baptist Seminary and serves as Minister of Music and Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church of Danville, Virginia. During the pandemic, opportunities to preach became more frequent for Angela. And although she was hesitant at first to see herself as a preacher, she grew into the role as a natural communicator with pastoral presence.

Angela’s gift for preaching is well-recognized among those who hear her sermons. Joshua Hearne, director of Grace and Main Fellowship, writes, “Angela seems to have an innate understanding of the effect and capacity of careful and attentive preaching upon not only a congregation but upon herself and her peers as well.”

One of Angela’s professors at Central, Wallace Hartfield II, writes, “Simply stated, the effort, time, and creativity she put into preparation for each of the sermons I heard her preach were thoughtful and challenging.”

Angela Barker Jackson, who served as Angela’s mentor and is Director Development at Central, writes of the award-winner’s preaching, “From the beginning I was keenly aware of Angela’s extraordinary thoughtfulness and sharp intellect, but it was her beautiful pastoral imagination that captivated me.”

On July 11, 2021, Angela preached the award-winning sermon “The Lowly Mustard Seed” at FBC Danville. Her sermon began by asking congregants to imagine holding something in the palm of their hands and imagine it getting smaller until it was the size of an almost invisible mustard seed.



As she drew congregants into the metaphor of the miniscule mustard seed growing into the kingdom of God, she stated, “When you live counterculturally with love, joy, peace, and patience you are planting kingdom seeds. When you show kindness, goodness, and faithfulness you are planting kingdom seeds. When you show self-control and gentleness you are planting kingdom seeds. When your actions show that you love your neighbor as much as you love yourself, kingdom seeds are being planted.”

At the end of the sermon, she returned congregants’ imagination to the seed that was in their hand and stated, “Jesus tells us that this mustard seed, a nearly invisible seed, when it is planted as a kingdom seed, will grow to encompass all of creation. It will be large enough for the birds of the air, and God’s people, to live and find rest in the Kingdom of God. For this we can say, “Thanks be to God.”

Offering the highest praise, Angela Barker Jackson recalled a time when she watched a video of Angela’s preaching and shared, “Her message spoke so directly to my own heart during that season of grief and disconnectedness. My first thought and remark at the conclusion of the video were simple. ‘Angela, I wish you were my pastor.’”

THE 2022 DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD



DR. SOPHIA STEIBEL
2022 Frankie Huff Granger
Distinguished Mentor Award

Baptist Women in Ministry recognizes and honors **Dr. Sophia Steibel** as the recipient of the 2022 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dr. Steibel serves as Professor of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation at Gardner-Webb Divinity School in Boiling Springs, NC, where she has been teaching since 2001.

A native of Brazil, she has also served on the faculty of Gardner-Webb University, as director of Campinas Baptist Theological College, Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and on the faculties of South Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary and Baptist Religious Education Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dr. Steibel was nominated by three of her former and current students.

Sarah Blosser Blackwell shared, “Dr. Steibel embodies all this award hopes to recognize. In the past, some female mentors I had pushed and pushed for me to achieve higher status and reach for lofty positions without really listening to what I wanted for my life. Dr. Steibel

always honored and recognized the boundaries that I had prayerfully set on balancing my career and my family. She never made me feel less than for not having aspirations to pastor a megachurch and supported my non-traditional path into writing after my graduation.”

Jennifer Jennings, Associate Pastor to Children and Families at First Baptist Church, Marion, NC, writes, “Dr. Steibel cares very deeply about all her students, but in particular, she cares about her female students, especially those who are struggling with a sense of calling and purpose. She has this prophetic wisdom that truly touches the lives of her students and empowers them.”

Jennifer also shared about Dr. Steibel’s influence in her beloved Sunday School class for women at First Baptist Church Shelby, NC. “The women in her class came away spiritually nourished and whole. In fact, I knew several women in the congregation who deeply depended on her class each week. They would miss worship, but they wouldn’t miss Dr. Steibel’s Sunday school class.”

Jennifer concluded her comments by adding, “Although Dr. Steibel prefers to remain in the background on most things, her behind the scenes work supporting the women at Gardner-Webb and at her church has offered life-changing possibilities for these women. I think Dr. Steibel would be very shocked and surprised to even be nominated for this award, and yet I don’t think anyone deserves it more.”

A current Doctor of Ministry student, Kelly Settlemyre, Minister of Music and Education at Spencer Baptist Church in Spindale, NC, shared a personal story from her coursework with

Dr. Steibel as her DMin supervisor. After turning in a draft of her project, which she had great uncertainty toward, Dr. Steibel took the time to give a multitude of comments answering questions and providing direction and encouragement on multiple drafts.

Kelly wrote, “I turned in a draft feeling defeated and came out with a project I can celebrate. She didn’t have to do any of that. How many professors take rough drafts of assignments and help students improve before being graded? Well, she does! Isn’t that what a mentor is all about?”

In her other comments, Kelly stated, “I experienced her encouragement as I wrestled with my call to ministry. She helped me name and then claim my unique gifts and my calling without apology. She helped me to focus on who God created me to be, not on who other people might think I should be. Dr. Steibel didn’t teach me to be a woman in ministry, she taught (and is still teaching) me how to be a minister who is a woman. And that makes all the difference!”

For her intentional, humble, and Spirit-led efforts to mentor, nurture, and advocate for women ministers, Baptist Women in Ministry gives thanks to God for Sophia Steibel.



2022 CHURCH OF EXCELLENCE

The recipient of the 2022 BWIM Church of Excellence Award is **Glendale Baptist Church** in Nashville, Tennessee.

In her nomination letter, longtime member of Glendale, Frenchie Fortenberry, described the early days of Glendale's pioneering actions in affirming and elevating women in leadership. Bold moves were taken to implement changes in congregational leadership which cultivated an environment of inclusion and equality. These changes paved the way for the calling of Rev. April Baker as associate pastor in 2002, and soon after as interim pastor.

Glendale's commitment to inclusion through the leadership of Rev. Baker meant it faced challenges and withdrawal from the Nashville Baptist Association and Tennessee Baptist Convention. But unwavering in its values, Glendale took the next pioneering step by calling Rev. Baker to serve as co-pastor with Rev. Dr. Amy Mears in 2004. After this move, Glendale's ministerial staff was comprised of all women, and the congregation adopted a moniker to describe themselves—Glendale Baptist Church, a caring community of equality and grace.

By taking early steps to put equality into practice, Glendale has become a place that seeks to provide support and mentorship for other women in ministry

who have limited opportunities to learn from experienced women ministers and in an empowering environment.

Tambi Swiney, an ordained minister and member of Glendale, shared, "As a small congregation, Glendale Baptist Church has an outsized reach and a rich legacy. This faith community's ongoing commitment to nurturing the gifts of girls and women and providing opportunities for them to serve is unparalleled."

Glendale's reach and legacy has included 24 "Glenterns" (seminary students serving as pastoral interns), 22 of which have been women.

Kelly Moreland Jones, a recent Glentern, shared, "The warm welcome and the openness with which Amy and April discuss the particular challenges experienced by women in ministry has been a pivotal part of my personal growth and development. I wish I could find the words to communicate the feeling of this place. For me, it's wrapped up in [many things including] the tears as I saw myself for the first time in a robe and stole preaching behind a pulpit."

Glendale's reach as a teaching congregation even extends to Cuba through its partnership with Iglesia Bautista Alberto J. Diaz in Santa Clara, Cuba, which is pastored by a woman. Furthermore, the congregation supplemented the salaries of the pastors in the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba, many of whom are also women.

Rev. Baker shared of Glendale, "When the church added "a Caring Community of Equality and Grace" to its name, Glendale easily could have included words like adventurous, risk-taking, intentional, and deeply committed to the Way of Love. Maybe they didn't need to say those things explicitly. Those characteristics are



GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 2022 Baptist Women in Ministry Church of Excellence

evident in the life of this community in myriad ways."

Rev. Dr. Mears also added, "Glendale called two 40-year-old female-identifying co-pastors and have consistently provided space for us to figure out how pastoral ministry looks for us. And for them! We've been able to re-draw our boundaries together and to create new ways of being in community."

For their risk-taking and pioneering actions in elevating women in ministry, and their commitment to building a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for women in leadership, Baptist Women in Ministry is delighted to honor Glendale Baptist Church as the 2022 BWIM Church of Excellence.



BWIM MONTH OF PREACHING

| ST | CITY | CHURCH | PREACHER | ST | CITY | CHURCH | PREACHER |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|---------------|---|---|
| AL | Auburn | Auburn First Baptist | Milligan Burroughs | NC | Charlotte | Ebenezer Baptist Church | Telley Gadson |
| AL | Birmingham | Vestavia Hills Baptist Church | Dixie Ford | NC | Charlotte | Greater Fellowship Baptist Church | Kiya Ward Shears |
| AL | Tuscaloosa | Woodland Forest Church | Mary An Wilson | NC | Charlotte | Myers Park Baptist Church | Mia McClain |
| AR | Little Rock | Pulaski Heights Baptist Church | Dianne McNary, Carolyn Staley | NC | Charlotte | Providence Baptist Church | Nell Green |
| AR | Little Rock | Second Baptist Church | Starlette Thomas | NC | Charlotte | Reeder Memorial Baptist Church | Tara Gibbs |
| FL | St Petersburg | Circle of Faith | Courtney Jones | NC | Charlotte | St. Paul Baptist Church | Cynthia Hale |
| GA | Alpharetta | Johns Creek Baptist Church | Terri Byrd | NC | Cullowhee | Cullowhee Baptist Church | Paula Clayton Dempsey |
| GA | Athens | Milledge Avenue Baptist Church | Emily Harbin | NC | Dunn | Westfield Baptist Church | Lori Barbour-Moore |
| GA | Atlanta | Church at Ponce & Highland | Anna Faith Adair | NC | Durham | First Calvary Baptist Church | Barbara Lavarin |
| GA | Atlanta | Church at Wieuca | Ashley Guthas | NC | Durham | Mount Level Baptist Church | Telika McCoy |
| GA | Dalton | First Baptist Church | Jenni Chilton | NC | Durham | Union Baptist Church | Phyllis Arrington |
| GA | Decatur | First Baptist Church | Maggie Parker Andrews | NC | Durham | Watts Street Baptist Church | Esther Soud Parker |
| GA | Newnan | Central Baptist Church | Andrea Johnson | NC | Durham | Yates Baptist Church | Sue Smith |
| GA | Rome | North Broad Baptist Church | Bethany Ritter, Peyton Isbell | NC | Fayetteville | First Baptist Moore Street | Dorothy McNeil |
| GA | Watkinsville | Union Christian Church | Emily Harbin | NC | Fayetteville | Holy Hill of Zion | Carla Page |
| KY | Frankfort | First Baptist Church, Frankfort | Michelle Carroll, Amanda Standiford | NC | Fayetteville | Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church | Beverly Spivey |
| KY | Louisville | Buechel Park Baptist Church | Lesae Dae-Byars, Erica Crosby | NC | Fayetteville | Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church | Carolyn Brewington |
| KY | Louisville | Ridgewood Baptist Church | Laura Levens | NC | Greensboro | Providence Baptist Church | Natalie McLean, Rhonda Butler |
| KY | Morehead | First Baptist Church | Janine Williams | NC | Highpoint | Union Baptist Church, Jamestown-Highpoint | Kia Hood Scott |
| MD | Kensington | Kensington Baptist Church | Beth Willett | NC | Laurinburg | First Baptist Church Laurinburg | Christie Stafford |
| MO | Jefferson City | First Baptist Church | Melissa Hatfield | NC | Marion | First Baptist Church | Jennifer Jennings |
| MO | Kansas City | Holmeswood Baptist Church | Laurel Cluthe | NC | Monroe | First Baptist Monroe | Lynn Brinkley, Daynette Snead Perez |
| MO | Springfield | University Heights Baptist Church | Pam Durso | NC | Raeford | Leach Springs Missionary Baptist Church | Flo Nicholson, Ernestine Mack, Lashonda Ely |
| MO | St. Louis | Central Baptist Church | Natasha Nedrick | NC | Raleigh | Baptist Grove Church | Katrina Tatum |
| MS | Starkville | University Baptist Church | Sara Herrington Jones | NC | Raleigh | Christian Faith Baptist Church | Linda Bryan |
| NC | Asheboro | First Baptist Asheboro | Jeni Martin Johnson | NC | Raleigh | First Baptist Raleigh | Leah Reed |
| NC | Benson | Benson Baptist Church | Stella Perrin | NC | Raleigh | Millbrook Baptist Church | JJ Dickinson |
| NC | Boone | First Baptist Church of Boone | Wanda Kidd | NC | Raleigh | Redeeming Love Missionary Baptist Church | Kia Hood Scott |
| NC | Cary | Westwood Baptist Church | Anna Anderson, Katie McKown | NC | Rutherfordton | First Baptist Church | Holly Strother-Waller |

| ST | CITY | CHURCH | PREACHER | ST | CITY | CHURCH | PREACHER |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| NC | Rutherfordton | Independence Hill Baptist Church | Holly Strother-Waller | TX | Lott | Little Dear Creek Baptist Church | Kayla Fojtasek |
| NC | Silva | First Baptist Silva | Rebecca Mathis | TX | Marshall | First Baptist Church | Alena Vaughn |
| NC | Spruce Pine | Central Baptist Church | Jessica Lanning | TX | Mexia | FPC Mexia | Sejana Yoo |
| NC | Weaverville | First Baptist Weaverville | Jamie Winkler | TX | San Antonio | Woodland Baptist Church | Jana Morgan |
| NC | Wendell | Pleasant Grove Baptist Church | Collette Parker | TX | Temple | Meadow Oaks Baptist Church | Carol Holcomb |
| NC | Wilmington | First Baptist Church | Jayne Davis, Becca Jones | TX | Waco | Seventh & James Baptist Church | Mandy McMichael |
| NC | Winston-Salem | Ardmore Baptist Church | Ka'thy Gore Chappell | VA | Annandale | The United Baptist Church | Pamela Moyer |
| NC | Winston-Salem | First Baptist Church on Fifth | Nikki Byers | VA | Arlington | Alfred Street Baptist Church | Danielle L. Brown |
| NJ | East Orange | Calvary Baptist Church | Robin Greene-Webb | VA | Bristol | First Baptist Church of Bristol | Leigh Clark |
| OH | Columbus | Trinity Baptist Church | Gina Stewart | VA | Chesapeake | Churchland Baptist Church | Kim Miller |
| OK | Norman | North Haven Church | Jillian Mitchell | VA | Danville | First Baptist Church | Caroline Tucker, Bethany Busby, Jessica Hearne, Angela Zimmerman |
| OK | Oklahoma City | Spring Creek Baptist | Kristin McAtee, Wanda Kidd, Devita Parnell, Jillian Mitchell | VA | Franklin | Sycamore Baptist Church | Kelly Adams |
| SC | Anderson | Boulevard Baptist Church | Lucy Cauthen | VA | Harrisonburg | Harrisonburg Baptist Church | Eli Withers |
| SC | Anderson | First Baptist Church of Anderson | Stephanie Patterson | VA | Martinsville | First Baptist Martinsville | Ashley Gill Harrington |
| SC | Camden | Lakeview Baptist Church | M. Karen Ballard | VA | Richmond | First Baptist Richmond | Ruth Szucs |
| SC | Columbia | Kathwood Baptist Church | Lane Riley | VA | Richmond | Ginter Park Baptist Church | Sandra Scott |
| SC | Conway | Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church | Ty Grisstte | VA | Richmond | Grace Baptist Church | Lauryn Everic |
| SC | Greenwood | First Baptist Church Greenwood | Jennifer Jennings | VA | Richmond | Huguenot Road Baptist Church | Susan Blanchard |
| SC | Pendleton | First Baptist Church Pendleton | Meredith Stone | VA | Richmond | Richmond First Baptist Church | Ruth Szucs |
| SC | Seneca | Trinity Baptist Church | Lane Riley | VA | Richmond | River Road Church, Baptist | Anna Perry Miller |
| SC | Spartanburg | Fernwood Baptist Church | Melinda McDonald, Kelli Kirksey, Camille Loomis Rehnborg | VA | Richmond | Second Baptist Church | Katie Vance |
| TN | Knoxville | Ball Camp Baptist Church | Andrea McCoig | VA | Roanoak | Journey Church | Jackie Taylor |
| TX | Austin | Westoak Woods Baptist Church | Abby Lee | VA | Springfield | Westwood Baptist Church | Katie McKown |
| TX | Dallas | Wilshire Baptist Church | Brianna Childs, Jenna Sullivan | VA | Waynesboro | First Baptist Waynesboro | Kristen Koger |
| TX | Fort Worth | Agape Baptist Church | Jordann McMahan | VA | Williamsburg | Williamsburg Baptist Church | Susan Blanchard |
| TX | Fort Worth | Iglesia Bautista Victoria en Cristo | Bicri Hernandez | WI | Green Lake | The Federated Church of Green Lake | Carolyn Dugan |
| TX | Houston | Our Fellowship Christian Church | Carolyn Soto Jackson | WI | Madison | First Baptist Church of Madison | Vica Steel |
| TX | Keller | Primera Iglesia Bautista de Keller | Rosa Lina Hernández | WI | West Allis | First Baptist Church of West Allis | Carolyn Dugan |

RELEASE OF THE STATE OF WOMEN IN BAPTIST LIFE REPORT 2021

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The 2021 State of Women in Baptist Life report was published and presented via webinar in June of this year. This report, released every five years, reveals the experiences of women in ministry and the statistics of how many women are serving in and preparing for ministry.

The 2021 report revealed that, while women have made progress in almost all areas, advancement for women in ministry in the last 6 years has been minimal. BWIM celebrates all the women who are counted and whose perspectives are highlighted in the pages of the report. However, the report also calls for Baptist repentance and action in response to the reality that women continue to experience barriers to ministry.

After reading the report, several women in ministry wrote responsive articles in Baptist News Global. Senior pastor, Hannah Coe, wrote “Behind the women represented in each statistic is a community of faith, a part of Christ’s body, wounded by the sin of misogyny, ingrained prejudice against women, and robbed of the experience of full healing in Christ.”

Seminary student, Madison Boboltz wrote, “In preparing for these obstacles [in ministry], I also am preparing for a promising future in which women in leadership positions know their worth and are not afraid to advocate for themselves. We will not let those who interrupt our callings have the final say.”

Thankfully, the statistics of the report do not have the final say on the future of women in ministry. The report is merely the beginning—a yard stick to help Baptists measure where we are and to better understand where we need to go. BWIM has created two additional resources to help Baptists respond to the report with action.

The first is a reading guide for women in ministry, which invites women to reflect on their own experiences in light of the report’s findings. This guide, called “A Community of Women” reminds those in ministry that they are not alone in their positive experiences nor in the obstacles they face, and their work is invaluable to the community of God and the ministry of the gospel. The reading guide also invites women to consider their own ministry contexts and ways they might help promote the empowerment of other women in their communities.



The second resource is a discussion guide for any group of people who support women in ministry. The resource, called “Bridging the Gap,” encourages groups to notice the gap in their communities between what is professed about women in ministry and what is practiced. Group members will read the 2021 report contextually by considering how the data from the report may be reflected in their own communities and how they might better foster environments where women are able to thrive in ministry.

BWIM is grateful to all the women who are included in the 2021 report and for all Baptists who are committed to respond to the report’s findings with action. With great hope we look to a future where all women are empowered and able to thrive in ministry settings. To begin building this kind of future, scan the QR code to see the full report, watch the webinar release, read the responsive articles from women in ministry, and download the discussion and reading guides to take action in your community.



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY NEWS

BNG PARTNERSHIP

BWIM is partnering with Baptist News Global (BNG) to celebrate and promote women's voices in Baptist media. If you know of a woman who might be interested in writing for BNG, contact Laura Ellis, lauraellis@bwim.info.

BWIM MONTH OF PREACHING

BWIM's 2022 Month of Preaching event included 114 participating churches. This year BWIM introduced a new children's worship bulletin for use during Month of Preaching. Beginning in 2023, BWIM Month of Preaching will move to the month of March. We invite churches to join us in focusing on Black History Month in February, and coordinate their participation in BWIM Month of Preaching during Women's History month in March. Make plans now to invite women preachers to your pulpit in March 2023!



MENTORING PROGRAM

BWIM's Mentoring Program recently began its third cohort sponsored by a Lilly Endowment Thriving in Ministry Grant. 20 mentees and 5 mentors gathered in late July 2022 at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, NC to begin their 2-year participation. The cohort included representation from 7 Baptist denominational groups and 12 states.



BWIM BOOK CLUB

Our most recent Book Club was a 3-week discussion on Zoom about Candice Marie Benbow's, *Red Lip Theology* (Convergent Books, 2022), a book that addresses faith from a Womanist perspective. We will host our next book club this fall by reading Aurelia Pratt's *A Brown Girl's Epiphany* (Broadleaf Books, 2022). Book Club conversations have helped us to reach and connect with a diverse group of women from across the US and UK.

CLERGY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TASK FORCE

The Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a joint initiative between the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and BWIM, is partnering with G.R.A.C.E. (Godly Response to Abuse in Christian Environments) to provide abuse prevention and response training for congregations. Resources for abuse prevention education created by the task force also continue to be available on both CBF's and BWIM's websites. If your congregation would like more information

about sexual abuse policies and prevention, or consultation regarding a matter of clergy sexual misconduct, contact Jay Kieve, CBF Global Abuse Prevention & Response Advocate, jkieve@cbf.net.

MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES

BWIM has changed the ways we are connecting women with open ministry positions. We now include information sent to us about open positions on our website, as well as a list of additional partner websites where we often find information about other positions. You can find it at www.bwim.info/ministry-search-listings. Additionally, Executive Director, Meredith Stone, has created a presentation for search committees to discuss how patriarchy and sexism have impacted their candidates and process, and to consider potential ways of creating an equitable search process for women candidates. If you know of a search committee that would benefit from this work, please help BWIM connect with them, meredithstone@bwim.info.

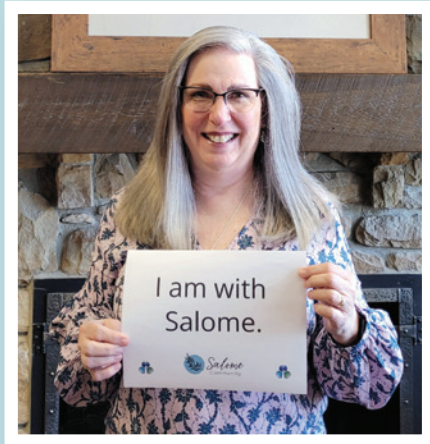


BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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WWW.BWIM.INFO/SALOME-COMMUNITY

