

# The Woman's Pulpit

October-  
December 2025

NEWS ABOUT ORDAINED AND LAY WOMEN IN MINISTRY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

## 2026 Assembly in Jakarta, Indonesia, in July

### IAWM Assembly July 22-27, 2026, at the oldest seminary in Jakarta

*By J. Dorcas Gordon and committee*

The next IAWM assembly will be held at the oldest seminary in Jakarta, the Jakarta Theological School (Sekolah Tinggi Jakarta), also known as STT Jakarta, founded in 1961 by the Indonesian Christian Church.

The assembly will begin with lunch on July 22. The airport is about an hour away in light traffic (a rare occurrence) from the seminary. We will arrange transportation to and from the airport. Most of us will need a single-entry visa, which can be obtained at the airport on arrival although you can save time by applying beforehand. More information will be in the next issue.

We have begun conversations with the Women in Ministry Association in Jakarta to develop the theme for the assembly, which will focus on what it means to be a woman minister in a majority Muslim country. Members of the association will join us at our meetings and participate as presenters and panelists.

We will be staying in the seminary guest rooms or a hotel across the street. An excursion to another destination, probably Bali, will also be offered after the assembly.

#### Indonesia and Jakarta

Indonesia is a vast archipelagic nation in Southeast Asia and Oceania, with over 17,000 islands including Sumatra, Java and New Guinea. It is the fourth-most

populous country in the world, with a large Muslim majority and significant biodiversity. It was a former Dutch colony with power handed over to Indonesian leadership in 1949. The structures, government buildings and churches of that period will be visited on a proposed bus tour.

We have been warmly invited to the school whose web site will provide description and photos: <https://indonesiastt.ac.id/>

Some travel scholarships will be available; more information in the next issue.

#### Registration Form,

page 7,

Will also be in January  
and April issues

Trying a new time for our  
Quarterly  
Zoom Gathering for  
Fun and Connection  
Saturday, Nov. 1  
9-10:30 p.m. Eastern DT

(This is not forever, we'll  
keep moving around.)

Email Marian for the code:  
[uccrev77@gmail.com](mailto:uccrev77@gmail.com)

=====

Join our WhatsApp  
groups, see Page 6  
for QR Code

Mutunda Betty and Tawomerawo Sylvia, left and right, accompany Sonia Hinds on her first motorbike ride. Board member Sonia visited these IAWM members in Uganda when she was in country. See page 6 for more visits!



# The Woman's Pulpit

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Published quarterly.

# Prayer Calendar

Please add these new addresses:

Joyce Manson, 2200 E Madison St  
Apt 311, Seattle, Washington 98122  
USA

Rali Weaver new email:  
raliweaver@gmail.com

## You Too Can Be a Prayer Correspondent

Email Carol at csbrown550@hotmail.com to volunteer what month, or which two weeks, you would like to take to write the sisters on our prayer list. This counts as an in-kind contribution if you cannot afford membership fees.

## Correction:

It is Eleanor Glasgow-Layne who earned her doctorate as we reported last time. We misspelled her name. Her dissertation title was *Getting Past the Past: Women in Administrative Leadership—Threat or Asset?*

## In this issue:

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## Online Meetings for Connection and Conversation Continue Quarterly

Saturday Nov. 1

9 p.m. Eastern

Tag Marian for the Zoom code:  
uccrev77@gmail.com

## Collecting Biographies

Past and present officers and board members, and anyone else who would like to, please send a biography to Marian Shearer, uccrev77@gmail.com.

We have some from past years but it would be good to have you all on file.

Please include your place and date of birth, family, education, accomplishments, ministries (with dates.)

Just a list is sufficient, no need to make it a polished essay.

#####  
*The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."* Luke 17:5-6  
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## Peace & Justice Efforts in National Council in Korea

As a Korean woman pastor in my 30s,” said **The Rev. Kim Minji**, “formed in the ecumenical spirit of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), I have served various ministries within the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), including the Human Rights Center and the international affairs office.

“Now I coordinate NCCCK’s domestic and global peace and solidarity efforts. My call to ministry was not shaped in silence but in resistance, candlelight vigils, human rights campaigns, and prayerful witness alongside the poor and the excluded. It was here, in this lived theology of justice and reconciliation, that I found my voice.”

In the United Church of Christ Global Ministries weekly prayer for August 10, Minji reported that the longstanding companionship of churches like the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) “has encouraged, embraced and walked alongside us in our journey toward peace and dignity.”

Today, she said, the NCCCK and its ecumenical partners are part of a movement that refuses to separate peace from justice or faith from action. “My life and leadership are living testimonies to what can flourish when churches walk together in hope.”

Minji is program coordinator, committee on peace, reconciliation and reunification (Mission and Public Witness) and executive assistant to the General Secretary of the NCCCK.

*Global Ministries weekly prayers, August 10. United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ.*

## D.C. Church hosts anniversary of ordinations

St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C. marked on Sept. 7 the 50th anniversary of the ordination of four women priests. **Eleanor Lee McGee, Alison Palmer, Elizabeth Rosenberg and Diane Tickell** were ordained before church canons officially allowed women priests *Episcopal News Service Sept. 4, 2025*

## Women in Ministry Resist Misogyny: Louisville Study

A study funded by the **Louisville Institute (USA)** found that the kinds of discrimination women ministers face include “gender bias, limited opportunities for leadership and adverse expectations related to pursuing work/family balance.”

An article by *Adelle M. Banks* in the *Sept. 3 Religion News Service* on line reported on the study.

**The Revs. Liz Rios and Liz Mosbo VerHage** conducted the study. They were not surprised, they said, to hear that the majority of women ministers have faced misogyny.

What kept their colleagues in ministry? Across ages, races and denominations, women cited:

- Pursuing the call they believe they’ve received from God
- Supportive networks
- And perseverance.

Their report is “Empowering Resilient Women Ministers: Unveiling the Fuel to Serve Amidst Misogyny.” They surveyed 610 women in ministry, and 87% of them said they experienced, in their ministry contexts, varieties of “discrimination, prejudice, objectification or violence” based on their gender.

### Plant Your Own Church

The report indicated that women faced gender bias, limited opportunities for leadership, and adverse expectations around work and family balance. Some said that when they didn’t feel accepted in their own structures they formed their own ministries. “I had to create a new table and plant my own church because no existing system would allow me to lead at the highest level,” one woman reported.

Rios, for one example, is a former Assemblies of God minister now affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the founder of The Passion Center, an online faith community and training center.

Verhage is ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church and is senior pastor of the nondenominational LaSalle Street Church in Chicago. Yet in the pattern of women ministers creating their own pathways when traditional ones were closed to them, Verhage started a women’s leadership conference in her denomination to discuss advocacy, and Rios founded *Passion2Plant*, an egalitarian organization that supports people of color starting new churches.

### Women Depend on Themselves and Other Women

The ways women most strongly persevered, the study said, included finding other supportive women, either in mentorships or cohorts or community groups, and then also developing their own sense of passion.

Having a role model can counterbalance isolation and the lack of information that women deal with in ministerial leadership, the study found. The most helpful mentors are often women from older generations who have healed from some of the wounds of discrimination they’ve suffered.

While mentoring and training were among the factors that helped build resilience among the women who were studied, many also cited self-care like spas and retreats, and spiritual disciplines such as prayer and journaling.

“One thing that really surprised me,” VerHage said, “was only 2 per cent of women named that a male colleague had been helpful to them.”

Eighty per cent of the women studied were between 25 and 44, and more than 70 per cent were from the East or West coast. They were drawn from 5 or more denominations and were mostly in mid-career.

*From Religion News Service, Sept. 4.*

## Were Women Heard at Nicaea Council?

IAWM member Mutale Kaunda explains

**The Council of Nicaea in 325 C. E.**, where male bishops gathered to hammer out an ecumenical understanding of the Christian faith, had no women present as far as the records show.

But the latest *International Review of Mission*, the World Council of Churches (WCC) journal, focused on the role and place of women at the Council. IAWM member Dr. **Mutale Mulenga Kaunda** was guest editor for this issue.

“While women were not formal participants, and their contributions remain undocumented at the Nicaea council, it’s important to acknowledge that they were present in early Christian communities as vital supporters, educators and patrons,” wrote Kaunda.

She is a research tutor at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies and a research associate at the Research Institute for Theology and Religion, University of South Africa.

Since women were present in the Christian communities but were not present at the council or acknowledged, “it means that men then appropriated, without acknowledgement, the ideas of women,” Kaunda said.

### Aiming for Faith and Order

This issue of the *International Review* is a contribution to the WCC’s Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Egypt in October, and will mark the Nicaea anniversary. The late IRM editor Peter Cruchley and The Rev. Nicole Ashwood, WCC programme executive for the Just Community of Women and Men, suggested the theme.

“Women cannot and should not continue to be heard (only) through men who often do not acknowledge that the ideas they are sharing are from women,” Kaunda concluded.

*World Council of Churches August 7.*

## Bishops, Bishops Everywhere: Canada

Teresa Hanlon by Women Priests Canada

The Roman Catholic Women Priests Canada ordained **Teresa Elder Hanlon** of Lethbridge, Alberta as their fourth bishop, September 19. The event was presided over by RCWP Bishop Jane Kryzanowski and attended by priests and bishops from across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. “This historic moment affirms our commitment to Apostolic Succession and the sacred call to priesthood for people of all genders,” they said.

Hanlon will succeed Kryzanowski as bishop of RCWP Canada. Kryzanowski wrote, “I believe Teresa is called by God to succeed me. Through the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Sacred Chrism, she will receive the fullness of God’s Spirit—a Spirit that has guided our movement from its inception on the Danube in 2002, through the ordinations on the St. Lawrence Seaway in 2005, and now, in 2025, across the globe. Women called by God and affirmed by their communities continue to lead the church in a renewed model of ministry—one rooted in justice, inclusivity, and spiritual integrity.”

As a priest in Lethbridge, Hanlon led and wrote a series called Listen and Learn from Indigenous Voices, described as illuminating indigenous wisdom, traditions and the path toward reconciliation.

*From The Review, RCWP Canada’s online magazine, Sept. 14, 2025*

## Wales

Cherry Vann succeeds bishop who resigned

The Church of Wales has announced that on June 30, **The Rev. Cherry Vann** was elected archbishop of Wales, becoming the church’s 15th archbishop and the first woman, and the first gay person, to serve in that role.

Episcopal News Service reported that her election makes Vann the first woman archbishop serving in the United Kingdom and the first one to be openly partnered.

She was ordained deacon in 1989 and in 1994 was among the first women to be ordained priests in the Church of England. Vann said that moving to Wales in 2020, as bishop of Monmouth, allowed her to be open about her 30-year partnership with Wendy Diamond, since the church in Wales allows its clergy to be in same-sex civil relationships.

Vann will also remain bishop of Monmouth. She succeeds a bishop who resigned in July after three and a half years, in the wake of a report of “safeguarding failures, blurred boundaries, inappropriate conduct. . .and lack of transparency at Bangor Cathedral.” Vann said that the first thing she will need to do is ensure that the issues raised are properly addressed and that she will work to build “a really good level of trust across the church and the communities the church serves.”

Cherry’s election comes in the midst of the Church of England’s contentious search for a new Archbishop of Canterbury. Reporting on the elections, British newspaper *The Guardian* said “Some senior figures in the Church of England are believed to favour a female archbishop (of Canterbury), arguing that this would signal a new beginning and more modern church after decades of acrimonious rows over gender, sexuality, (and) abuse scandals. *A few might be irked that the Welsh church has beat them to it.*” (*emphasis mine—ed.*)

Vann will be installed later this year.

*Episcopal News Service Aug. 4, Religion News Service July 31 on line.*

## More News of Women Worldwide

### Ministering to South Sudanese

**Pastor Elizabeth Tot**, a Presbyterian minister who emigrated from South Sudan, has been supporting refugees from South Sudan, mostly women and children, through a prayer fellowship in Minnesota. For the last 15 years, she has been ministering to fellow refugees, mostly single women and their children, even as she held a secular job. In 2007 Tot and her two children arrived in Buffalo, NY as refugees from South Sudan by way of Ethiopia and Kenya.

Not many in Buffalo spoke Nuer, the South Sudanese language, so Tot moved to Minnesota where Sudanese immigrants had built communities after finding work in meat processing plants.

Ordained by the Presbyterian Church in East Africa, Tot served as a pastor there before coming to the US. In 2022 the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys recognized her ordination and put her in touch with wider church resources to support her ministry. In 2024 the South Sudanese Fellowship received a seed grant through the New Worshiping Communities movement so Tot could receive some pay for the first time. *From Beth Wallemath's article in Presbyterian News Service July 7*

### Religious Values Undergird Human Rights says Karam at Armenian Heritage Conference

**Dr. Azza Karam**, founding president and CEO of Lead Integrity, addressed the Armenian Heritage Conference held by the World Council of Churches and the Swiss Protestant Church in Bern in July. The conference focused on the protection of Armenian religious and cultural heritage in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh. Karam, who is a member of the UN High-Level Advisory Board on Multilateralism, spoke to the conference which addressed the consequences of the conflict, including the forced displacement of Armenians and the destruction of their heritage. Karam emphasized how imperative it is that we hear the multilateral voice, and even more imperative that we hear the religious voice.

“Even more imperative is the multilateral action that is to be taking by different religions in service to all together,” she said. “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights would not have been possible” without the religious voice at the table. “We wouldn’t have human rights if we didn’t have religious values.” *From World Council of Churches weekly, July 17.*

## IAWM Members Send News and Prayers

### Greetings from Kenya

In reply to Carol Brown’s message that she was on the prayer list that week, **Eunice N. Indangasi** sent her thanks and greetings. “Your encouragement and prayers are deeply appreciated. It is a joy to be reminded that, though separated by distance, we are united in spirit and purpose as sisters in ministry,” she wrote.

*To my dear sisters in the IAWM fellowship: Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Eunice Indangasi, and I serve as a Chaplain at Kenya Methodist University. I am also involved in the Africa Methodist Council Women Movement. I am passionate about advocating for girls and women, especially through Christian mentorship and alternative rites of passage to combat harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).*

Indangasi is also pursuing a law degree to complement her calling to justice, healing and empowerment in Christ.

**Editor’s Note:** You too can receive such strengthening messages from our members! Just volunteer to send greetings for two weeks or a month of the prayer calendar. Carol Brown has an email template you can use. She sent to several members at once and invited them to reply to one another and they did! Sign up with Carol, at [csbrown550@hotmail.com](mailto:csbrown550@hotmail.com)

### Krody Honored by LGBT Archives

**Nancy E. Krody** will be honored in October by the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network during their annual LGBTQ-RAN Online Gala Celebration. She served on their advisory boards for “a couple of decades” and anchored the group’s conventions, called Witness Our Welcome, in 2001, 2003 and 2017.

Krody attended Crozer Divinity School in Pennsylvania from 1962-4, the only woman in class and with top grades. But she was not allowed to graduate, as she had come out to a faculty-student group that spring, and though some faculty supported her, others insisted she be dismissed.

She worked secretarial jobs for the next several years, including in a national office of the United Church of Christ, which she then joined. Finally she got a position at Temple University editing the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, retiring at the end of 2018 after 45 years, but continuing as a pro bono copy editor.

It was **LaVonne Althouse**, late editor emerita of the Woman’s Pulpit, who invited her into IAWM, Krody said.

The Online Gala Celebration lifts up the importance of LGBTQ+ religious history and their unique role in ensuring this history is not erased.

*From CRCDS Alumni Magazine, September 2025, and correspondence.*

## IAWM Members Visit Around

Back in June, theologian and IAWM member **Eunha Kim** from the Presbyterian Church of Korea was visiting Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut, to research a woman missionary and ecumenist for her book. Your editor combined a trip to see family in Connecticut with a meeting with Eunha in New Haven, where we dined at locally famous Frank's Pizza. Eunha then went on to Massachusetts to preach in the church where IAWM archivist **Anne Rogers Brigham** is serving.

**The Rev. Canon Dr. Sonia Hinds** from Barbados was collecting up some of the same joy in September, when she visited Africa. "I was on holiday, just wanted to visit the continent where my ancestors came from." She stopped in Uganda to visit with **Mutunda Betty** and friends (photo page 1) and then went on to Kenya and visited with **Lydia Mwaniki**, who is like Sonia an at-large member of our board. They posted delightful photos in **WhatsApp**, described on this page.

## Join our new WhatsApp groups!

By Kimberly Greway, IAWM Vice President

We're excited to launch a new way for members of the International Association of Women Ministers to stay connected, informed, and encouraged—no matter where we are in the world. Our new IAWM WhatsApp Community is a central space designed to help us:

- Share updates and announcements
- Highlight upcoming events, online gatherings, and prayer opportunities
- Create space for mutual encouragement and connection across borders

### What you can expect:

- An IAWM General Chat room for sharing thoughts, updates and pictures
- A Prayer Concerns room to share joys and concerns
- An Announcements room for upcoming events
- Individual rooms for each chapter

### How to Join:

- Use your phone or tablet's camera to view the QR code, then click the link below it.
- Or, use this link to join the IAWM WhatsApp Community:  
<http://bit.ly/43dRovs>

IAWM (International Association of  
Women Ministers)  
WhatsApp community



From left: Sonia Hinds, Mutunda Betty, her husband, and Violet Sylvia.



Registration for IAWM Assembly, Jakarta, Indonesia, July 22-26. 2026.

Rev. Ms. Dr. Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip /PC \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs or Diet Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: Full time, USD \$ 200 \_\_\_\_\_ Single day registration, USD \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_  
amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

which day(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Housing (July 21-27)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 people/room (single beds) USD \$25/night which nights? July 21 22 23 24 25 26

amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Requested room-mate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ single room USD \$50/night which nights? July 21 22 23 24 25 26 amount enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ I will arrange my own housing.

Meals USD \$90 entire time \_\_\_ USD \$20/day \_ July 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in the Bus Trip around Jakarta (Saturday afternoon and evening) Each person will be responsible for their own dinner. Costs to be determined.

**Send check or money order for registration, housing, meals, made payable to IAWM, with this form to: Carol Brown, 121 Valley Greene Circle Reading, PA 19610 USA**

**Or: email this form to csbrown550@hotmail.com and pay with Paypal.com using the same email address.**

Any questions, contact Carol at csbrown550@hotmail.com or 570-730-5104.

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

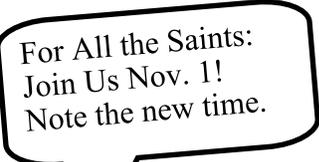
relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**VIRTUAL OPTION**

Can't make the trip to Jakarta? Register here and join us online. Link will be sent prior to the assembly along with a schedule when zoom will be available. Send name and email address to Carol at csbrown550@hotmail.com.

Suggested donation North American minimum USD \$25; use payment instructions above.



For All the Saints:  
Join Us Nov. 1!  
Note the new time.

It's  
fun

our next online  
conversation for  
and connection:

**Saturday Nov. 1**

**9 p.m. Eastern DT**

Email Marian for the Zoom  
code: [uccrev77@gmail.com](mailto:uccrev77@gmail.com)

## In the News

**Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben**, chief of Navy chaplains in the USA, is now the acting chaplain of the US House of Representatives. Rev. Kibben, a Presbyterian minister, is the 26th person and first woman in that role.

**Anne Cecile Kaltenborn** was appointed new secretary general of Norwegian Church Aid, an ecumenical partner of the World Council of Churches. In a congratulatory letter, WCC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay welcomed her leadership, which builds on her work with Doctors Without Borders and other roles in health care and the private sector.

**The Rev. Bertha Munkhondya**, general secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, visited the World Council of Churches in September. She learned about WCC programs related to the Churches' Commitments to Children; life, water and food; and

the Just Community of Women and Men. Munkhondya is the first woman ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, and described their poverty alleviation projects, how they economically empower women, youth and men, and how the church provides awareness on climate change adaptation to church members as well as the general public.

**The Rev. Tracey L. Brown**, founder and pastor of Ruth Fellowship Ministries in Plainfield, New Jersey USA, was the first woman to preach at the evening service Sept. 9 at the annual session of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. Religion scholars said Brown's preaching at the assembly was a noteworthy moment, even though women have long been preaching in local Baptist churches,

"often without much recognition," noted Religion News Service.

**The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath** was installed as the 45th moderator of the United Church of Canada in August. She has been a pastor in Alberta and Ontario. In congratulating her, the World Council of Churches said, "Your leadership within the church reflects a calling rooted in both pastoral care and visionary courage."

The Presbyterian Church (USA) reported that the **Rev. Dr. Aimee Moiso** has been selected as manager of social witness policy for the denomination. She is an independent scholar and former associate director of the Louisville Institute.

*From Religion News Service,  
correspondence, WCC and  
denominational newsletters*

