

International Association of Women Ministers

Office of the President

4, Rajpur Road

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Dear Sisters in Christ,

Advent greetings from India!

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”—
Isaiah 9:6

It gives me great joy to write to my sisters living in different parts of the world as we enter this holy season of Advent. During this time of waiting and hope, let us ask God to fill hearts struggling with darkness, anxiety, or hardship with hope, peace, joy, and light. May Christ’s coming bring renewal, healing, and comfort, and may the Holy Spirit prepare our hearts and minds to receive Jesus anew this Christmas, so that we may walk closer with Him and share His love in the world.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of representing IAWM at a special World Council of Churches celebration commemorating the Beijing 30+ consultation in Jakarta, Indonesia. The year 2025 marks 30 years since the landmark World Conference on Women that led to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action—an important milestone in the global struggle for women’s dignity, justice, and rights.

I am also pleased to announce our next IAWM Assembly, to be held at the Jakarta Theological School (Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Jakarta, STT Jakarta), Jakarta, Indonesia, from July 22–26, 2026. The theme of the Assembly will be Womens’ Ministry Within the Religious, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity of Indonesia.

Several of you have generously assisted with scholarship support for sisters who are unable to attend due to financial constraints, and I sincerely hope you will again consider supporting women who wish to participate in this next Assembly. Registration forms will be available in the January–March issue of The Woman’s Pulpit. I hope many of you are planning to come—and to bring friends!

I would also like to gently remind our members that IAWM membership dues, which enables our shared ministry and witness to grow are due now. In-kind support such as writing emails to members on our Prayer Calendar or writing articles for the Woman’s Pulpit also begins January 1.

As sisters in IAWM, prayer remains at the heart of our fellowship. I warmly invite you to volunteer to write letters or emails for two weeks or for a full month to women listed on our prayer calendar. If you are willing to take part in this ministry, please contact Carol Brown at csbrown550@hotmail.com and let her know which month you would like to serve.

May this Advent season draw us closer to Christ and to one another, strengthening our commitment to prayer, solidarity, and faithful service.

With prayers and blessings,

Ella Sonawane
President, IAWM

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