



WOMEN IN MINISTRY

152nd PITTSBURGH-WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We, the members of the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Annual Conference Women in Ministry greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

The **mission** of the AME/WIM is to define, enhance, support and expand the presence of women in ministry in leadership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The **objectives** are:

- To recognize and support women in ministry as an essential part of the leadership of the AME Church.
- To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues important to women.
- To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
- To work to expand leadership opportunities for women in ministry in the AME Church.
- To support women in the pastoral ministry.
- To support women in specialized ministries including but not limited to: chaplaincy, writing, teaching, counseling, research, prison, youth, geriatric, singles, street, healthcare, family/life relations, music, homeless, HIV/AIDS and religious education ministries.
- To encourage academic training for the ministry.
- To sponsor a Connectional conference at least once during each Quaddrennum.
- To support and provide assistance and outreach to women in ministry in the Fourteenth thru Twentieth Episcopal Districts.
- To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in ministry in the AME Church.
- To foster and develop relationships with people and entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described herein.

We are yet in the process of creating a quarterly newsletter which will highlight accomplishments and activities of WIM members in the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Conference—iterant and local elders and deacons, evangelists, chaplains, and other forms of ministry in which women are engaged, (The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2019, p.540). We remain committed to deepening our fellowship and spiritual growth by continuing to develop supportive and collegial relationships and advocating for equanimity for women in the AME Church. Another goal for this conference year is to meet monthly via conference call which we began in July 2019.

We are thankful for the opportunity afforded to Retired Itinerant Elder Dr. Judith Moore who presented at the Annual Women in Ministry Retreat in Cleveland, OH in August 2019. Her presentation focused on spiritual, physical, and emotional wellness for Women in Ministry.

Recommendations for the Conference:

1. Promote male, female and lay associate membership in WIM, (The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church, p.540). In this way we can all express support and validation of women in ministry.
2. Ensure an equitable representation of women in leadership positions which communicates their inherent value to the church and the body of Christ and allows each female clergy person to exercise her gift as called by God.
3. Utilize a balanced number of male and female clergy on the worship programs and dais on all levels. This will encourage females who have not yet accepted their call to ministry, give a visible statement of support for all clergy, and aid in the eradication of sexism within the church—a WIM objective.

Women in Ministry: The Reverends: Buena Dudley Paschall, Chair, Roberta Smith, Helen Burton, Melva Hartzog, Lea Tunstalle, Madonna Gray, Deborah Smoot, Cheryl Ruffin, Georgia Morrow, Regina Dykes, Christina Reed, Adrienne Rush, Donna King, Maureen Bolden, Brenda Montgomery, Hazel Kelly, Orbelle Henderson, Deborah Widget, Linda Hughey, Lissa Foster, Sylvia Morris, Aisha Tate, Marilyn Fisher, Prudence Harris, Paula Scott, Elizabeth Henderson, Linda Moore, Yvette Taylor, Carolyn Hairston, Constance Corbin. Retired WIM: Wilma Jean Smith, Judith Moore