

**T**he Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church.

Our mission is in the larger sense common to all Christians—that of uplifting Christ in the church and in the world. But more specifically, we are called to:

◆ *elevate women as persons of inestimable worth because they have been created and redeemed*

We can accomplish this goal by:

- providing instructions on "How to Study the Bible", small Bible study groups and spiritual growth resources "by women, for women"
- making available self-esteem seminars, books, magazines, and audio-visual resources
- identifying and encouraging the use of spiritual gifts
- helping women network with others for support, encouragement and enjoyment
- use of the Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day resource material

◆ *enable women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal*

We do this by:

- encouraging women to read, and write for, the yearly women's devotional book
- providing women's Bible studies, seminar materials, and small group ministries in communities and churches
- sponsoring women's retreats, conferences, and the International Women's Day of Prayer
- promoting prayer partners, groups, prayer chains, journaling
- training women to disciple and mentor others

- creating opportunities for women to use their gifts, including public evangelism
- educating church leadership as to the need for women to use their spiritual gifts
- encouraging churches to choose representatives that reflect the gender balance of the congregation

◆ *challenge each Adventist woman with her potential to complement the gifts given to other women and men as they work side by side to further the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church—*

We send out this challenge by:

- encouraging gender balance on committees, study groups, boards, etc., at all levels
- creating opportunity for discussion between men and women
- co-operating on Global Mission projects
- working with lay-evangelism
- reclaiming former members
- discipling new members

*that out of the fullness we as women have personally found in Jesus Christ, we may be empowered to share the good news within our families, among our fellow believers, and in ever expanding circles in the unsaved world.*

The WM Missions Statement was adopted in 1988 by the GC Women's Advisory.

The words in italic comprise the WM Mission Statement. The words in regular print are ideas for ministry.



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# Women's Ministries: Putting our Mission Statement into action

Department of Women's Ministries  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

- encouraging women to become personally involved in witnessing and evangelism

◆ *build networks among women in the world church to encourage bonds of friendship and mutual support and the creative exchange of ideas and information*

We build these networks by:

- planning and conducting retreats
- holding events such as teas, Mom to Mom programs, Mothers' Night Out, etc.
- celebrating Women's Ministries Emphasis Day
- networking with sister churches/conferences
- advocating for women, speaking up for them, empowering them to seek solutions

◆ *mentor young Adventist women, encouraging their involvement, and creating paths for them as they reach for their potential in Christ*

We accomplish this goal by:

- matching mature Christian women with new members and/or with younger women
- encouraging women in leadership to mentor young women with leadership potential
- providing resources for mentoring
- promoting spiritual secret-sister programs in churches
- planning programs and resources to help young women maintain sexual purity
- providing role models and leadership opportunities

◆ *address the concerns of women in a global context, specifically:*

**Literacy:**

- training trainers and tutors
- developing, finding and adapting teaching materials
- securing funding for literacy programs

**Poverty:**

- assisting women in acquiring a trade or profession
- establishing "Women's Centers" for practical skill training
- establishing small business enterprises
- those with financial means helping with these programs
- helping women learn money management

**Health Risks:**

- providing seminars, classes, and resource materials in co-operation with other agencies
- training women to work in undeveloped areas teaching hygiene and basic health principles
- conducting stop-smoking clinics and other programs to help women with addictions

**Workloads:**

- sponsoring programs, support groups and educational opportunities at a time convenient for working women
- advocating for fair employment practices within denominational employment
- helping women find time, motivation, and tools for personal spiritual growth

**Abuse:**

- educate the church about abuse
- raise awareness of opportunities for counseling, financial and legal assistance, and safe shelters
- assisting women to find shelters

**Leadership Training and Mentoring:**

- providing leadership training seminars, and resources
- encouraging mentoring and role models
- helping women find leadership opportunities and advancement
- encouraging women to complete the WM Leadership Certification course

◆ *bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the world church*

We can accomplish this goal by:

- educating church leaders of the value of women's perspectives
- recommending capable women for leadership positions
- publishing the Women's Ministries newsletter
- supporting and affirming women
- speaking on behalf of fair employment practices in church employment
- using the internet, a web page, memos, and other media to communicate with church leaders
- educating the church about women's needs
- speaking on behalf of women and girls forced into immoral lifestyles by poverty
- advocating for women or girls who are victims of physical, sexual and psychological abuse
- speaking against cultural practices which are physically and psychologically harmful to women

◆ *seek expanding avenues of dynamic Christian service for women*

We can do this by:

- helping women identify their spiritual gifts
- providing training to equip women to use their gifts