

2014 ICOC Women's Service Team Report

The mission of the women's committee is as follows:

To serve the sisters around the world by providing resources for growth and inspiration through the Women Today website, planning the women's portion of worldwide conferences, and championing the need for healthy functioning of women's ministry throughout all of our churches.

The committee made great strides toward this purpose over the past year.

Women's Ministry Leaders Survey

E-mail addresses were gathered for the women leaders (full time and non-full time) in our churches worldwide. We surveyed these leaders with questions about the size of their ministries, whether or not they were supported by their church, their greatest challenges and needs, and where/how they received ongoing training and support. We received an outstanding response. The survey was sent to 422 sisters around the world in November and 358 completed the surveys by Dec 1, 2013 (401 started it) This showed us that the women are eager and responsive. They expressed much gratitude just for being considered.

A subcommittee presented the finding of the survey pinpointing the top three needs:

1. Training (especially in balancing life, raising leaders, evangelism)
2. Relationships/discipling
3. Resources

Communications

In response to the survey, the committee wished to be as responsive as possible. The best course of action we determined was to send weekly (or bi-weekly) links to inspiring and informative articles (mostly from Women Today) to these church leaders. Since this was begun, numerous responses have been received from women all over the world expressing their deep gratitude for connection to these needed resources.

Several new members (Sally Hooper, Tammy Fleming, Pat Brush and Mary Lou Craig) were added to the existing Women Today communication sub-committee. Women Today (part of Disciples Today) will be our portal of communication to the sisters around the world.

Training

Along with this response, a new initiative was suggested in order to encourage and provide further training to the women in smaller churches, young churches, and more isolated churches to have the opportunity to learn from seasoned women's ministry leaders and elder's wives in keeping with Titus 2. This initiative will be fashioned after "TED Talks"...and will be 7-10 minute videos of lessons from the older, seasoned sisters. ICOC HotNews will produce these videos, and will begin filming in Singapore at the ILC. During our upcoming meeting in Singapore we will discuss ways to include women beyond the committee who can participate in these videos.

Over the past few months, 2 new books were published to help in leadership development with the women. The ACR women put together a practical book for needs with full time women, and Jeanie Shaw, Teresa Fontenot, Tammy Fleming and

Robin Williams authored a book published by IP intended for all aspiring to leadership entitled *Spiritual Leadership for Women*.

A sub-committee was established at the last meeting for planning the ILC conference in Singapore which Karen Louis chairs: The committee members are Lena Wooten, Erica Kim, Tess Fontenot, Bari Lusk, Anne-Brigitte Taliaferro and Kim Evans.

Due to health reasons with Mike Taliaferro, shortly after the meeting the Taliaferros took a sabbatical from the ministry responsibilities and Anne-Brigitte resigned from co-chairing the women's committee with Jeanie.

It has been encouraging over the past few years to witness more and more women— young and old begin to dream (and dream again) of ways God will do more than we ask or imagine through our lives as we follow him.

Working and serving together as a team of sisters, we look forward to strengthening dynamic women's ministries that can take the life-changing message of Jesus to women all over the world.

The Women's Service Team

Jeanie Shaw – Boston, Chair
Anne-Brigitte Taliaferro – San Antonio
Barbara Porter – South Florida
Caroline George – Delhi, India
Cynthia Powell – New York
Erica Kim – Denver
Elexa Liu – Hong Kong
Geri Laing – S. Florida
Gloria Baird – Phoenix
Irene Renton – Johannesburg, S. Africa
Abigail Ereola – Lagos, Nigeria
Joyce Arthur – Boston
Karen Louis – Singapore
Kim Evans – Philadelphia
Lena Wooten – Kiev, Ukraine
Lena Sokolkina – Moscow, Russia
Linda Brumley – San, Diego
Laura Garcia – Los Angeles
Mary Lou Craig – New York
Paule Dasse – Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Pat Brush – S. Florida
Robin Williams – Los Angeles
Rolayo Ogbannaya – Lagos, Nigeria
Sally Hooper – Dallas
Tammy Fleming – Birmingham, UK
Teresa Fontenot – Sydney, Australia
