

JULY 18-21, 2019

MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

# I AM

*A triennial gathering for women by women*

CONFERENCE GUIDE

I am

THE DAUGHTER OF THE I AM



# 2019 Conference Guide

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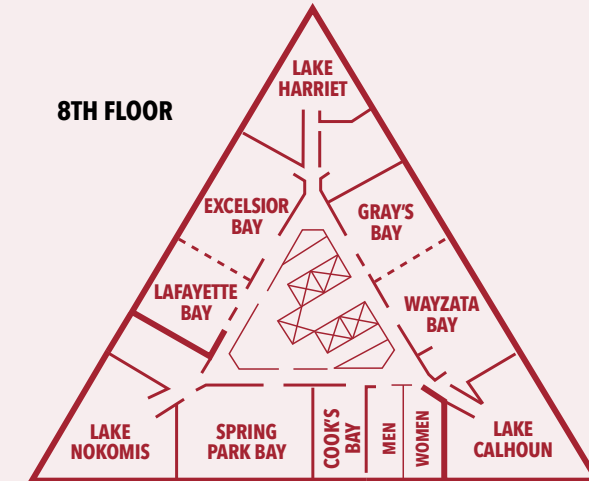
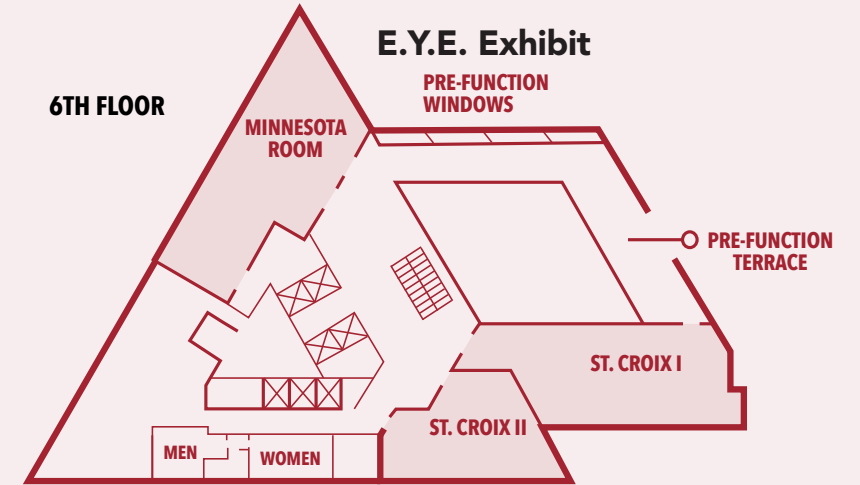
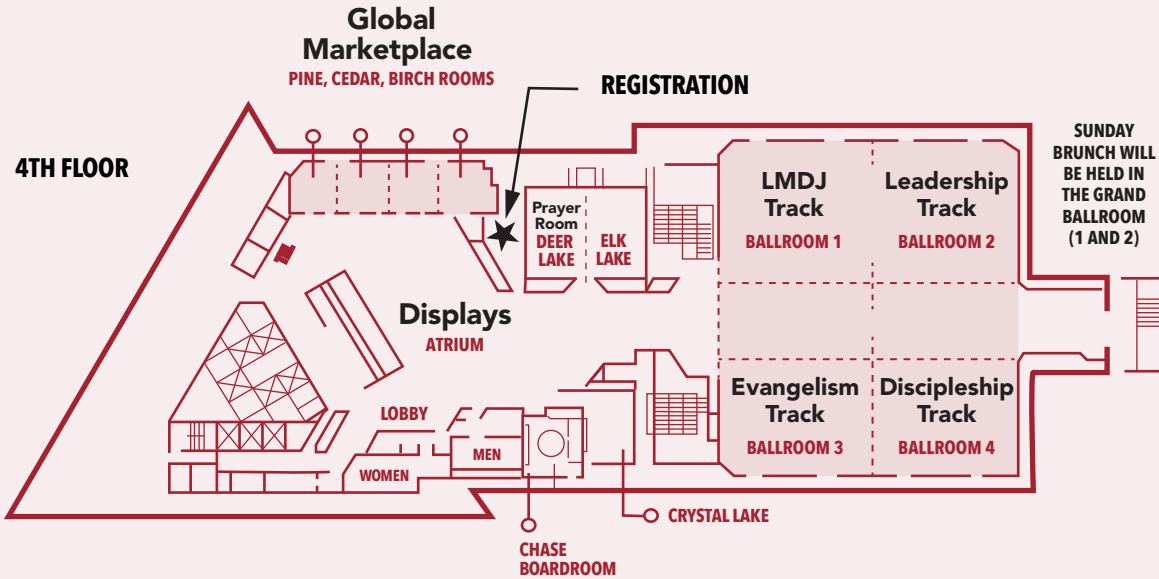


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#TRIENNIAL19 #COVWOMEN



# Minneapolis Marriott City Center



# Thursday JULY 18

- 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ..... **Bonus Workshop with Suzanne Stabile: Enneagram Overview**  
MARRIOTT 8TH FLOOR GRAYS/WAYZATA BAY
- 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM ..... **Welcome Party** MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR ATRIUM
- 7:30 PM ..... **Opening Worship** STATE THEATER, 805 HENNEPIN AVE
- 9:00 PM ..... **Regional Conference Receptions** MARRIOTT (locations listed below)  
Connect with women from your regional conference and hear about great opportunities to grow, serve, and deepen your discipleship with like-minded women.



Conference	Location
Midsouth/Southeast Conference .....	8TH FLOOR LAKE HARRIETT
Midwest Conference .....	8TH FLOOR EXCELSIOR/LAFAYETTE BAY
Central Conference .....	8TH FLOOR GRAYS/WAYZATA BAY
Pacific Northwest Conference.....	6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX II
East Coast Conference.....	8TH FLOOR LAKE CALHOUN
Great Lakes Conference.....	8TH FLOOR SPRING PARK BAY
Canada Conference .....	8TH FLOOR LAKE NOKOMIS
Pacific Southwest Conference.....	6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX I
Alaska Conference .....	8TH FLOOR COOK'S BAY
Northwest Conference .....	6TH FLOOR MINNESOTA ROOM

# Friday JULY 19

- 7:00 AM ..... **Prayer Studio** MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR DEER/ELK LAKE
- 8:30 AM ..... **Worship/CovTalks** STATE THEATER
- 10:30 AM ..... **Tracks and Workshops** MARRIOTT
- 12:00 PM ..... **Lunch Break/Cash Lines**
- 1:45 PM ..... **Tracks and Workshops** MARRIOTT
- 3:15 PM ..... **Options: Free Time, E.Y.E. Exhibit, Excursions, Prayer**
- 5:00 PM ..... **Dinner (on your own)**
- 7:30 PM ..... **Worship** STATE THEATER
- 9:00 PM ..... **Celebration** MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR ATRIUM

# Saturday JULY 20

- 7:00 AM ..... **Prayer Studio** MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR DEER/ELK LAKE
- 8:30 AM ..... **Worship/CovTalks** STATE THEATER
- 12:00 PM ..... **Lunch Break/Cash Lines**
- 1:45 PM ..... **Tracks and Workshops** MARRIOTT
- 3:15 PM ..... **Options: Free Time, E.Y.E. Exhibit, Excursions, Prayer**
- 5:00 PM ..... **Dinner (on your own)**
- 7:30 PM ..... **Concert with Sara Groves and Evening Session** STATE THEATER

# Sunday JULY 21

- 8:30 AM ..... **Closing Worship and Brunch** MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR: GRAND PORTAGE BALLROOM





# Friday JULY 19

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

- **4D Discipleship** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX II
- **Eating Together** 6TH FLOOR MINNESOTA ROOM
- **Communicating Effectively to Groups of All Sizes** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX I
- **Modern Slavery: *Joining in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*** 8TH FLOOR GRAYS/WAYZATA BAY
- **Silence in Community** 4TH FLOOR DEER/ELK LAKE
- **Fundamentos de Liderazgo Parte 1 (en Español)** 8TH FLOOR LAKE CALHOUN
- **Enneagram Insights: Jonah and the 4 Mantras** 8TH FLOOR SPRING PARK BAY

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

- **Carry the Word: Discern // Discover // Develop** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX II
- **Welcoming the Stranger: *How to Bring People on the Margins into Your Church and Home*** 6TH FLOOR MINNESOTA ROOM
- **Growing in Your Spiritual Authority as an Emerging Leader** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX I
- **#MeToo** 8TH FLOOR GRAYS/WAYZATA BAY
- **Spiritual Practices in Community as Prayer** 4TH FLOOR DEER/ELK LAKE
- **Fundamentos de Liderazgo Parte 2 (en Español)** 8TH FLOOR LAKE CALHOUN
- **The Truth About Sex** 8TH FLOOR SPRING PARK BAY

- DISCIPLESHIP
- LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE
- PRAYER
- EVANGELISM
- LEADERSHIP
- SPANISH

# Saturday JULY 20

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

- **Sacred Rhythms and Rest** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX II
- **With Jesus at Work** 6TH FLOOR MINNESOTA ROOM
- **Self-care and Healthy Boundaries for the Leader** 6TH FLOOR ST. CROIX I
- **A Light in the Darkness: Coping with Mental Illness** 8TH FLOOR GRAYS/WAYZATA BAY
- **Spiritual Practices in Community in Your Context** 4TH FLOOR DEER/ELK LAKE
- **Prácticas Espirituales (en Español)** 8TH FLOOR LAKE CALHOUN
- **Bringing Discipleship into Our Finances** 8TH FLOOR SPRING PARK BAY







# Suzanne Stabile

THURSDAY NIGHT

Suzanne Stabile is a highly sought-after speaker and teacher, known for her engaging laugh, vulnerability, and creative approach to Enneagram instruction. She is the coauthor, with Ian Morgan Cron, of the bestseller *The Road Back to You*, and she is the creator and host of *The Enneagram Journey* podcast. When she is not on the road teaching and lecturing, Suzanne is at home in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Joseph Stabile, a United Methodist pastor with whom she co-founded Life in the Trinity Ministry and the Micah Center. They have many audio resources available, including *The Enneagram Journey* curriculum.

# CovTalks

FRIDAY MORNING



**Stephanie Williams O'Brien**

Leadership



**Adele Calhoun**

Evangelism



**Tammy Long**

Discipleship



**Michelle Dodson**

Love Mercy Do Justice



**Diana Shiflett**

Prayer



**Stephanie Voland and Astrid Schwabe**

Serve Globally





# Megan Fate Marshman

FRIDAY NIGHT

Megan Fate Marshman has devoted her life to loving and listening to God and overflowing his love to others. She is driven to inspire, equip, and support others in experiencing spiritual formation for a lifetime faith. Currently, Megan is the director of women's ministries at Hume Lake Christian Camps and associate dean of YouthMinAcademy.com. She cowrote the book *7 Family Ministry Essentials* with Dr. Michelle Anthony and served as the director of student resources and events for David C. Cook as she led a team in creating *TruIdentity*, a spiritually forming, Christ-centered and family empowered youth ministry curriculum line. Megan lives in Long Beach, California, with her husband, Randy, and son, Foster.



# Inés Velasquez-McBryde

SATURDAY MORNING

Inés Velasquez-McBryde is an ordained pastor, preacher, reconciler, and speaker. She is originally from Nicaragua, but she has called Arkansas home since 2001. She has 17 years of combined experience in church-planting and pastoral staff leadership in multiethnic churches. Inés has a passion for racial reconciliation in and through the local church and for the full inclusion of women in pastoral leadership. She has spoken in local church pulpits across the nation, as well as at national and regional conferences. In the fall of 2016, she and her husband, Rob, and son, Nash, drove cross-country from Arkansas in order to pursue her dream to attend Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, where she is currently pursuing her master of divinity degree.





# Ramelia Williams

SATURDAY NIGHT

Ramelia Williams is passionate about creating environments for people to experience the compassion, mercy, and justice of God. She lives this out in her new role as the director of ministry initiatives for Love Mercy Do Justice of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Before accepting this call, she served as the lead church-planting pastor of New Creation Covenant Church, a multicultural church plant on the west side of Chicago. In her previous work as a hospital chaplain, she offered pastoral care to families experiencing trauma and loss. That work prepared her for the ministry development of a network of spirituality groups that focus on inner healing for women who have survived abuse. Ramelia earned a master's of divinity and certificate in spiritual direction from North Park Theological Seminary, where she serves as an adjunct professor and facilitates spiritual formation groups for students. She experiences deep joy when running, hiking, riding horses, or taking in breathtaking views of God's creation.



# Marilyn Williams

SUNDAY MORNING

Marilyn Williams has catalyzed women throughout the world through speaking engagements and Scripture studies. This May she began a new role at the Evangelical Covenant Church as its first director of women's initiatives. Prior to moving to Chicago, the location of Covenant offices, she most recently served as the associate pastor of Chapel in the Pines Community Covenant Church in the mountain town of Arnold, California. She has also served as adjunct faculty at Bethel Seminary in San Diego. Williams has had past roles as lead pastor of Oak Hills Evangelical Covenant Church in Vista, CA, and as director of ministries to women at Emmanuel Faith Community Church, a megachurch in Escondido, CA. She and her husband, Michael, have two grown children and two grandchildren. An ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church, Williams is looking forward to building relationships with key leaders and ministries in her new role.



MEET ON STREET LEVEL 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO DEPARTURE TIME

## Excursions

### WEDNESDAY JULY 17

11:45 AM ..... **Twins Baseball Game**5:00 PM – 10:00 PM ..... **Luck Be the Lady**

### THURSDAY JULY 18

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..... **Urban Adventures**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM ..... **Visit Stillwater**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM ..... **Visit Taylor Falls**10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ..... **Shop 'Til You Drop**2:00 PM – 5:30 PM ..... **Human on a Stick: Segway Tour**

### FRIDAY JULY 19 & SATURDAY JULY 20

3:15 PM ..... **Experience St. Paul**3:15 PM ..... **Shop 'Til You Drop**3:15 PM ..... **Social Justice Light Rail Tour**

## Celebrations

Join us at the Welcome Party to kick off I AM 2019, the 16th triennial gathering by women for women! The theme of the welcome party is “The Great Triennial Get-Together,” the nickname for the Minnesota State Fair. Enjoy arcade-style games, fair food, and craft projects while getting to know the other women you will be spending the weekend with. There will be prizes and give-aways, so you won’t want to miss it!

The Friday night celebration is in honor of Meagan Gillan and an opportunity to say “thank you” to the Conference Women Ministries Leaders for all that they have done for Women Ministries in this season. Desserts will be served, with time for mingling and conversation.

# Covenant Bookstore

Covenant Bookstore will be at the I AM Conference with great titles selected by keynote speakers and presenters. There will be book signings with authors during free time on Saturday. Find the bookstore in the Atrium near the Global Marketplace.

# Meals

We will have brunch together on Sunday morning. Breakfast and lunch à la carte options will be available in the hotel for your convenience. All meals can be purchased on your own from local restaurants.

## Meet-Up Locations

If you would like to connect with others for meals, join a meet-up group at the hotel at the registration desk.

# Details

## PRAYER TEAM

A prayer team is ready and available to pray with you after worship. Look for women with prayer team name tags.

## DISPLAYS

### MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR ATRIUM

Stop by the display area and discover all that the Evangelical Covenant Church offers to individuals and churches around the world.

## E.Y.E. EXHIBIT

### Expand Your Empathy for Mercy and Justice

You are invited to Expand Your Empathy (E.Y.E.) engaging with thought-provoking encounters designed to bring awareness to violent and systemic matters of injustice. Take a stroll through these powerful displays and get a glimpse into the reality for many in our society who are sick, impoverished, and incarcerated. Matthew 25 expresses how we can care for the *least of these* – we see their plight and meet them at their need. The E.Y.E. Exhibit focuses on the poverty crisis in America, school to prison pipeline, and violence against women.

See page 40 for more details.

## TRANSLATION SERVICES

Translation services will be available during all worship sessions in real time, using translation equipment. Please be aware that every effort will be made to create a positive experience for every woman, but the conference is not a fully bilingual event.

Habrà traducción simultánea en español para los que asistan a la adoración, donde pueden recoger los auriculares.

## LIVE WEBCASTS

Live webcasts of all the main worship services are available. To watch recorded webcasts and other I AM videos, go to [iam.covchurch.org](http://iam.covchurch.org).

## IMAGE POLICY

Your participation in the I AM Conference implies permission for the ECC to reproduce your image, likeness, or voice in connection with any recorded display or reproduction of I AM in post-event publicity and publicity for other such events sponsored by the ECC.

# Sponsors

We are grateful to our partners for their generous support.



TEN SCHOLARSHIPS



WELCOME PARTY



SARA GROVES CONCERT



SUNDAY BRUNCH



WELCOME PARTY



# Special Meals

## THURSDAY JULY 18

5-6 PM

### Track Meet Ups

#### Discipleship MARRIOTT – LAKE CALHOUN

The discipleship journey of following Jesus is meant to be done with friends. Stop by the Discipleship Track Meet-Up during the Welcome Party to meet fellow followers before we start our journey together.

#### Evangelism MARRIOTT – SPRING PARK BAY

You've met electronically—now this is a chance to connect and hear some stories from our track speakers and one another before we dig into our learning experiences together! You'll also have a chance to meet the people you'll be with for the weekend while enjoying some treats together!

#### LMDJ MARRIOTT – 6TH FLOOR

The Love Mercy Do Justice Track Meet-Up is the perfect place to get acquainted before our transformative time of learning, equipping, and sharing. Swing by the E.Y.E. Exhibit on the 6th floor and let's connect!

9:00 PM

### Regional Conference Receptions

See the schedule page for details and locations.

## FRIDAY JULY 19

7-8 AM

### Serve Globally Breakfast EXCELSIOR/LAFAYETTE BAY

Join us to hear how you can engage with Serve Globally by praying, learning, giving, and going in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Middle East North Africa. Serve Globally will share effective ways you can partner with the Evangelical Covenant Church in holistic mission across cultures and around the world. Breakfast provided. RSVPs appreciated.

12-1 PM

### Discipleship Cohort F2F Lunch MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 4

For five months you met online, shared your story, and engaged in spiritual practices together. Come and meet sister-friends in the flesh at the 4D Face to Face Celebration lunch for those who participated in the Discipleship cohort experience.

### LMDJ: Sankofa and J2M Reunion MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 1

Calling all past participants of Sankofa Journeys and Journey to Mosaic! Grab your lunch and join us to reflect on the journey you began and its impact on your life.

## SATURDAY JULY 20

7-8 AM

### Clergy Women Breakfast MARRIOTT 8TH FLOOR – EXCELSIOR/LAFAYETTE

All clergy women attending I AM are invited to join ECC president John Wenrich and superintendents Tammy Swanson-Draheim (Midwest) and Catherine Gilliard (Southeast) for breakfast.

### Evangelism Breakfast MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 3

Grab your breakfast and join us for fellowship with our international guests.

12-1 PM

### Leadership Lunch MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 2

Join us for a lunch with those who are leading in the same lane as you! Tables will be designated for those leading in the church, in the nonprofit space, the marketplace, as well as those who consider themselves emerging leaders, and those who would benefit from a conversation on motherhood and leadership.

### Eating Together Workshop Gathering MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 3

All women participating in the Eating Together workshop are invited to join for lunch.

### Discipleship Informational Lunch MARRIOTT – BALLROOM 4

The discipleship journey continues. Join us for an information lunch to learn about post-I AM Conference Discipleship cohorts. Discipleship cohorts are communities of sisters who meet twice a month online to walk together as growing disciples who make disciples.

# Global Marketplace

MARRIOTT 4TH FLOOR

Come shop the Global Marketplace where you will find a beautifully curated collection of goods from across the country and around the world.

## REPRESENTED AT THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE:

- Organizations that provide employment, education, job training, opportunity, and a stable source of income for families in economically disadvantaged communities
- Organizations that are faith-based, integrating discipleship and leadership training
- Organizations that bring hope and healing to women artisans and their families
- Products that are lovingly handmade, creative, sustainable, and ethically made
- Products made by women-owned businesses
- Products that delight, inspire, and encourage us in our faith...and are fun!

Join another beautiful woman's story when you shop. Your purchases can make a difference!



Bethany  Benefit Service

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The Covenant choice.**

Bethany Benefit Service was created by the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1993 to provide a comprehensive benefits package to denominational and conference staff, missionaries, local church and camp staff, and retirees.

We focus on your benefits, so you can focus on your ministry.

[covchurch.org/benefits](https://covchurch.org/benefits)



## Prayer

Through prayer we have direct access to the great I AM. Sometimes our time with God can begin to feel one-sided, dry, or stale. This weekend we have prepared a few ways to engage in prayerful exercises to help spark your conversation with the living God.

Stop in to the Prayer Room for some quality time on holy ground. Take a few minutes at one station, or linger as you make your way around the room. Come alone or with a friend. This is a choose-your-adventure experience. Join us at 7 AM for guided prayer.

Make the most of your walk to the theater. You may choose to leave a few minutes early and quiet yourself as you walk. Notice your surroundings. When you see something that stands out to you, pause and ask God why you've noticed it. Jesus regularly used everyday objects as parables and God still speaks to us this way. We only need eyes to see and ears to hear. Pray for the people you pass along the way, for those working in the restaurants and hotels, storefronts, and in the theater itself. You don't have to know all the details; God does.



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**tracks**

LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

**When Did We See?**

EVANGELISM

**Sharing Stories:  
Yours, Mine, and God's**

MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

**I Am a Disciple**

DEVELOP LEADERS

**Women of Influence**

## MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES TRACK

## I Am a Disciple

## 4D DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus calls us to come and follow him—and to go and make disciples. What does that look like today? How do we manage all the activities of our busy lives and still seek God first, follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit day by day?

4D Discipleship is not a program or a curriculum; it's a mindset and framework to guide the journey. Because following Jesus is a lifetime experience, the 4Ds of Discipleship are not only for new believers but for anyone who is committed to being a disciple, a student of Christ.

The specifics of the journey may look different in different seasons, but the path of discipleship, the 4Ds, is the same for everyone as we seek to be transformed into the image of our Teacher. We are forever discovering, deepening, developing, and duplicating. We are forever disciples.

Discover  
Deepen

## Discipleship Focus:

- Discovering who is God
- Discovering who am I

## Key Learning and Themes:

**Who is God?** God as personal • God as Triune  
• God's plan of salvation • God's themes of grace and forgiveness • God's attributes and character

**Who am I?** New Identity • Adopted • Unique and wonderfully made • Beloved unconditionally

## Key Activities and Behaviors:

## Key Reflection and Themes:

## Discipleship Focus:

- Deepening in an intimate relationship with God
- Deepening in an authentic relationship with God's family

## Key Learning and Themes:

**Spiritual Practices:** Study and memorization of God's word • Obedience • Prayer practices • Worship • Service • Solitude and silence • Creative God moments

**Living as the Body of Christ:** Growing in authentic community

## Key Activities and Behaviors:

## Key Reflection and Themes:



# Develop

<p><b>Discipleship Focus:</b> Developing as a partner with God in his mission</p>	<p><b>Key Learning and Themes:</b>  <b>Serving in Ministry and Mission:</b> Identifying and developing spiritual gifts • Matching gifts to ministry and mission  <b>Personal Mission and Purpose:</b> Identifying a mission and developing in purpose  <b>Leadership:</b> Becoming a person of influence</p>
<p><b>Key Activities and Behaviors:</b></p>	<p><b>Key Reflection and Themes:</b></p>

# Duplicate

<p><b>Discipleship Focus:</b> Duplicating disciples as a disciple who makes disciples</p>	<p><b>Key Learning and Themes:</b> Making disciples • BLESS-ing those in my sphere • Discerning and responding to the Spirit at work in others • Sharing the gospel in word and deed • Helping others discover, deepen, develop, and duplicate as a disciple</p>
<p><b>Key Activities and Behaviors:</b></p>	<p><b>Key Reflection and Themes:</b></p>

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### Discover

*Discipleship Essentials* BY GREG OGDEN

*The Good and Beautiful God* BY JAMES BRYAN SMITH

*The Road Back to You: An Enneagram Journey to Self Discovery* BY IAN MORGAN CRON AND SUZANNE STABILE

### Deepen

*Life Together* BY DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

*Sacred Pathways* BY GARY THOMAS

*Sacred Rhythms* BY RUTH HALEY BARTON

### Develop

*Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* BY C. PETER WAGNER

*How to Find Your Mission in Life* BY RICHARD NELSON BOLLES

*You Are Made for This: Own Your Voice, Rise into Your Influence, and Impact Your World* BY JO SAXTON

### Duplicate

*Alpha video series*

*The Lifegiving Table: Nurturing Faith through Feasting, One Meal at a Time* BY SALLY CLARKSON

*Workplace Grace: Becoming a Spiritual Influence at Work* BY BILL PEEL AND WALT LARIMORE

Find each resource online at [iam.covchurch.org/resources](http://iam.covchurch.org/resources).



## DEVELOP LEADERS TRACK

# Women of Influence

Everyone has influence. Leaders are intentional about how they use that influence. Together we will pursue the gifts God has given us to be women of influence in our workplaces, neighborhoods, churches, and families. If you are ready to take your next step to grow in your influence and embrace your identity as a leader, this track is for you!



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### Podcasts

*Lead Stories* WITH STEPH O'BRIEN AND JO SAXTON

*The Next Right Thing* WITH EMILY P. FREEMAN

*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* WITH RUTH HALEY BARTON

*Shalom Sistas* WITH OSHETA MOORE

### Books

*More Than Enchanting* BY JO SAXTON

*The Emotionally Healthy Leader* BY PETER SCAZZERO

*Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* BY RUTH HALEY BARTON

*Dare to Lead* BY BRENÉ BROWN

*Rising Strong* BY BRENÉ BROWN

### Other Resources

[LeadStoriesMedia.com/resources](https://LeadStoriesMedia.com/resources)

[CraftedCoachingandConsulting.com](https://CraftedCoachingandConsulting.com)

Find each resource online at [iam.covchurch.org/resources](https://iam.covchurch.org/resources).





## EVANGELISM TRACK

# Sharing Stories: Yours, Mine, and God's

*Adventures of Huckleberry, Romeo and Juliet, Titanic, Moby Dick, Downton Abbey...* these are some of our favorite stories. What would it look like if we as the church learned to listen to and tell great stories, including God's stories and our own story while asking good questions to engage with other's stories? In the Stories Track we are learning from women in different parts of their journey and then considering what other elements and settings help us to engage with stories better—like EATING! In Colossians 4:6, God calls us to engage with the world "graciously and seasoned with salt" which in our day can look like winsomeness, simplicity, and thoughtfulness.



## PRAYER & PARABLE WALKS

A collective prayer walk will be available on Friday morning at 7AM to align ourselves with Christ while walking through Minneapolis. We will meet in the lobby and physically walk by hospitals, theatres, hotels, shopping centers, service agencies, homeless people, and business people as we seek the heart and mind of Christ. In 1 Peter 4:7 it tells us to be alert and sober-minded so we can pray. Together we will listen to God and intercede for the people and places we see. Like Jesus used parables, we too can listen to the world around us for stories that God yearns to share with us.

Every day we will be walking to a nearby theatre for our large group gatherings. We encourage you to use these walks as an opportunity to pray. What would it look like to explore God's vision—to make space in our hearts to hold the contrasts and ironies in our world and then to take this practice back to our neighborhoods and cities?

### A guide for prayer walks on your own

Start with reading a passage of Scripture, such as 1 Timothy 2:1-3: "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior."

Reflect on these questions as you walk:

- What does it mean that God is in every place?
- Ask God, "What do you want me to pay attention to?"
- Ask God, "What is your heart for this place?"

## STORYTIME/ BLESS CHALLENGE

In order to listen and tell stories effectively, we must begin with prayer. During the I Am Conference, we will hear the stories of two women who each committed to bless five people in their lives over the last 6-12 months. They are eager to share their insights on how they used the BLESS challenge from our denomination to Begin with Prayer, Listen with care, Eat together, Serve in love, and Share your story. They come from very different walks of life, and neither considers herself an "evangelist," yet we get to see God at work in and through their commitment and be inspired in practical ways as we go out from Triennial. You'll be encouraged by how God can use us as the body of Christ where we are now or where we could be, or should be if we genuinely are committed to him.



## GATHERINGS

### Meet Our Global Guests Saturday Morning

On Saturday morning we invite you to join us in having deeper conversations with global women attending Triennial. This will be a chance for you to put into practice what we learned in the workshop by asking good questions, listening well, and sharing stories with women from other countries. It will be a casual time and you are invited to purchase breakfast in the hotel.

### Saturday Lunch

For those who have participated in any of the Evangelism/Story track workshops, we invite you to our Saturday lunch where we will have more time to actually eat together with the facilitators from our track. We'll engage with the materials while also co-creating your version of "eating together" to take back to your community.

## INTENTIONAL INTERACTIONS: MAKING SPACE AT YOUR TABLE

Throughout the gathering there will be decorated tables with discussion prompts where we invite you to sit and engage with other women and make new connections while sharing in stories together! This is a place where you can meet a new friend, follow up with someone you just met for a deeper conversation, practice sharing in story, and share ideas about how to create a more hospitable atmosphere at the "tables" in your life.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### True You: Overcoming Self-Doubt and Using Your Voice BY ADELE CALHOUN

This book serves as a companion as we find ourselves, our sense of community, and our identity in God. Designed to take you deeper with God on your own or with a group of sisters, journey alongside experienced ministers Adele Ahlberg Calhoun and Tracey Bianchi into some of the places where women struggle no matter what their age or life-stage. Personal resources like journaling questions and a small group guide help women support each other along the way. These pages offer a reminder that there is a beloved, "true you" waiting to be known in each of us and that a world in need awaits the unique stories that each of us were made to tell. Will you use your voice?

### Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us BY ADELE CALHOUN

In *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Adele Calhoun gives us directions for our journey toward intimacy with Christ. While the word discipline may make us want to run and hide, the author shows how desires and discipline work together to lead us to the transformation we're longing for—transformation only Christ can bring. Instead of just giving information about spiritual disciplines, this handbook is full of practical, accessible guidance that helps you actually do them.

### Holy Conversations: Talking About God in Everyday Life BY RICHARD PEACE

In *Holy Conversations*, Richard Peace teaches how to engage in easy and comfortable conversations about the good news of Jesus. Using small, easy steps, he explains the gospel in common terms and encourages us in practical ways to share our faith with friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

### A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community, and Mission Around The Table BY TIM CHESTER

Tim Chester brings to light God's purposes in the seemingly ordinary act of sharing a meal—how this everyday experience is really an opportunity for grace, community, and mission. Chester challenges contemporary understandings of hospitality as he urges us to evaluate why and who we invite to our table. Learn how you can foster grace and bless others through the rich fare being served in *A Meal with Jesus*.

Find each resource online at [iam.covchurch.org/resources](http://iam.covchurch.org/resources).



# When Did We See?



In numerous Christian spaces, Love Mercy Do Justice has become the cliché of the day. However, it is more than just a catchy phrase or poetic words to adorn t-shirts, bumper stickers, and coffee mugs. It is a mandate from a just God, spoken by a courageous prophet, to an unjust people.

**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

– MICAH 6:8

We live in a broken world. Image bearers of God are marginalized, oppressed, and discriminated against. Their experiences leave them pained, broken, and without hope. These are our neighbors, the very ones that we are commanded to love as ourselves.

We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and as the hands and feet of Jesus, we must ask ourselves the question, “What does the LORD require?”

Love Mercy Do Justice is a call to action for God’s children. We are called to join God in this work to make wrong things right and to show love not just in word, but also in deed.

With Christ as our example, may we move from compassion to action in caring for all who suffer from injustice.

**“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”**

**Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”**

**The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”**

– MATTHEW 25:35-40

Being Christ followers, we are expected to respond with compassionate action and not turn a blind eye to those hurting and in need. But before we can respond, we must first “see.”

**See** – the need, the hurt, the oppression, the injustice

**Do** – work to eradicate the cause of the need, the hurt, the oppression, the injustice

The response of the righteous – “when did we **see**?”

The response of the King – “whatever you **did** for one the least of these...you **did** for me.”

When the least of these were ministered to, the King was ministered to – that’s when they saw.

**To see is to do.**

It is not good enough to just **see** those who are poor, hurting, marginalized, oppressed and facing injustice – we must also **do**.

Embark upon the journey to explore the reality of Matthew 25 and our call as daughters of the Great I Am to do what the Lord requires: *Love Mercy and Do Justice*.

**E.Y.E. EXHIBIT: Expand Your Empathy for Mercy and Justice**

You are invited to Expand Your Empathy (E.Y.E.) engaging with thought-provoking encounters designed to bring awareness to violent and systemic matters of injustice. Take a stroll through these powerful displays and get a glimpse into the reality for many in our society who are sick, impoverished and incarcerated. Matthew 25 expresses how we can care for the *least of these* – we see their plight and meet them at their need.

The E.Y.E. Exhibit focuses on the poverty crisis in America, school to prison pipeline, and violence against women.

Visit the *“Beloved”* board to read/share a written word of encouragement or note of love and support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Conclude your journey at the Justice *“Wailing Wall”* where you can join with others in lament and prayers of healing and hope.

The outside terrace is an inviting optional space available for use to process, pray, read scripture and journal. It can also be utilized when creating a t-shirt for the clothesline project.

**“Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.”**

– ZECHARIAH 7:9

ENCOUNTER 1

**FROM EDUCATION TO INCARCERATION**

**School to Prison Pipeline**

*“I was in prison”*

The School to Prison Pipeline is a process through which students are pushed out of schools and into the criminal justice system. This has resulted in a growing number of incarcerated youth. Learn more about this unjust process and how you can help end it.



ENCOUNTER 2

**POVERTY IN BLACK AND WHITE**

**Poverty Crisis in America**

*“I was hungry...I was thirsty...I needed clothes”*

How knowledgeable are you about the poverty crisis in America? This interactive display presents photos depicting poverty and startling facts related to this critical societal problem. A quiz will be provided for you to test your level of awareness and the answers will be revealed as you experience this moving encounter.

Take the quiz, view the photos and score yourself to see how knowledgeable you are. To get you started, answer the questions below.

**Quiz**

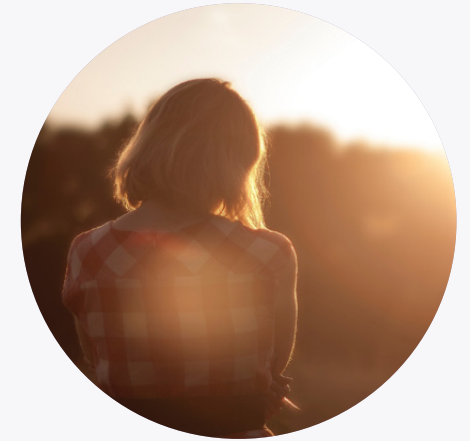
What is the federal minimum wage amount?

- A.) \$10.50                      B.) \$7.25
- C.) \$15.00

According to the latest statistic, how many people live in poverty within the United States?

- A.) Over 54 million              B.) Over 39 million
- C.) Over 27 million

*Answers can be found at the E.Y.E. Exhibit located at the Pre-Function Terrace on the 6th floor.*



ENCOUNTER 3

**BEARING WITNESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**Violence Against Women**

*“I was sick”*

Experience a powerful witness that can bring awareness, release, restoration and healing. This clothesline T-shirt project allows women who are survivors of sexual or physical abuse the opportunity to express their abuse and share their stories. They can create a personal visual (picture, word, phrase, etc.) on a t-shirt to be displayed on a clothesline. T-shirts can also be created in memory of women who have experienced this type of violence but are no longer with us.



## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

## Books

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER

*Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice That Restores* BY DOMINIQUE DUBOIS GILLIARD

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* BY BRYAN STEVENSON

*The Church Leader's Guide to Immigration* BY WORLD RELIEF

*Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible* BY DANIEL CARROLL

*Welcoming the Stranger* BY MATTHEW SOERENS AND JENNY YANG

*An Indigenous People's History of the United States* BY ROXANNE DUNBAR-ORTIZ

*Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People* BY WILLIAM IGGIAGRUK HENSLEY

*Deep Justice in a Broken World: Helping Your Kids Serve Others and Right the Wrongs Around Them* BY CHAP CLARK AND KARA POWELL

*Deep Justice Journeys Leader's Guide: 50 Activities to Move from Mission Trips to Missional Living* BY KARA POWELL AND BRAD GRIFFIN

*40 Way to Raise a Non-Racist Child* BY BARBARA MATHIAS AND MARY ANN FRENCH

*Divided by Faith* BY MICHAEL EMERSON AND CHRISTIAN SMITH

*The Cross and the Lynching Tree* BY JAMES CONE

*Roadmap to Reconciliation* BY BRENDA SALTER MCNEIL

*The Death of Race* BY BRIAN BANTUM

*The Very Good Gospel* BY LISA SHARON HARPER

*Between the World and Me* BY TA-NEHISI COATES

*Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism* BY ALLAN BOESAK AND CURTISS PAUL DEYOUNG

*The Little Book of Restorative Justice* BY HOWARD ZEHR

*Social Justice Handbook* BY MAE ELISE CANNON AND JOHN PERKINS

*The Next Evangelicalism* BY SOONG-CHAN RAH

*In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez* BY PAUL FARMER

*Linking Arms, Linking Lives: How Urban-Suburban Partnerships Can Transform Communities* BY AL TIZON, NOEL CASTELLANOS, RON SIDER, AND JOHN PERKINS

*Walking with the Poor: Practices and Principles of Transformational Development* BY BRYANT MEYERS

*Faith Rooted Organizing* BY REV. ALEXIA SALVATIERRA AND PETER HELTZEL

## Videos

*TED Talk: We Need to Talk about an Injustice* BY BRYAN STEVENSON

*TED Talk: The Future of Race in America* BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Resolutions: [covchurch.org/resolutions](https://iam.covchurch.org/resolutions)

Resolution on Domestic Violence EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Resolution on Immigration EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Resolution on Racial Righteousness EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

## Articles

*A Broken Trust* BY JENNY RAE ARMSTRONG

*Voices: This Is My Home* BY METZLI

*Girls in Juvenile Justice: Treating the Victim as a Criminal* BALTIMORE SUN

## Curriculum

*Study Guide for the Cross and the Lynching Tree*

## Other

*Affordable Housing Handbook* LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

*Sexual Harassment: Response and Prevention* EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

*Developing a Safety Plan* LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE: AVA

Find each resource online at [iam.covchurch.org/resources](https://iam.covchurch.org/resources).



**We join God in  
God's mission  
to see more  
disciples among  
more populations  
in a more caring  
and just world.**

**WE PURSUE  
THIS THROUGH  
FIVE MISSION  
PRIORITIES**





# Letter from Marilyn Williams

DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S INITIATIVES, ECC

**Welcome to Minneapolis! I am Marilyn Williams, a daughter of the Great I AM.**

I am also humbled to be the first ECC Director of Women's Initiatives. As you get to know my story, I am eager to know yours. Together, our history is His-story written on our hearts, for God's bigger story.

One of the ways we can join God in God's mission, to see more disciples among more populations, in a more caring and just world, is by fostering the flourishing of women in every area of life, ministry context, and personal call. This requires us to work collaboratively across conferences, local churches, and all ECC mission priorities: Start and Strengthen Churches, Make and Deepen Disciples, Love Mercy Do Justice, Develop Leaders, and Serve Globally. Through collaboration, intentional pathways and relevant initiatives can be contextually implemented for every woman to flourish in her identity in Christ.

As women, we move through different stages of our lives, often simultaneously. As a wife, mother, and grandmother, I am also an ordained minister. As an ECC pastor for the past six years, I am also a friend, neighbor, and community partner. As a woman who has overcome abuse and oppression, I am also a learner and a growing leader. As an international itinerant speaker and short-term missionary, I am also an adjunct professor.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (PSALM 139:14)

**God made us holistic, dynamic, and complex. As redeemed daughters of the Great I AM, we are called and commissioned collectively for every area of witness, service, and leadership in the church, home, and community at large.**

"Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with one another, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman." (GALATIANS 3:28)

God's holy word exhorts us to dismantle false divisions among Christian sisters and brothers, building upon our foundation of Christian faith as one body in "power, love, and sound judgment" (2 TIMOTHY 1:7). Following the leading of the Holy Spirit, we must listen to one another's stories with mutual respect and encouragement. We must work together, perhaps as never before, for the flourishing of our sisters. When everyone in the church flourishes, the kingdom flourishes.

Equipping women in their unique stages of life and call includes a deliberate and soulful focus on our sisters who need championing and resources. It also includes a commitment to the biblical hermeneutic for our sisters who are anointed and gifted for pastoral leadership. Simultaneously, a ministry momentum is needed for women to flourish in their marriages, families, singlehood, and communities. God is calling and equipping women to join him in cultivating justice in the world, church planting, pastoral leadership, and intentional discipleship in the most obvious and forgotten places. It is truly a new day for God's daughters.

Women face new challenges and greater opportunities in today's landscape. While continuing the rich heritage of ministering well to women, we must seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and work together in humility and unity. Would you join me in prayer, attuning your ear to the movement of the Holy Spirit for the flourishing of every woman? Watch for new initiatives and collaborative opportunities to pray for, support, and join. It is my deep passion to serve you, "for such a time as this" (ESTHER 4:14).

*Grace and Peace in Christ the Lord,*

Marilyn



*"Hi! I'd love to meet you. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself! As we get to know one another, we move this exciting women's initiative forward."*

*—Marilyn*

# Make and Deepen Disciples

## FOSTERING THE FLOURISHING OF WOMEN

The dream of Make and Deepen Disciples is to mobilize a multiethnic movement of disciples who make disciples across all ages. **Being a disciple and disciplemaker of Jesus is a lifelong journey that is best pursued in community.** In February 2019, a women's discipleship cohort was launched, providing a life-changing opportunity for women to journey with other women and grow deeper in Christ and further in mission together.

Make and Deepen Disciples will launch the second phase of the discipleship cohort at Midwinter 2020. This discipleship pathway will deepen participants' understanding and personal experience of God's design for discipleship. Each cohort group meets twice a month for one hour and includes a short teaching session, sharing, a spiritual practice experience, and prayer. Participating in this cohort will be a rich experience that will connect women in meaningful ways with other women and grow them together as disciples who make disciples.

Whether you would like to utilize the materials from the cohort as you meet with other women at your church or you want to join an online cohort, Make and Deepen Disciples is overjoyed by the opportunity to partner with you in fostering the flourishing of women's discipleship in the ECC!

*This discipleship pathway will deepen your understanding and personal experience of God's design for discipleship.*





# Start and Strengthen Churches

## FOSTERING THE FLOURISHING OF WOMEN

Start and Strengthen Churches (SSC) is grateful to join our mission partners across the Covenant to support the flourishing of women in ministry and at all levels of leadership. We acknowledge that historically, we have not done as much as we could have or should have in this effort, and we want to increase our accountability by showing measurable ways in which we will do better.

**As SSC looks forward in our goal of planting more than 300 churches over the next 10 years, we will work intentionally with conferences to bring more called and gifted women to assessment centers as prospective church planters.** As a point of celebration, in the past two years, 27% of ECC church plants have women in lead or co-lead roles. This is four times the number from five years ago. Our goal is to establish this all-time high as our new yearly goal. If we achieve our overall vision for planting for the next three years, then we hope to see women as lead or co-lead pastors in at least 25% of our new churches.

We will work to intentionally diversify our training teams to ensure that women who are currently leading at all levels are trainers, facilitators, and coaches in our training events. Currently there are two women in conference church planting leadership, and two of the four trainers in our newly formed training team for church plant coaches are women. We also anticipate an increasing number of lead pastors to enter retirement over the next ten years, and more of our established churches will be seeking lead pastors. SSC will work intentionally to support initiatives that help called and gifted women gain the opportunity to candidate these churches.

In the Covenant we have a vision of being 3StrandStrong and much of what we celebrate in this direction comes from joining in with the good work being done by our conference leaders. Recently, SSC supported the work of the Midwest Conference in hosting their Exploring Call retreat, co-led by Patty Thompson, a member of the ECC Vitality Team, and other leaders who helped 14 female

participants come together to discern where God may be calling them to preach, serve, and lead in the ECC. We look forward to continuing our financial support of the MWC and other conferences as they create these important spaces. We are happy to report that over the last two years, we have gone from an all-male Vitality leadership team to a team with six women leading Vitality Ministry across the denomination and our regional conferences.

We praise God for the recent progress that has been made. However, there is a long way to go as SSC seeks to foster the flourishing of women. May the Spirit continue to empower and direct us, as called and gifted women and men, as we seek to advance God's kingdom in the communities, regions, and countries he has entrusted to us.



# Develop Leaders

## FOSTERING THE FLOURISHING OF WOMEN

Develop Leaders (DL) is excited that the President's Office has identified the flourishing of women as a key focal point. As Covenant people, our tradition has been to ask, "Where is it written?" and DL affirms that we support women in all ministry and leadership positions within the church, not because of societal pressure or trends, but because the Bible leads us to this conclusion.

DL has a significant history of supporting women in ministry. Most notably, DL's partnership with the Covenant's Biblical Gender Equality Commission has yielded rich results through the publication of curricula such as *Called and Gifted* and *All God's People*, which help to educate both clergy and laity about the biblical basis for women in ministry. Another more recent development has been Project Deborah, an initiative which encourages existing leaders to identify gifted and godly women in their midst and provide them both mentoring and leadership development opportunities. Looking toward the future, we are excited about the Thriving in Ministry grant, an award of \$1M which DL recently received from the Lilly Foundation, Inc. We expect to develop specific cohort programs pairing female leaders with mentors who will walk with them at critical stages of their ministry journey.

Finally, as a mission priority, Develop Leaders typifies the fostering of women's flourishing in that the DL team is comprised of qualified women leaders who shepherd the ECC ministerial community in vital areas such as care, advocacy, credentialing, education, and orientation. At the end of the day, the women of the DL team give evidence to what happens when we resource women in leadership.



*Develop Leaders has a significant history of supporting women in ministry.*





# Love Mercy Do Justice

## FOSTERING THE FLOURISHING OF WOMEN

The Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) team is pleased to welcome AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse) and its related ministries of Mending the Soul and Sanctuary Listening Groups to their new home.

A recent revisioning study recommended the move, and we are grateful for how it aligns with the key priorities of LMDJ: we love mercy by helping hurting people and do justice by addressing the causes of that hurt. AVA is a key way we can do this by bringing training that provides awareness, language, and orientation to the issues surrounding domestic and intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse, and sexual assault. Through Mending the Soul, people can experience healing and help for their abuse; Sanctuary Listening Groups provide safe space for those who simply need to talk about what happened without fear of judgment, interruption, or “fixing.”

AVA training is available for congregations, conferences, camps, and Covenant Living Communities to help provide deeper understanding and growth regarding the impact of abuse on those who live through it, including the effect of trauma on the brain.

Given that one in three girls and one in six boys experience some form of abuse before the age of 18, it's vital that pastors, leaders, teachers, and laypersons alike have understanding about the dynamics of abuse and how to be trauma informed helpers in their local setting.

The move to LMDJ is also meaningful because it fully includes women and men and seeks to encourage all persons with healing and help. Groups are always gender specific, but AVA is looking to grow by adding men who desire to advocate and support, serving God's people across the Covenant Church.



LMDJ developed a reading list for Women's History Month 2019 as an opportunity to learn from, celebrate, and pay tribute to the generations of women who have struggled, and continue to struggle, sacrifice, and give their lives to make our nation a more just and equitable place for all. The list highlights female authors whose writings will help us consider how we faithfully foster the flourishing of women. These resources will help us consider how we stand with our sisters in response to atrocities like sexism, sexual violence, and domestic violence. We invite you to engage and share this reading list with your congregations to learn how we can more faithfully rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

Find the women's history month reading list at [covchurch.org/justice/resources](https://covchurch.org/justice/resources).



# Serve Globally

## FREE: AN INITIATIVE TO CHALLENGE SEX TRAFFICKING

The Covenant Church believes that God calls us to “learn to do good; seek justice, encourage the oppressed” in accord with the call in Isaiah 1:17. Now it is time to once again confront the injustice of sex trafficking. Globally an estimated 4.7 million people are caught in sex trafficking, a situation that destroys the image of God within each victim and has broad destructive power in every community where it exists.

Motivated by a tragic mix of dire economic conditions, sexual brokenness, and high demand, human traffickers sexually exploit vulnerable people through deception, intimidation, violence, and force. Communities, governments, churches, and individuals can experience significant denial regarding sex trafficking. Yet according to the United Nations, it is the most common form of trafficking worldwide, encompassing 79% of all cases. Women and girls are the most likely to be subjected to sexual exploitation; yet both genders are trafficked and are traffickers.

**There are multiple, hopeful ways to challenge the devastation wrought by sex trafficking. Serve Globally and Love Mercy Do Justice are collaborating to address this injustice both globally and domestically. We invite Covenanters to learn, pray, give, and act as they engage with a variety of on-the-ground ministries in strategic locations around the world and across the country.**

Through this initiative, which will be launched at Midwinter 2020, the Covenant seeks to Free those who have been exploited and victimized by this injustice.

*If you or your church are engaged or would like to engage in anti-sex trafficking efforts, please contact Ramelia Williams ([ramelia.williams@covchurch.org](mailto:ramelia.williams@covchurch.org)) or Prajakta David ([prajakta.david@covchurch.org](mailto:prajakta.david@covchurch.org)).*



FREE

SG

*“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”*

ISAIAH 1:17













BETTER THAN SPEED DATING  
**GET TO KNOW YOUR  
FELLOW COVENANTERS**

THEY LIKE US!  
**VOTED #1 THREE  
YEARS IN A ROW**

A COMPANION FOR THE AGES  
**WHY YOU WILL  
LOVE THE COV**

**THE COVENANT COMPANION**

Your stories.  
Your news.  
Your connection.

**HAS YOUR CHURCH SUBSCRIBED?** Stop by the *Companion* display  
and find out how you can get your congregation connected!