
S_Women's-Caucus

Persevere in Your Witness: Her Voice, Our Witness

We, women of the Reformed communion, come to this General Council as subjects of witness, not objects of history. For generations, women have been silenced, denied, and pushed to the margins. Yet, we have persevered not through passive submission but through prophetic resistance. We stand here not as victims to be spoken for, but as witnesses who speak with our own voices to the justice of God.

Our Gender Audit 2024 report revealed that 83% of churches allow women's ordination, while only 33% of ordained pastors across our member churches are women. Despite growing inclusivity in some churches, many women clergy still face exclusion, cultural resistance, and ongoing marginalization. The notion of women's ministry remains perceived as abnormal. The portrayal of women remains significantly sexualized, and their gifts are undervalued.

The statistics reveal the weight of this moment: global military spending at record highs, hundreds of millions of women living near armed conflict, millions more facing food insecurity as climate disaster unfolds. In the context of militarization and ecological disaster, women and the world are bleeding (Mark 5:25-34). Women's bodies have become battlegrounds, and Mother Earth has been raped. Yet, in all of these dire realities, we as women of Reformed faith have not been silent observers. We affirm an intersectional approach, recognizing women and girls in all their diversity. We are agents of transformation, resisting militarization, sustaining communities, and naming injustice for what it is: sin.

As Hebrews 12:1 reminds us, the cloud includes women whose names and stories were erased from the record. The cloud also includes Earth Kin, many of whom face extinction. Yet today, the cloud continues to witness, and the stones continue to cry out (Luke 19:40).

- We are witnessing that the intersection of militarization, ecological and economic crisis is deeply gendered. It is manifested through gender-based violence.
- We are witnessing that toxic masculinity is on the rise in the form of hatred toward women, and stigmatization of women, as well as the control of women's bodies.
- We are painfully witnessing within the Church, insisting that leadership, mission, and communion are incomplete without the full participation of women.

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Therefore, we recommend to WCRC 2025 General Council:

- To reject hetero-sexist patriarchal power, expressed in militarism, ecological destruction, economic exploitation, and male-dominated ministry leadership. We, as a communion of churches, stand in solidarity with women who are devalued as humans and often forgotten.
- To foster sisterhood across generations and contexts, including creating space for women to speak of their lived experiences, their struggles and victories.
- To develop a Gender Audit toolkit to evaluate member churches' official documents, in regard to inclusive language through a gender justice lens, by the WCRC Executive meeting in 2028.
- To promote the ordination of women in ALL member churches and their full inclusion in ministry and leadership in the life of the church.
- To encourage member churches to be accountable for ordained women's continued full inclusion in ministry and leadership in the life of the church. This includes producing a report of the progress on their full access to ministry positions by the WCRC Executive meeting in 2028.
- To create educational resources (e.g., contextual Bible study, liturgies, sermons) for our congregations, including young people, that defy heterosexist, militaristic, androcentric, gender stereotypes, and anthropocentric views that are contextually relevant and specific to be implemented by the 28th General Council of WCRC.

We, the women of this communion, will persevere not because we are allowed, but because we are called. Our witness is not an appendix to the gospel; it is the gospel's living voice.

We invite the whole body of Christ to join us in this witness.