

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

## Working for Gender Justice in the Church and in the World

**T**he fire that ignites our passion and the waters of renewed life: these are the symbols of transformation we claim for the work of Women's Ministries today.

Women's Ministries is the Office at the Episcopal Church Center that supports women in the Episcopal Church and the wider world. This office works collaboratively with women's organizations in the Church, other program and ministry groups at the Episcopal Church Center, global and local networks working for gender justice, as well as individual women within and outside of traditional church structures.

We seek to be imaginative instruments of transformation for women and men in the church and beyond.

Compelled by our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we work toward gender justice as one tool for seeking reconciliation and peace in the world.

### WE DO ALL THIS AS WE:

- Support organizations within the church already engaged in this task as they seek to be faithful to their call;
- Plant seeds of imagination with others who may want to create new ways of working;

- Provide spiritual and liturgical resources to support women in public and private prayer and worship;
- Provide a forum for conversation about matters of faith, life, and politics among all women while listening to the voices of women in and outside the church, as we shape the work of the future;
- Support lay and ordained women in their vocational aspirations;
- Commit to working with a diversity of persons with a particular awareness of race and class;
- Build a global network of Anglican and other women who want to claim the public voice of women.

**W**e invite you to join us in this journey of transformation, to venture into the refining fire and the water of renewal and rebirth, not only through our website and the work of our office, but mostly through your own work and life and ministry. We have some convictions about the direction, but the road is one we hope to build together along the way. Become a part of the Women's Ministries network, our conversations, and the work of gender justice. Use your imagination. Help us risk transformation—of the world, the church, and of our own lives in Christ.

### **VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:**

[www.episcopalchurch.org/women/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/women/)

### **OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER

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## Thirty Ways to Celebrate Thirty Years of

### WOMEN'S ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

To be used joyfully between  
July 29, 2004 and September 16, 2006

#### THE HER-STORY

##### July 29, 1974

11 women were ordained priest in Philadelphia, PA

##### September 7, 1975

4 more were ordained in Washington DC

##### September 16, 1976

General Convention approves the ordination of women to the priesthood

1. Hold a forum on ordination for the girls in your congregation.
2. Send a note to a woman priest, deacon, or bishop—or all three—who has influenced your life, and a note of affirmation to a woman in seminary.
3. Put flowers on the altar one Sunday in thanksgiving for the ministries of ordained women.

4. Learn the names of the eleven women ordained in Philadelphia and the four ordained in Washington D.C. before the General Convention of 1976.
5. Send a donation to an organization that supports women's ministries or concerns and memo it in thanksgiving for women's ordained ministries.
6. Explain to people in your congregation why God is not a boy's name.
7. Work to make your congregation's language more inclusive and expansive.
8. Use the hymn *Blessed Is She*, #673.
9. Buy a copy of the new hymnal *Voices Found* for your church. All the words or tunes are written by women.
10. Have women as the subject for Vacation Bible School.
11. Buy or make a stole that celebrates women's ministry for your priest to wear.
12. Work to understand and dismantle patriarchy, being aware of how its oppression affects all minorities, not just women.
13. If you don't have an ordained woman on your staff or in your congregation, invite one to preach and celebrate.
14. Send a note to a non-ordaining male Bishop and tell him how important women's ordained ministry is.
15. Find out about the history of women's ordination in your diocese.
16. Join the Episcopal Women's Caucus, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and the Episcopal Women's History Project.
17. Celebrate our Lady of Guadalupe Day on December 12.
18. Read the *Gospel of Mary* by Karen King.
19. Find a way to celebrate your part in the priesthood of all believers.
20. If you are an ordained woman, make intentional efforts to reach out to laywomen as peers; if you are a lay woman, reach out to an ordained woman as a colleague in ministry.
21. Thank one of the people who made the ordination of women a possibility in your diocese.
22. Celebrate Mothers Day as a Day for Peace, the way the founder, Julia Ward Howe, intended it.
23. Write a poem, prayer or hymn in thanksgiving for women's ministries.
24. Have a feast in your church and invite a woman who has been ordained twenty years or more to come and share her story.
25. Plant a tree in your church yard in honor of women's ordained ministries.
26. Add one or more mothers' names to the list of the fathers in Prayer C.
27. Decorate gingerbread cookies like women priests and serve at coffee hour.
28. Ask your vestry to find a way to celebrate the 30th anniversary in your congregation.
29. Visit the Office of Women's Ministries Web Site at [www.episcopalchurch.org/women/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/women/).
30. Celebrate the Feast of Mary Magdalene on July 22 and pass out red eggs. (Learn about this story if you do not know it.) Continue the octave in celebration of all women's ministries and end on the Feast Day of Mary and Martha, the anniversary of the Philadelphia II in 1974.

**The Committee on the Status of Women**

