

#HerTruth:

Women in Ministry Break Their Silence

Local Church Assessment of Women's Full Inclusion

This assessment is meant to be a companion piece to the #HerTruth video. We encourage groups to watch the video and then use this assessment as a way to evaluate their own church's practices. You may use the additional downloadable resource of The Book of Discipline Social Principles on Women for reference to United Methodist beliefs and practices.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)

1. What are lay and clergywomen's experiences in your local church? How well would they say you are doing at being fully inclusive of them and treating them equally?
2. Has your Staff Parrish or Pastor Parrish Committee checked their practices to see if there are discrepancies in pay between men and women at your church (i.e. housing allowances, salaries, continuing education, childcare, etc.)?
3. Where do women serve in leadership in your church? Where do women hold positions of chairing or leading a ministry team or committee? Where have women never chaired or led a ministry team or committee? Why?
4. Who takes the minutes or makes the coffee for your meetings and gatherings?
5. How do you encourage women's opinions and experiences to be voiced regularly in meetings?

6. Are women included and valued when decisions are made about the church?
7. Have you had female clergy appointed to serve you? If you haven't, why not? Have you had a female senior pastor? If so, how did the congregation welcome the pastor?
8. Does your church use expansive language for God...Does your church use pronouns and examples of God that are more than masculine? Why or why not?
9. What is your church's plan in the case that harassment, discrimination or abuse occurs? Do you publicize the confidential hotline of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women for persons to have if they need to report abuse, harassment or discrimination?
10. What is your church's plan to grow towards full inclusion and equality of women in all areas of your church? What is one step the church can take right now to work towards that goal? What are other steps the church can put in a plan to work towards within the next 3 years?

Commission on the Status and Role of Women
Sexual Ethics **Confidential Hotline is 1-800-523-8390**

For resources to use in worship, Bible study material, research and statics involving women in ministry and studies on how to use expansive language for God please visit the website for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women at www.gcsr.org