

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2023-2026
Triennial Report

To the 58th General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church

The Committee on Women's Ministry concluded the last triennium with its triennial fellowship luncheon during the 57th General Council in Charleston, South Carolina on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The luncheon speaker was Deaconess Alvalene G. Rogers who shared her heartfelt testimony of God's work in her life and what it means to be set apart as a deaconess. Her powerful words caused us to both reflect on God's goodness to each of us and broadened our understanding of the role of a deaconess.

The Committee on Women's Ministry, consisting of Women of the Church Organization Presidents from each diocese: Denise Snyder, Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada; Jill Nowell, Diocese of Mid-America; Jessica Edwards, Diocese of the Southeast; Mary Bailey, Diocese of the Central States; and Gale Hill, chairperson of the committee, convened its organizational meeting for the 2023-2026 Triennium on Thursday, October 26, 2023. The meeting was held via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

In accordance with diocesan Women of the Church Organization Policy and/or by diocesan appointment, two new WOC Chairpersons, Ebony Holloway and Mable Simmons joined the committee succeeding Denise Snyder and Jessica Edwards.

Continuing adjunct members and representatives from the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada are Sarah Benner and Susan Higham. From the Diocese of the Southeast, Rebecca J. "Becky" Pettigrew and Brenda Anderson. From the Diocese of Mid-America, Annette Johnson and Kathy Wood. From the Diocese of the Central States, Melanie Boettner and Mary Jane Thompson. Deaconess representative Teresa Johnson. Daughters of the Holy Cross representative, Susan Sutton. Advisor, Joan Workowski.

Officers were elected as follows: Secretary, Kathy Wood; Treasurer, Melanie Boettner; and Devotional Leaders Annette Johnson and Teresa Johnson.

The Committee on Women's Ministry held five regular meetings with a sixth meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026, during the triennium, with the activities of the committee being reported at the spring and fall meetings of the General Committee.

Founded in 1948 by the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church for the purpose of "unifying, coordinating and stimulating the work of the Women in the Reformed Episcopal Church; ...", a summary of the committee's activities during the triennium follows:

Women's Day Project Luncheons – Programs of spiritual and inspirational blessings including luncheons and the reception of monetary gifts toward a specific need within the denomination.

2023 Women's Day Project Luncheons: The goal for our 2023 Project was to raise \$7,500 to establish a permanent scholarship fund to assist Reformed Episcopal Deaconesses and Deaconess Candidates enrolled in academic programs for deaconess training. The 2023 program theme was "Finding Restoration in the Redeemer," and the theme passage was Ruth 4:14-15a – *"And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age."*

Nine gatherings were held across the denomination:

While the **North Carolina and Virginia Region** of the **Diocese of the Central States**, has enjoyed gathering at Saint Jude's Church in Richmond, VA in past years, a number of small-group gatherings across the region provided an opportunity for greater attendance at luncheons, resulting in an increase in attendance from 26 to 72.

On **April 15, 2023**, 17 persons gathered at All Saints Church in Raleigh NC where deaconess candidate, Shelly Fleming shared information on the deaconess program.

On **May 6, 2023**, 16 persons met at Saint Jude's Church in Richmond, VA where Shelly Fleming again addressed attendees. \$1,025.00 was collected for the project.

Deaconess Barbara West from Saint Stephen's Church in Jackson, MS, addressed the 21 ladies from Covenant Church, Roanoke, VA and Saint Paul's Church, Lexington, VA at Saint Paul's Church on **May 13, 2023**. A project offering of \$350.00+ was received.

Again, on **May 13, 2023** Postulant Shelly Fleming addressed the 18 ladies from Holy Trinity Church in Chantilly, VA and the Church of Our Saviour, Leesburg, VA who gathered at the home of Joanne Mansour in Haymarket, VA. The ladies really enjoyed getting to know each other better since they live only an hour away from each other.

While the Women of the **Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky Region**, did not gather for a luncheon this year, funds earmarked for the project were collected through weekly offerings at Trinity Church, Mason, OH.

On Sunday, **November 5, 2023** a Fall Chili Cook-off was held at Saint James Church, Memphis, TN in the **Alabama and Tennessee Region**. A project offering of \$500.00 was collected.

Two luncheons were held in the **Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada** with Jamie Riley of Grace Church in Collingdale, PA serving as speaker at both luncheons. 21 persons were in attendance at the luncheon held at Saint Stephen's Church, Eldersburg, MD on May 6, 2023 and 26 persons attended the luncheon held at Grace Church in Collingdale, PA on May 13, 2023.



Jamie Riley



2023 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon at Saint Stephen's Church, Eldersburg, MD



2023 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon at Grace Church, Collingdale, PA

In the **Diocese of the Southeast** – 93 persons, gathered at New Bethel Church, North Charleston, SC on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Postulant Alyce Wilson of Good Shepherd Church, Bonneau, SC was the luncheon speaker.



Alyce Wilson

Diocese of the Southeast 2023 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon

In the **Diocese of Mid-America**, 36 women gathered during the diocesan synod on the evening of Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Deaconess Canon Annette Johnson of Saint Matthias Church, Katy, TX addressed the group with regard to the project and the deaconess program. Deaconess Jill Nowell of the Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, TX addressed the group regarding "Community" and announced a push in 2024 to bring all women of the diocese together in fellowship.



Jill Nowell



Diocese of Mid-America, 2023 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon

A total of 248 persons were in attendance at our 2023 luncheons and the committee is pleased to report that our goal of \$7,500 to establish a permanent scholarship fund to assist Reformed Episcopal Deaconesses and Deaconess Candidates enrolled in academic programs for deaconess training was eventually **DOUBLED** as a total of **\$14,256.78** plus a receipt of **\$795.00** in 2024 for a grand total of **\$15,051.78**, was received – **PRAISE THE LORD!**

2024 Women's Day Project Luncheons: Our 2024 Project Offering Goal was to present a gift of \$10,000 to Grace and Gerhard Meyer in recognition of and appreciation for their 50 years of service as Reformed Episcopal Missionaries to Germany as they retire from the mission field. The 2024 program theme was As A Little Child, and the theme passage was Matthew 19:14 – *"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

On Saturday, **May 4, 2024**, three luncheons were held across the denomination:

In the **North Carolina and Virginia Region** of the **Diocese of the Central States**, 12 persons gathered for brunch at the home of Mary Jane Thompson in Richmond, VA where Deaconess Shelly Fleming from Fairfax, VA taught on the theme As A Little Child. Similarly, small-group gatherings across the region were encouraged

In the **Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada** 40 persons gathered at Saint Stephen's Church, Eldersburg, MD for a luncheon. The luncheon speaker was Ebony Holloway of the Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia, PA. Breathtaking and inspiring classical music from the Regency Era was performed by The Four Winds Flute Quartet.



Ebony Holloway



Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada 2024 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon

In the **Diocese of the Southeast** – 93 persons gathered at the Bishop Jerdan Conference Center, McClellanville, SC with an additional 11 persons joining virtually for a luncheon where luncheon speaker, Rebecca "Becky" Pettigrew of Calvary Church, Swamp Fox, SC, addressed the luncheon theme through word and, as Becky is noted for, role play.



Rebecca "Becky" Pettigrew



Diocese of the Southeast 2024 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon Cast of "As A Little Child"

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, 19 persons in the **Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky Region of the Diocese of the Central States**, gathered at Trinity Church, Mason, OH for a luncheon. The luncheon speaker was Dr. Kris Prenger.

175 persons (including 11 attending virtually) were in attendance at our 2024 luncheons and the committee is pleased to report that our goal of \$10,000 to present a gift to Grace and Gerhard Meyer was exceeded – a total of **\$12,200** was received.

2025 Women's Day Project Luncheons: Our **2025 Women's Day Project Offering Goal** is to raise a minimum of \$7,500 to assist in the printing of the Reformed Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (the "Episcopal Reformada Oración Común,") in Spanish for native Spanish speakers of The Missionary Diocese of Cuba. The 2025 program theme, Forgiveness was based on our 2025-2026 Devotional Study, a reprint of our 1991-1992 Devotional Study written by the Late Evelyn Mack Parson of the Diocese of the Southeast.

On Saturday, **May 3, 2025**, two luncheons were held across the denomination:

In the **North Carolina and Virginia Region** of the **Diocese of the Central States**, 12 persons gathered in Richmond, VA for a luncheon where the Rev. Scott Thompson, substituting for the scheduled speaker, addressed the group. An offering of \$1,685 was received.

In the **Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada**, 36 persons attended a luncheon at Bishop Cummins Church in Catonsville, MD. Allison Jenkins of Faith Church, Baltimore, MD was the luncheon speaker. Luncheon attendees participated in a craft project and made greeting cards written in Spanish to be sent along with the project offering to the Cuba churches. A project offering of \$1,446.39 was received.



Allison Jenkins



Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada 2025 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon

In the **Diocese of the Southeast** – 108 persons gathered at Redeemer Church, Pineville, SC for a luncheon where luncheon speaker, Postulant Mei-li Sivigny of All Saints Church, Greenville, SC addressed the luncheon theme, including a powerful personal testimony of experiencing forgiveness. \$2,429.75 was received towards this year's project.



Mei-li Sivigny



Diocese of the Southeast 2025 Women's Day Project Offering Luncheon

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, 20 ladies gathered in the **Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky Region of the Diocese of the Central States** at Christ Our Hope Church, Fairborn, OH for a luncheon. Lilliana Taylor and Deaconess Michelle Caldwell were the speakers. Lilliana shared details of her mission trip to Washington, DC and Deaconess Michelle, based on the REC Women's Devotional, spoke on the topic of Forgiveness. Her presentation was excellent and engaging and included a discussion period. In keeping with the idea of this year's project offering to raise funds for printing of the Book of Common Prayer in Spanish, the meeting room was festively adorned in a

Latino theme with hand-painted favors made by the Taylor Family. The luncheon menu included a burrito/taco buffet with Cuban black beans and rice with tres leches cake for dessert. An offering of \$474.00 was received.

In the **Diocese of Mid-America**, a gathering was held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the Good Shepherd Church, Tyler, TX. Deaconess Jill Nowell addressed the women on the topic of Forgiveness and Deaconess Canon Anette Johnson gave updates on the 2024 project and introduced the 2025 program theme and project. Approximately 40 persons were in attendance at the luncheon.

A total of 216 persons were in attendance at our 2025 gatherings and the committee is pleased to report that our goal of \$7,500 was exceeded – a total of **\$10,538.35**, was received.

We extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the rectors and their congregations hosting our luncheons. Special thanks to the ladies who coordinated these luncheons in their areas.

Spiritual Enrichment Conference (SEC) – Designed to provide spiritual fellowship, instruction, and opportunity for women to participate and to grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened as members of His body. Traditionally, the conference is held the first or second weekend in October, but in recent years has been held the last weekend in September.

2023 – The 65th Spiritual Enrichment Conference was held Friday, October 13 through Sunday October 16, 2023 at the Embassy Suites Williamsburg in Williamsburg, VA.

The conference theme was Finding Restoration in the Redeemer and the theme scripture passage was Ruth 4:14-15a: *"And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age."* The conference speaker was Kimberley Jenkins of Faith Church, Baltimore, MD in the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada. We were enlightened on many aspects of Jewish Culture and Israel's relation to the Moabites through Kim's messages focusing on "what it means to be a Kinsman Redeemer," "what was wrong with marrying a Moabite woman," and "The Mystery Redeemer."



Kimberley Jenkins

Following Friday evening's session, a time of fun and games was had by all, including three of our bishops: Bishops William Jenkins and Charles Gillin from the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada and Bishop Willie J. Hill of the Diocese of the Southeast.

On Saturday morning, conference attendees separated into small groups to pray for individual, national, and global concerns. Later in the day, these groups reassembled for a time of corporate prayer and praise. This time was especially uplifting to all.



Jan Gillin cheers Bishop Chuck on as Bishop Chuck, Bishop Willie and Bishop Bill square off for the challenge

Sarah Benner of Bishop Cummins Church, Catonsville, MD served as facilitator for Saturday afternoon's workshop on Outreach/Church Revitalization.

On Saturday evening, our conference room was transformed into a movie theater complete with "free" concessions as we enjoyed the movie The Case for Christ.

The Rt. Rev. William Jenkins., Bishop Coadjutor of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Eastern Canada led in the Sunday Morning Worship Service and preached the message. He was assisted by the Rt. Rev. Charles Gillin of the same diocese and the Rt. Rev. Willie J. Hill, Jr. of the Diocese of the Southeast.

Bobbi Lynn Jorgenson of Saint Stephen's Church, Eldersburg, MD assisted by Trudy Gelfand of Holy Trinity Church, Chantilly, VA served as conference musicians, With Sarah Benner serving as song leader.



Trudy Gelfamd



Sarah Benner



Bobbi Lynn Jorgenson

In an effort to make our Spiritual Enrichment Conference more accessible to ladies beyond the east coast, we were pleased to offer attendance incentive grants to one person from each diocese. Three grants were awarded.

59 adults and two infants, including 22 first time conference attendees, two nonagenarians, four octogenarians, and three bishops representing 21 parishes and three Reformed Episcopal Dioceses were in attendance at the conference.

Six nonagenarians and octogenarians were recognized as having been a positive influence, such as Naomi was to Ruth, for the younger women in our churches: Elizabeth Mikell (94), Margaret Boone (90), Lillie Gourdine (89), Sandy Dunn (87), Martha Coaxum (87), and Claire G. Brown (85).



Pictured L-R are Lillie Gourdine (89), Claire G. Brown (85), (Janie Rosner, presenter of gifts to ladies) Margaret Boone (90,) Sandy Dunn (87), Martha Coaxum (87), and Elizabeth Mikell (94).

Special thanks to Denise Snyder for presiding and leading us through the activities of the weekend and to the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Eastern Canada's Committee on Women's Ministry members for planning and presenting this conference.

2024 – The 66th Spiritual Enrichment Conference was held Friday, September 27-29, 2024 at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg, VA.

The conference theme was As A Little Child and the theme scripture passage was Matthew 19:14: *"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."*

This year's conference speaker was Jamey Akien of Lake Worth, FL, founder and Executive Director of Logos Education Services LLC, an education services company that provides tutoring, homeschool evaluations, testing, and educational consulting. Jamey is the founder and director of Camp Logos, a 10-week Christian Summer camp focusing on biblical discipleship, academic instruction, and development in the fine and performing arts and athletics.



Jamey Akien

Sharing her childhood experiences with regard to her relationship with her earthly father, Jamey drew a word picture correlating the practical experiences she grew up with to the way she relates to her heavenly father. Her messages stirred our realization of how important we, as His children, are to our Heavenly Father and brought about a profound sense of solace in His love and care for us.

Rebecca "Becky" Pettigrew of Calvary's Church, Swamp Fox, SC served as facilitator for our Saturday afternoon workshop. This was a very special time. The workshop focused on how Jesus loves the little



children. He loved them so much that he used little ones to accomplish BIG Things for the Kingdom of God. Conference attendees

Becky's famous award winning "Nobody Greater" Introduction and Jamey and Joy's FAMU Dad

were divided into six groups and assigned a scripture passage involving a young child to act out. Some passages included Luke 2:41-52 – Jesus teaches in the temple at age 12; Luke 1: 26-33, 38 – Mary, the mother of Jesus at 13, delivers the Son of God into the world to save sinners; 2 Kings 5:1-17 – the young servant girl is helping Naaman to heal from Leprosy; and I Samuel 17:50-53 – David, the shepherd boy at aged 13 or 15 years, kills Goliath.

In keeping with the conference theme, Sarah Bennner of Bishop Cummins Church, Catonsville, MD led in evening entertainment and "playtime" fun for all on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Rev. Harrylee D. Loyd of Emmanuel Church, Alvin, SC presided over the Morning Prayer Service and Deaconess Alvalene G. Rogers of Nazareth Church, Moncks Corner, SC delivered the message on Sunday morning. Trudy Gelfand of Holy Trinity Church, Chantilly, VA served as conference musician.

50 persons representing 20 parishes were in attendance at the conference.

Special thanks to Linda Butler of Grace Church, Moncks Corner, SC for presiding and leading us through the activities of the weekend and to the Diocese of the Southeast's Committee on Women's Ministry members for planning and presenting this conference.

2025 – For our 67th Spiritual Enrichment Conference, held Friday, September 26 through Sunday September 28, 2025, we returned to the Embassy Suites Williamsburg in Williamsburg, VA.

The conference theme, Forgiveness was based on our 2025-2026 Devotional Study, a reprint of our 1991-1992 Devotional Study written by the Late Evelyn Mack Parson of the Diocese of the Southeast. We were pleased to have as this year's conference speaker, Deaconess Doctor Susan Regisford of Saint Albans Church (*formerly First Church, New York*), Manhattan, NY. Combined with her experience as a physician and deaconess and a desire to help others achieve their best life, Susan took to the stage with the goal of reaching as many people as possible in the realm of holistic health. Today, her talks

empower Christian women to overcome limiting beliefs and embrace a healthier, more abundant life through actionable steps grounded in Total Health.



Susan Regisford

Dissecting the one word theme "Forgiveness," Susan reminded us that "Forgiveness is a divine mandate; it heals and restores relationships." (*Old Testament – Leviticus 19:18, Micah 7:18, 2 Chronicles 7:14; New Testament – Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32*). She shared with us her personal journey of forgiveness and healing and the consequences of unforgiveness, leaving with us a list of ten steps to forgiveness.



Ojetta O'Bryant and Deaconess Susan at Book Review and Signing Session

Following Saturday morning's session and a time of small-group prayer, on Saturday afternoon, conference attendees came together for a book review and signing session of Susan's recently published book, Rediscovering the Power Within. This was a most enjoyable time of fellowship and the perfect activity on a rainy Saturday afternoon.

On Saturday evening, Sarah Benner of Bishop Cummins Church, Catonsville, MD served as game night facilitator. The Rev. Jason Holloway of the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia, PA led in the Sunday Morning Worship Service and preached the message. He was assisted by the Rt. Rev. Willie J. Hill, Jr. of the Diocese of the Southeast.

61 persons, including 14 first time conference attendees, representing two of our four dioceses registered for the conference.

Through the efforts of our newest Committee on Women's Ministry Member and Chairperson of the Committee on Women's Ministry for the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canada, Mrs. Ebony Holloway, the Rev. Jason Holloway, and the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Philadelphia, PA, the triennial project goal of the COWM to institute online registration for our Spiritual Enrichment Conference was realized as we completed our first on-line conference registration. THANK YOU!



The Rev. and Mrs. Jason and Ebony Holloway



SEC 2025 First Time Conference Attendees

Further thanks to Ebony Holloway for presiding and leading us through the activities of the weekend and to the Diocese of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Eastern Canada's Committee on Women's Ministry members for planning and presenting this conference.

2026 – The 68th Spiritual Enrichment Conference is scheduled to be held Friday, September 26-28, 2026 at the Embassy Suites Williamsburg in Williamsburg, VA

Publication of Devotional Books – Written by Reformed Episcopal women, for use in the Women of the Church groups.

The **2023-2024 Devotional Study** titled **Finding Restoration in the Redeemer** was written by Teresa R. Johnson of the Diocese of the Central States. 452 copies were distributed to 28 churches.

The **2024-2025 Devotional Study** titled **As A Little Child** was a reprint of our 1998-1999 Devotional Study written by Deaconess Barbara West of the Diocese of Mid-America. A depleted supply of 404 copies was distributed to 26 churches in four dioceses.

The **2025-2026 Devotional Study** titled, **“FORGIVENESS.”** was a reprint of our 1991-1992 devotional study written by The Late Evelyn Mack Parson of the Diocese of the Southeast. A record number of 585 copies was distributed to 27 churches in four dioceses.

The **2026-2027 Devotional Study** titled, **When ye pray...Pray ye:** will be a reprint of our 1979-1980 devotional study prepared by The Late Mrs. Fred C. Kuehner based on notes of sermons given by her husband, The late Rev. Dr. Fred C. Kuehner.

Thanks to our devotional book writers for sacrifices made in writing our devotionals, to the Rev. Richard W. Workowski for his untiring assistance and guidance in the publishing process, and to Francis Lenzo and Cynthia Campbell of Columbia, Maryland for serving as our devotional book editors.

Special Thanks to Joan Workowski for serving as printing coordinator and distributor of our devotional books for more than 25 years – THANK YOU JOAN – and to Patricia Comfort-Capers and Brenda Dunmeyer for continuing the work as printer and distributor, respectively.

“Dates to Remember” Publication – A listing of important dates from each diocese.

The committee continues to compile, publish, and distribute the “Dates to Remember” each year. It is hoped that this brochure will be helpful in planning activities in each parish, and that it will assist in limiting scheduling conflicts. The publication also serves as a reminder to pray for the events and activities in our church. Our committee chairperson, yours truly, under the auspices of



Productions © continued to lead in the production of this publication during the triennium.

“A Look at You” Publication – A written and pictorial summary of the committee’s purpose and history, listing milestones and transitions since its inception in 1948.

Communications – The committee’s primary mode of disseminating information is via electronic mail. We have established electronic address books including addresses of all clergy and parishes and diocesan key representatives. We solicit your support in maintaining accurate addresses. Please notify us of any changes, updates, or additions at gghmrsmoses@yahoo.com

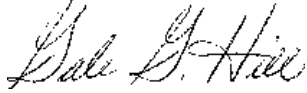
You are encouraged to visit us on the web at **cown-rec.org**, and follow us on Facebook at **<https://www.facebook.com/RECCOWM/>**. Much thanks and appreciation is extended to our web master, Deaconess Teresa R. Johnson.

The Committee on Women’s Ministry expresses our sincere thanks and appreciation to this 58th General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church; to presiding bishop, Ray R. Sutton; to all diocesan ordinaries and the clergy under their charge; to all diocesan women’s ministry groups; and to all of you. Your encouragement and support during the triennium have greatly enhanced the programs of this ministry as – **639** persons gathered at Women’s Day Project Offering Luncheons, **170** persons attended the annual Spiritual Enrichment Conference; a record number of **1,441** devotional studies were distributed, and

\$37,790.13 was collected for Women's Day Projects. Additionally, the committee's triennial goal of establishing on-line registration for our Spiritual Enrichment Conference was achieved.

We are excited about our future and continue to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of our sisters across the denomination as we work, pray, and study God's Word together.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gale G. Hill".

Gale G. Hill, Chairperson