

RETIRING PASTORS INITIATIVE ON-LINE RESOURCE LIST

Readings about Women in Ministry Recommended by the Women in Ministry Action Learning Team

Books and Articles Containing Research – from a Sociological, Cultural, or Historical perspective

Christine A. Smith, ***BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS CEILING: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors***. Judson Press, 2013.

The reality of a stained glass ceiling is familiar to most women called to the pastorate. Despite being more likely to be seminary educated, female clergy constitute less than 10 percent of Protestant leading pastorates—and those who do hold such pastorates are generally paid less than their male counterparts. In light of such statistics, Pastor Chris Smith explores how to overcome the challenges in breaking through the stained glass ceiling. *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling* provides data and insight from results of a national survey of female clergy; this book shares lessons learned and best practices from women in solo or senior pastorates, and offers guidance for overcoming the challenges of breaking through the stained glass ceiling.

See more at: http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=16736#sthash.hXDk0Ys4.dpuf

Mihee Kim-Kort. ***STREAMS RUN UPHILL: Conversations with Young Clergywomen of Color***. Judson Press, 2014.

"Where streams run uphill, there a woman rules." Ethiopian proverb

There's a growing segment of "Other" clergywomen -- non-Anglo women of diverse cultures and ethnicities who serve in congregations that may or may not look like them, women with stories of struggle and triumph in their work and ministry. In the candid book *Streams Run Uphill: Conversations with Young Clergywomen of Color*, author, writer, editor, and pastor Mihee Kim-Kort artfully brings together diverse narratives to encourage, educate, and equip clergywomen wrestling with identity, authority, and the uphill struggle against racism, sexism, ageism, and other ministry challenges. *Streams Run Uphill* offers encouragement to women interested in ordained ministry, as well as congregations who are being led by clergy women of color.

See more at: http://www.judsonpress.com/product.cfm?product_id=17767#sthash.z4lQfnEb.dpuf

Ruth A. Wallace. ***THEY CALL HER PASTOR: A New Role for Catholic Women***. SUNY Series in Religion, Culture, and Society, February 1992.

This book presents an in-depth look at the institutional and interpersonal constraints and opportunities of this new and growing phenomenon of women "pastors." It provides a detailed sociological study of twenty priestless parishes throughout the United States, some headed by married lay women, others by nuns. A portrait of these pastors focuses on the new collaborative leadership practices by women, the restructuring of the parishes, the unique qualities of the "pastoral heart," the support systems and constraints of this new role, and the issue of gender inequality in the Church.

"Gender and the Political Choices of Women Clergy," Chapter 4, *CHRISTIAN CLERGY IN AMERICAN POLITICS*, edited by Laura R. Olson and Sue E. S. Crawford.

This article highlights some of the differences women face as they address different political/social/moral issues. It also provides some current statistics on the percentage of women in various denominations.

Published 2001, paperback; available on-line.

Jann Aldredge-Clanton. ***CHANGING CHURCH: Stories of Liberating Ministers***. Cascade Books, 2011. Through the fascinating stories of pioneering ministers, this book reveals a unique picture of progressive changes occurring in the Christian tradition. Meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles, these twelve diverse ministers are changing the church as they take prophetic stands on gender, race, interfaith cooperation, ecology, sexual orientation, economic opportunity, and other social justice issues. Believing in the power of sacred symbolism to shape social reality and to provide a foundation for justice and freedom for all people, these ministers lead worship with inclusive language and imagery for humanity and divinity. They include multicultural female and male images of the Divine. Their stories affirm the connection between this expansive theology and an ethic of justice and equality in human relationships. They have found creative ways to balance advocating for change and working to support the church, using their positions as ordained clergy to bring liberating change to the church and the wider culture.

Sarah Sentille. ***A CHURCH OF HER OWN: What Happens When a Woman Takes the Pulpit***. Harcourt Books, 2008.

Sarah Sentilles enters the lives of female ministers—women of various ages and races, in a range of churches—to paint the first real portrait of what it’s like to serve as a woman of faith today. Sometimes triumphant, sometimes hilarious, sometimes painful, their stories take us from their calls to the pulpit through their ordinations and service in congregations. These women show us how churches can be more welcoming to the women who are their lifeblood. And in women’s inspiring determination to perform the ministry to which they are called, no matter what the obstacles, we see the future of the church itself.

Dr. A. Paulette Birchett. ***BITTER TO BETTER: Engaging American Baptist African-American Women Clergy to Mentor African-American Women on the Path to Ordination***. (A Drew thesis project)

“Current Status of Baptist Women in Ministry,” *Review and Expositor*, Vol. 110 No.1.

Lynch, James R. **“Baptist Women in Ministry Through 1920.”** *American Baptist Quarterly* 13. 1994: 304-318.

Lynch, James R. **“A Preliminary Check List of Baptist Women in Ministry.”** *American Baptist Quarterly* 13. 1994: 319-371.

These articles are reminders of our journey and ongoing struggle to support women in ministry in ABC life.

Felicity Dale, online blog. **“The Medieval Attitudes That Prevail for Women in the Church,”** *Charisma Magazine: Spirited Woman*, May 21, 2014.

<http://www.charismamag.com/life/women/18385-the-medieval-attitudes-that-prevail-for-women-in-the-church>

Katty Kay and Claire Shipma. **“The Confidence Gap,”** *The Atlantic*, April 2014.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/04/the-confidence-gap/359815/>

Biblical Studies about Women in Ministry

David M. Scholer. ***A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR EQUAL PARTNERSHIP: Women and Men in the Ministry of the Church.***

In *A Biblical Basis for Equal Partnership*, American Baptist, Rev. Dr. David Scholer, who taught New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary, “affirms that no person, called and gifted by God, should be denied any role of ministry or leadership in the church because of one’s sex. He gives the Biblical basis for this position in Creation, in Jesus’ Ministry, in the Early Church, In Paul, and addresses two texts often used against women serving in leadership ministry in the church – 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15. A PDF of this resource may be downloaded from the ABWIM website.

Link: <http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/biblicalbasis.pdf>

or it may be ordered through ABWIM: 800 222-3872, ext. 2070

Susan E. Crane. ***BIBLE STUDY ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY***

Originally published in the American Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday Celebration, March 19, 2006, *Mentoring Women in Ministry: “Follow Me, As I Follow Christ!”*

This 4-page resource was written by the ABCOM Advocate for Women in Ministry to provide a concise summary of the Biblical answers to scripture questions quoted to prohibit women from serving in pastoral ministry.

Download the PDF of this resource:

<http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/BIBLE-STUDY-ON-WOMEN-IN-MINISTRY-for-ABWIM-Resource-List.pdf>

Susan E. Crane. ***THE QUESTION ABOUT 1 TIMOTHY 3***

This two page resource addresses the objection raised against women serving as pastors, based on the advice given in 1 Timothy, chapter 3, by clarifying the Greek and reconciling this passage with other Pauline passages about marriage and ministry. The resource quotes from Ruth Tucker, *Women in the Maze*, and K.J. Torjesen, *When Women Were Priests*. A PDF of this resource may be downloaded from the ABWIM website.

Link: <http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/THE-QUESTION-ABOUT-1-TIMOTHY-3.pdf>

Susan E. Crane. ***JUNIA: A Bible Study and Storytelling Resource for the Church.***

Published by Interim Ministries-ABC, 2004.

JUNIA is a do-it-yourself, fill-in-the-blank, Bible study about the passages related to women in ministry questions, suitable for lay study in the church. The resource contains crossword puzzles about women in leadership in the gospels and the early church, and a letter the apostle Junia could have written, were she to write to the churches of today about how it really was in the first century church. There is also a script for presenting a Visit from Junia in churches – a good way to convey the role of women in the Bible. The Bible Study in six chapters offers Greek and Hebrew word studies to clarify the meaning of passages, as well as cultural-historical background notes. The author makes a case for women in leadership, based on the need for a consistency of interpretations among Paul’s writings.

Now available in print from Transition Ministries-ABC for \$20, reproducible.

Call: 800 222-3872, ext. 2070

Molly T. Marshall, ***Responding to God's Call***

Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall is President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. In this brochure, she offers a theological reflection on the meaning of vocation. This brochure is available at

<http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/MarshallFinal.pdf>

It may also be ordered through ABWIM at: 800 222-3872, ext. 2070

Marvin A. McMickle, ***Challenging Gender Discrimination in the Church***

Rev. Dr. Marvin A. McMickle is President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and previously served as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. In this article he addresses two key scriptural passages often used to keep women out of leadership positions in the church,

1 Timothy 2:11-12 and 1 Cor. 14:33-35.

<http://www.abc-usa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/mcmicklebrochure1.pdf>

It may also be ordered through ABWIM at: 800 222-3872, ext. 2070

John Temple Bristow. ***WHAT PAUL REALLY SAID ABOUT WOMEN: An Apostle's Liberating Views on Equality in Marriage, Leadership, and Love.*** Harper, 1988.

Bristow provides excellent word studies on the Greek terms for head, silence, subordination, and authority in Paul's writings, and helpful historical/cultural context.

Richard Clark Kroeger and Catherine Clark Kroeger. ***I SUFFER NOT A WOMAN: Rethinking 1 Timothy 2:11-15 in Light of Ancient Evidence.*** Baker Books, 1992.

A well-researched, scholarly book, which considers 1 Timothy 2:12 in its historical and cultural context as part of a letter written about countering Gnostic influences in the church at Ephesus. A careful grammatical analysis of the Greek reveals some fascinating evidence against translating the passage as it is normally translated to "not permit women to teach or have authority over men." The Kroegers point out that the Greek *authentein* does not mean authority, but may refer to Gnostic content women should not be allowed to teach.

Philip B. Payne. ***MAN AND WOMAN, ONE IN CHRIST: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Paul's Letters.*** Zondervan, 2009.

A scholarly, in-depth exegetical study of the Bible passages about women in ministry by a highly respected linguist and professor of New Testament studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. Payne addresses the question: Does Paul teach a hierarchy of authority of man over woman? His rigorous exegetical analysis explores the influences on Paul, his practice as a church leader, and his teachings to various Christian communities. Paul's theology, instruction, and practice consistently affirm the equal standing of men and women, with profound implications for the church today.

Aida Besancon Spencer. ***BEYOND THE CURSE: Women Called to Ministry***. Hendrickson, 1997. Spencer carefully examines the attitudes toward women and teachings about women in the words of Jesus and of Paul. Beginning with the Biblical account of Creation and The Fall, *Beyond the Curse* shows Jesus breaking through the cultural barriers of the first-century Palestine in his attitudes toward and dealings with women. Spencer also points out the vital place of women in Paul's ministry and shows how his difficult passages actually support women in pastoral ministry in the church.

Ruth A. Tucker. ***WOMEN IN THE MAZE: Questions and Answers on Biblical Equality***. InterVarsity Press, 1992.

In an inviting, accessible format, *Women in the Maze* poses dozens of questions ordinary Christians are asking about God, men and women, and the Bible. Then it responds to each question briefly, practically and responsibly. Spanning from biblical times to the present, it is an essential, one-volume guide on one of the most important controversies facing today's church. Historian Ruth Tucker has taught at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Fuller Theological Seminary.