

Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women (ACCW) is a subset of the Covenant Ministerium that works to help women clergy fully live into their calls. The women and men of ACCW work in advocacy, education, resources, and fellowship to move toward a stronger and more egalitarian ministerium.

My name is Daphne DeMaris, MA, LPC, LPCC. I was Ordained to Word and Service last June and moved to Minneapolis from Detroit, last August. At Midwinter it was my honor to be elected as the ACCW Board Liaison for the Northwest Conference and am reaching out to try to increase awareness as well as membership in the ACCW and increase support for women clergy who are either awaiting or in call. We need more people to actively support the women who have been affirmed by the Ministerium for ministry licensure and those who have been ordained in the ECC.

There are several ways of offering support. First, taking the time to educate your individual churches on the egalitarian position of the Evangelical Covenant Church, especially if your church is not a place in which women have previously been invited to fulfill their affirmed call. Secondly, making space for women clergy to operate within the church in full-time or part-time call positions. Thirdly, creating opportunities for women to preach, teach or lead retreats as a way of allowing the body to receive the gifts that women clergy bring.

Another way of supporting this part of the body is to provide financial support. Here are two ways to help. The first is to join as a partner. The annual fee is \$45. Both men and women can join and you don't have to be a clergy person to join. We welcome all Covenanters to join in advocating for clergy women in the ECC.

This link is for Annual Partnership Donations: <http://www.covchurchgiving.com/p-424-annual-partnership-donations.aspx>

This link is to make a gift to the general fund and will allow us to provide a wider forum for the stories of faithful clergy women to be heard and provide community and care.
<http://www.covchurchgiving.com/p-425-give-in-support-of-accw-ministries.aspx>

For those women who are awaiting call, please join the ACCW. We, along with the Commission on Biblical Gender Equality are putting together a resource for churches to be able to see us and possibly be able to call on us for pulpit supply or other needs. You can submit a bio and audio or video of a recent sermon to me at daphnelpc@gmail.com, and I will forward them to the ACCW.

I will have a table at the NW Conference Annual Meeting and would welcome any who would like to stop by. If, in the meantime, you'd like to discuss opportunities for Covenant Clergy Women, please call me at [586-202-0474](tel:586-202-0474). I would be so pleased to speak with you.