



Mission Statement:

Equity for Women in the Church, Inc. is an ecumenical movement to facilitate equal representation of clergywomen as pastors of multicultural churches in order to transform church and society.

History:

Birthered as a community in the Alliance of Baptists, Equity for Women in the Church held a strategy meeting at Wake Forest University School of Divinity in October of 2013. Clergy, denominational, and seminary leaders across the country from various races, genders, and 10 denominations participated in this conference. The consensus of participants was to form an ecumenical, multicultural 501(c)(3) organization that would include the original Alliance community. In the spring of 2014 a Board of Directors formed and developed Bylaws. In June of 2014 the organization became incorporated, and in December received tax exempt status.

Current Projects:

- ***Calling in the Key of She***
The purpose of this project is to impact girls and boys at an early age by educating them, exposing them to female clergy, and allowing them to explore various aspects of ministry available to all persons. The project includes three main components: (1) develops a curriculum that is age-appropriate and addresses various theological models of female/male clergy, presents female characters in the Bible in a positive light, highlights historical female clergy and contemporary female and male clergy leaders, explores diverse images of God including female and gender-neutral images; (2) involves participants in ministry experiences; (3) shows participants female/male clergy in practice.
- ***Retiring Pastors Initiative***
This project enlists senior/solo pastors who may retire in the next 3-5 years to prepare their congregations to consider women pastoral candidates. A survey will identify pastors who are willing to use specific strategies to break down barriers that may hinder a congregation from considering and calling the best candidate irrespective of gender. Retiring pastor participants will receive resources such as books, videos, consultation, and online support.
- ***The Lydia Project***
This project will provide financial support to clergywomen who create new and renewed multicultural, welcoming and affirming Christian communities who practice inclusivity in language, gender, and race. Equity will partner with seminaries/theological schools in selecting clergywomen to support.