



General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you.

In 2026, we mark a sacred and significant milestone: **the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Methodist tradition**. This anniversary invites us not only to celebrate a pivotal moment in our denominational life, but also to give thanks for the countless women who answered God's call long before official recognition—and who continue to lead, preach, teach, and serve with courage, faith, and holy imagination.

We are pleased to share a new resource created to help annual conferences, districts, and local churches commemorate this historic anniversary in meaningful and worshipful ways. This resource offers historical reflection, liturgical materials, and interpretive narratives that honor the long arc of women's ministry in Methodism and lift up the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit among us.

We encourage you to use this resource in:

- Annual conference sessions and gatherings
- Clergy sessions, laity events, and leadership trainings
- Local church worship services, study groups, and special celebrations

Whether through a dedicated service of worship, a teaching series, or a moment of recognition within your regular gatherings, we hope you will join in celebrating the faithful witness of women who have shaped—and continue to shape—the life of the Church.

This anniversary is more than a commemoration of the past. It is a proclamation of hope for the future. As the United Methodist Church continues to live into God's call for justice, inclusion, and beloved community, may we boldly affirm that God still calls, still equips, and still sends women into every place of ministry.

Thank you for your leadership and your partnership in this holy work. May your celebrations be rich with gratitude, truth-telling, hope and joy!

Grace and Peace,
Bishop Delores J. Williamston

Board President, General Commission on the Status Role of
Women of The United Methodist Church

