



TRANSFORMED

Women's Empowerment Initiative

A Ministry of the Presbytery of Philadelphia



"Seek the [shalom] of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its [peace] you will find your [peace]." – Jeremiah 29:7

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From the Board President

I am excited about the journey we, as a presbytery, will take. Working collaboratively, I am confident we can bring the concept of the Presbytery of Philadelphia Women's Empowerment Initiative to fruition. I am honored to have been elected president of the board and I am committed to keeping presbytery constituents the community at large informed about our progressive advocacy on behalf of women.



I invite each of you to pledge your support – most importantly through prayer and also through spreading the work, sharing your resources, and seriously considering how your congregation can utilize the services of the initiative to make a difference in your own communities. I welcome your questions as well as idea.

Wanda Tanner-McNeill

Board Takes Off to Pursue Mission

The inaugural meeting of the Women's Empowerment Initiative Board of Directors was held July 13th. Officers elected were: Elder Wanda Tanner-McNeill, President; Reverend Urla Eversley, Vice-President. Presbytery staff members will serve as Secretary and Treasurer; they are Bill Reinhold, Associate Executive Presbytery-Missions; and Larry Davis, Business Manager, respectively.

Particularly exciting is the diversity in expertise and professional disciplines represented by the board members. They include Ann Ashburn, CEO of AmeriDream; Lynette Brown-Sow, VP of Marketing & Government Relations at Community College of Philadelphia; Thomasenia Cotton, President & COO of Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America; Patricia DeCarlo, Executive Director of the Norris Square Civic Association; Sharon Harvey, Partner with the law firm of Harvey and Paul; and Rev. Barbara Ndovie, Pastor (Interim) of First African Presbyterian Church.

Board Members of the Women's Empowerment Initiative represent diversity in expertise and professional disciplines.

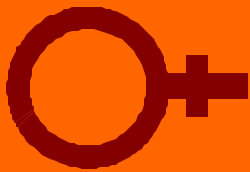
Please pray for this important ministry and witness on behalf of marginalized women, children, families, and communities of Philadelphia.



“I do not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves.”
 - Mary Wollstonecraft

Mission Statement

The Women’s Empowerment Initiative is dedicated to impacting the lives of women disadvantaged by social or economic circumstances. The Initiative will enable women to enhance and develop their quality of life and become architects of their future by presenting opportunities for spiritual, educational, and economic transformation. The Initiative is committed to empowering women, thereby strengthening families and transforming communities.



“Let us put our heads together and see what life we will make for our children.”
 - Tatanka Iotanka
 (Sitting Bull, Lakota Leader)

Seeking Individuals to Make a Difference

There are many ways congregations and individuals can be involved in the launching and success of the Presbytery of Philadelphia Women’s Empowerment Initiative. There will be calls for specific in-kind donations and volunteer assignments. But any start-up venture needs financial support – both foundation and corporate as well as individual. As a matter of fact, foundations are more likely to give to the venture if they see tangible evidence of financial support from individual constituents; it signals earnest commitment to the cause and widespread support.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
 - Anne Frank

We will soon distribute the brochure of the Women’s Empowerment Initiative to congregations and other organizations; brochures will include a tear-off for making financial contributions. Please respond.

What Can I Do Now?

Many members throughout our congregation are already wondering how they might be involved even before the “official” start up of the Women’s Empowerment Initiative. Well, here’s an idea to consider. In its next meeting, the board will designate and confirm the responsibilities of various board committees.

But a 12-person body cannot achieve great results alone. They will need interested and committed persons to serve on the committees. Perhaps you have a talent for written communications, marketing and promotion, designing and facilitating workshops and seminar, or for event planning. Then, you might consider using those talents to further the work of the Educations and Communications committee. Perhaps your gift is in the area of planning, fundraising, research, and analysis, thus making you an ideal candidate for the Strategic Planning and/or Development Committees. To learn more about volunteering for the WEI committees, contact board Vice President Urla Eversley.

Clarification: An Initiative vs. a Center

This initiative will be made available to every congregation in the participating presbytery that is desirous of utilizing components of the packaged or bundled resources designed and created by the Sustainable Missional Development Initiative. Although the administrative function will be located at the former Reeve Memorial facility, the services are without boundaries and will be as widely dispersed as are the congregations seeking the positive community engagement offered by the Initiative.

Our Spiritual Impetus: Resurrecting Hope

Drawing on the African proverb, “I am because we are, and we are because I am,” we seek support, partnership, collaboration, and spiritual enrichment from presbytery and ecumenical constituents. Our spiritual impetus is in resurrecting hope in impoverished urban communities. Believing strongly in the principle that we should never do for people what they should do for themselves, the Presbytery of Philadelphia Women’s Empowerment Initiative will foster participation of community residents as partners of parity in the creation of economically viable communities.