



The CBWC has been ordaining women since 1959. The descriptor and motion below were approved by the Assembly in May 2022 and June 2023, formalizing a value that has been historically reflected by CBWC Leadership that affirms women in pastoral ministry.

The following description was approved in 2022 as part of the *CBWC Identity Statement*, under the heading of priesthood of all believers:

“Loved by God and created in God’s own image, each one of us is able to meet with God through the atoning work of Christ. As male and female, equally called, the churches of the CBWC honor each person’s responsibility to exercise their giftedness in Christ’s body, the church, and to minister to each other as ‘a priesthood of all believers.’ With Christ as our Lord, each person is to regard others with the same humility that Christ exemplified in the cross. We live in voluntary submission to one another out of reverence for Christ. Acts 6:1–7; 15:22–35; 17:10–12; Rom 12; 1 Cor 12:1–31; Eph 4; Phil 2:1–18; Heb 4:14–16; 10:19–25; 1 Pet 2:1–10; Rev 1:4–8”

The following motion was approved by the CBWC Assembly in June 2023 by a majority vote.

Be it resolved

That the CBWC Assembly affirms the priesthood of all believers, with both women and men as being equally called and gifted for pastoral ministry.

That CBWC denominational leaders will model this value in belief and practice by giving equal employment consideration to qualified men and women to all leadership roles, including invitations to preach, teach and serve in all capacities at CBWC sponsored events.

That CBWC churches, boards, and clergy are expected to show respect to women who are in pastoral leadership roles in the CBWC.

That the CBWC Assembly strongly encourages all churches to recognize the spiritual gifts of all believers and faithfully call both men and women into all areas of leadership within the church, including the role of pastor.