



#### Women in the Church

#### **Articles of Faith Statement**

We believe that women were important to the early church, and their roles were present in the New Testament church. Women have continued to be essential in helping to sustain the church and spread the gospel. The church will continue to grow and serve all mankind as women continue to perform their biblical roles within the church.

#### **Key Scriptures**

- "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."" — Acts 2:17–18 (NIV)
- "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life." Philippians 4:2–3 (NIV)

### Insights

From the very beginning of the church, women have played a vital and God-ordained role in the work of the Gospel. Acts 2:17–18 declares that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is not limited by gender or status. God's Spirit empowers both men and women to prophesy, serve, and carry out His mission. This fulfilled Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28–29) and confirmed that in the age of the church, all believers are called to participate in ministry.

Throughout the New Testament, we see women serving faithfully and powerfully. Mary, the mother of Jesus, humbly submitted to God's will; Mary Magdalene was the first to proclaim Christ's resurrection; Priscilla helped instruct Apollos in sound doctrine (Acts 18:26); and Lydia supported the spread of the Gospel in Philippi (Acts 16:14–15). Paul recognized the partnership of women like Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2–3, referring to them as co-laborers in the cause of Christ.

Women were not spectators—they were participants in God's redemptive work. The early church thrived because both men and women used their gifts in harmony and submission to God's Word. The biblical picture is one of unity in purpose, not uniformity in function.

Today, the same Spirit continues to empower women for service in teaching, hospitality, prayer, missions, worship, and countless other ministries. The church remains healthy when all members—male and female—embrace their God-given gifts and serve together for the advancement of the Gospel.

# WAVERLY COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Articles of Faith - Week 12 Women in the Church

## **Application**

Recognizing the biblical role of women in the church challenges us to value and encourage every believer's calling. God's design for His people includes mutual respect, partnership, and unity in serving Christ. When the church acknowledges and supports women who lead, teach, and serve faithfully, it reflects the heart of God and strengthens the body of Christ.

Every believer, regardless of gender, is equipped by the Holy Spirit for ministry. The key is faithfulness—using what God has entrusted for His glory. Whether through prayer, encouragement, teaching, or acts of service, each contribution matters.

We honor God when we affirm and empower one another to walk in obedience to His calling. The mission of the church moves forward when all believers work together as one body, fulfilling their roles in love, humility, and purpose.

week?
5. What specific ways can you serve or encourage others to serve in the body of Christ this
4. How can we better affirm and support the gifts God has given to women in our congregation
3. Why is partnership between men and women essential for the health of the church?
2. How did women contribute to the growth of the early church according to Scripture?
1. What does Acts 2:17–18 reveal about God's view of both men and women in ministry?