



*"You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that would last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." John 15:16 NRSV*

## **What is Presbyterian Women**

Presbyterian Women (PW) is the national women's organization of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With a history of more than 200 years and more than 300,000 members, PW is organized at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Women's groups in the Presbyterian Church have a powerful history. Since the early 1800s Presbyterian women have organized themselves to support mission and combat social injustices nationally and internationally. While the levels of involvement and recognition from the denominations have varied, women's dedication to living out God's call through women's organizations has remained steady.

Presbyterian Women (PW) was developed to offer opportunities for women to grow spiritually, to engage in faithful action for mission, justice and peace, and to be part of a group of women of faith who support the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

At different ages or stages of women's lives, we have different interests and needs. Some women will be interested in mission, others in community service, while others desire to develop leadership skills. Some will want to grow spiritually through group Bible study and prayer. Others will want to learn ways to work for justice through antiracism training or racial ethnic dialogue. PW provides something for everyone!

## **Living the PW Purpose**

The Spirit of God is powerful, and when we live by the Spirit, we are moved into action. Is it possible for you and me to make a difference in what is happening in our world today, or should we wait for others who have more power or more money to initiate change? If Presbyterian Women believe that our actions can make a difference, change will happen.

When we engage in action motivated by faith, we live out the PW Purpose consciously or unconsciously. The purpose of Presbyterian Women convicts us to

- Nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study
- Support the mission of the Church worldwide
- Work for justice and peace
- Build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.