

## **Guiding Principles of the WMC**

These principles direct everything we do as a women's ministry committee. Whether we are developing or promoting Bible studies, or organizing and promoting congregational and synodical ministries for or by women, these principles give direction to all we do:

### **1) We are determined to let the gospel predominate.**

The gospel of Jesus Christ predominates in all we do. The gospel is not an afterthought to add to a Bible study or ministry project to make it acceptable. God's grace in his Son proclaimed to all the world is the beating heart behind every study or activity. Our subjective/personal response to the gospel (as important as that is) will never overshadow the importance of the objective truth of all that is ours because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ in our place. Even when we are giving "how to" encouragement, we will not forget that the gospel alone empowers us to will and to do according to God's good purpose.

### **2) We delight to teach all that Scripture's principle of head and helper has to say to us.**

In all we produce and promote we give clear evidence that we rejoice in the beauty of the interdependent partnership God has given us as spiritually gifted men and women. We will emphasize both the beauty of our equal status and shared callings in Christ as well as the goodness of our unique callings that make us true complements, not clones, of one another.

### **3) We are unafraid to apply Scripture wherever Scripture speaks, but we refuse to bind consciences beyond Scripture.**

While teaching all that Scriptures has to say, we will resist the pressure to set up a rule book of what ministry by and for women must look like in every ministry setting. Refusing to set up a one size fits all rule book gives people the opportunity to make wise and spiritually mature use of their Christian freedom. It refuses to cater to the laziness of our sinful nature that does not want to wrestle with challenging issues. We will urge people to listen carefully to what Scripture does have to say. We will also encourage them to make wise use of Christian freedom in decisions neither commanded nor forbidden by God, always striving to do only that which will honor God and build up Christ's church.

### **4) We help God's people to remember that we are part of a larger fellowship of believers.**

We will help God's people avoid spiritual myopia so that they ponder how their decisions affect other Christians beyond us, our congregations, and our synod. Since the Word didn't begin or end with us, we will consider whether what may indeed be permissible is truly wise for other Christians as well as ourselves.