

**BRIDGING THE GAP:
A SEMINAR TO ATTRACT FEMALE MINISTERS TO BECOME
CREDENTIALLED WITH THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

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The fact that women do not receive adequate instruction regarding the necessity of pursuing credentials essentially removes them from the mainstream of the equipping and empowering community of their peers. Women pursuing vocational ministry are one vast, untapped resource within the Assemblies of God (AG). This project was designed to identify growth barriers and implement strategies to engage a greater number of credentialed women.

In order to help dispel objections and misperceptions relative to embracing the idea of holding a credential, this project provides a resource to preclude any perceived obstacles from becoming “deal breakers” to women pursuing AG ministerial credentials. To accomplish this purpose, a seminar entitled, “The 21st Century Woman as Vocational Minister and Leader” was presented at the Women in Ministry Network conference, “Conversations ’10” in Dallas on October 1, 2010 and at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary on October 30, 2010.

The first strategy was to educate, inspire, and increase awareness of the overlooked value of being credentialed with the AG and how that provides long-term sustained impact. The second strategy was to spotlight specific traits women called to vocational ministry must acquire in order to ensure success.

A total of over 100 women responded to the invitation to the seminar. As a result of the seminar, it was clear that women increased their understanding and knowledge of the benefits of being credentialed. Armed with knowledge of the necessary skills, behaviors, options, and theology, women gained boldness in articulating and embracing their call at a new level. They acquired practical, tangible steps which could help move them forward with greater confidence.