Women Ministers in the Assemblies of God
Acts 1:8,14

“Jesus said, ‘You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ ... They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”
American Pentecostalism

Two important precursors to the formation of the Assemblies of God:

• Charles Parham, Agnes Ozman, & The Topeka Outpouring
• William Seymour & The Azusa Street Revival
William Seymour:

“It is contrary to the Scriptures that woman should not have her part in the salvation work to which God has called her. We have no right to lay a straw in her way, but to be men of holiness, purity and virtue, to hold up the standard and encourage the woman in her work, and God will honor and bless us as never before. It is the same Holy Spirit in the woman as in the man.”

Untitled Article, *The Apostolic Faith*, [Los Angeles, CA] 1.12 (January 1908), 2.4.2
1914: The Formation of the Assemblies of God

1914: Women ordained to be evangelists and missionaries, but not as lead pastors.

1935: Women were ordained without restriction to serve in all ministry capacities, including lead pastor.
Assemblies of God Women Church Planters

A tiny sample of the numerous women who planted churches across the nation:

- Cornelia Jones Robertson
- Dollie Anne Drain Simms
- No picture available
- Ethel Smith Musick
- Blanche Brittain
Mid-twentieth Century

A sharp decline in the number of credentialed women and persons of color:

• Institutionalization of revival

• Denominational desire for esteem in the broader evangelical world

• This downward trend continued ... until 1987.
Entering the 21st Century

The 1990s: Decade of Harvest

- Since 1990, we have seen a consistent rise in percentage of female ministers in the Assemblies of God.
- In 1990, **14.9%** of Assemblies of God ministers were women.
- In 2019*, **26.4%** of Assemblies of God ministers were women.

Particular increase of female ministers in our ethnic districts:

- In 2019, in the Texas Gulf Hispanic District, over 42% of ministers were women.
- In 2019, in the Korean District, nearly 40% of ministers were women.

*2020 statistics are not yet available from the national AG statistician’s office.*
2009: First women elected to be an executive presbyter

Dr. Beth Grant
In what ministry capacities do AG women ministers serve?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaplains</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Staff Members</td>
<td>2446</td>
<td>3081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Executive Presbyter</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Officials</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelists</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Missionaries</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Missionaries</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastors (lead)</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectional Presbyters</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers (AG colleges)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is God doing in the 21st century?
What does God want to accomplish through you?

“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)