

Dear Friend,

On Wednesday 22 May 1968, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed a deliverance that women should become eligible for ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament on the same terms and conditions as men. This historic decision opened the door to new opportunities and challenges, and has changed the face of the Kirk. Following in the footsteps of the pioneering first generation, women now comprise around 30% of ordained ministers, and for 50 years have served in diverse situations and contexts across Scotland and beyond.

We think this anniversary is something to celebrate! Supported by New College and Ministries Council, I am coordinating a 50th anniversary commemoration project. We're planning a conference, exhibition and other events/opportunities through the year - including the General Assembly, and an opportunity to mark the occasion 50 years to the day, on Tuesday 22 May.

On behalf of Ministries Council, New College and the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, we invite you to share in the celebrations. Here are three ways to do so:

1. Day conference on Saturday 28 April, 10 am - 5 pm at New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh. Keynote speakers include Rev Dr Margaret Forrester, Rev Dr Anne Logan and Rev Dr Emma Percy (Anglican priest, chaplain, practical theologian and chair of WATCH - Women and the Church). There will be workshops, panels and open sessions for discussion and sharing. See below for link for more information and to register (free, but £10 donation on the day is invited). All welcome!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commemorating-50-years-of-womens-ordination-in-the-church-of-scotland-from-disinheritance-to-gods-tickets-44019330001?utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=order_confirmation_email&utm_term=eventname&ref=eemailordconf



Commemorating 50 years of women's ordination in the Church ...

www.eventbrite.com

Commemorating 50 years of women's ordination in the Church of Scotland: fro... On Wednesday 22 May 1968, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed a deliverance that women should be eligible for ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on on equal terms with men. The enacting ...

2. Tuesday 22 May - Walking together as women in ministry

Fifty years to the day from the momentous General Assembly decision of 1968, Moderator designate Rev Susan Brown invites all women in ministry (along with friends, family, colleagues - all who want to affirm and celebrate equal ministry in the Church) to walk in procession together, up the Mound and into the quad at New College, to be welcomed there for a short time of recollection, commemoration and thanksgiving, before proceeding up the stairs and into the Assembly Hall, singing as we go. Those who are unable to walk up the hill are invited to gather and meet the procession outside the gate at Mound Place. There will be refreshments, exhibition banners and opportunity to chat, for those who are not commissioners or heading to the public gallery. This will be a simple, public and dignified procession to honour the pioneer women (and men who supported their call) who first walked this way - remembering also those who knocked but were not allowed to enter - and to celebrate the manifold gifts and service of women in ordained ministry over 50 years, 1968 - 2018.

All welcome - extend the invitation far and wide! Please indicate your interest by registering via this eventbrite link. You will then receive further updates and full details, including time of procession (likely to be 2 pm, but possibly before the morning session of Assembly that day).

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-ordination-50th-anniversary-walk-tickets-44756208023?aff=utm_source%3Demail%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text



Women's ordination 50th anniversary walk

www.eventbrite.com

On Wednesday 22 May 1968, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed a deliverance that women should become eligible for ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament on the same terms and conditions as men. This decision, after decades of debate and the faithful endeavours of women who believed they had the right to test their vocation to ministry, brought new opportunities and challenges. It changed the face of the Kirk. After the vote, Mary Levison (Lusk), whose 1963 petition helped break the impasse, commented that 'the Church no longer regards women as second class citizens. I hope this decision will have a liberating effect right through the Church'. Today, around 30% of ordained ministers are women, serving in

diverse contexts and situations. On Tuesday 22 May 2018, fifty years to the day after that momentous vote, all women who have been ordained to ministry of word and sacrament are invited to mark this Jubilee, by walking together to the Assembly Hall on the Mound (along with tho

3. Send a 50th Anniversary Card!

If you can't attend either of these events- and even if you plan to be there - please send a card to mark this golden anniversary. You can buy or make one, it can be from individuals, ministers, groups, congregations...and feel free to add messages, tributes, stories, poems, prayers, words of thanksgiving...whatever you think is a good way to mark the occasion. We would love to gather cards from all over Scotland and beyond. Send your card to Ministries Council, 121 George Stree, Edinburgh EH2 4YN, and mark the envelope WO50.

WE really hope you'll be moved and inspired to join the celebrations - and feel free to plan your own! I would love to hear about events taking place in churches and Presbyteries around Scotland, and would be happy to help with resources, information, history or whatever. Please keep in touch. If you do social media, please share the events with your networks, and use the Hashtag #WOCOS50

With thanks and best wishes

Lesley

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