

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

CRC Guidelines

1. The Bible very clearly teaches that women are on an equal footing with men when it comes to operating and functioning in any ministry role within the body of Christ.
2. That the Bible does not expressly forbid women being involved in any particular areas of ministry.
3. As ministry involves giving spiritual leadership and exercising authority in matters of church life, we see no restriction on women functioning in any governmental role within local churches.
4. The principles of submission and being accountable apply for all ministry, whether young, whether older, whether female or male. Every church and every minister needs to be accountable to his fellow ministers and to the Executives that are elected in each State and in the Commonwealth for the protection of those ministers and churches and the entire movement.
5. Therefore, we see that there are no grounds to forbid women from exercising any ministry role within CRC Churches International and from fulfilling any office whether in the local church, whether in the State or whether in the Commonwealth.
6. The CRC opened the door and faced the issue over 20 years ago when it commenced credentialling women. Today, we have women operating in every area of ministry, from being on our oversights, being credentialled with assistant minister's credentials, being credentialled with full minister's credentials, being Senior Ministers of local churches and even being on our Executives. To now bring in some restrictive code that cannot stand up to scripture and that clearly prejudices women from developing in ministry and in leadership would be a retrograde step and not in the interests of CRC Churches International.
7. The women of our movement, comprising about 50% of our membership, should be encouraged to rise up and fulfil the call that God has placed on their lives. For many women, this call is to serve God in a full-time capacity.
 - Agreed to at the March 1988 meeting of the National Executive.