

*“As sisters
together, may
we be midwives,
bringing to
birth a renewed
church with
grace enough
for all.”*

— Rachel Lehman Stoltzfus

Women in
Leadership
Project



Jenny Castro of San Antonio, Texas, is the coordinator for the Women in Leadership Project for Mennonite Church USA. She is a sensitive soul who is quick to laugh and quicker to cry. She speaks her mind — sometimes getting herself into trouble. She’s passionate about justice, truth and their connection. She’s an educator by training and has worked in community and women’s health, public education and development. She is inspired by the energy and power that the Spirit ignites within us as we unite in love.

“I am encouraged by the tireless work of the Women in Leadership Project and all we have accomplished together. The WLP has had an impact in congregations and among church leaders because of the dedication of innumerable individuals who’ve contributed time, energy, finances, creativity and love to this work for justice within the church. I am honored to be a part of it.”

Contact Jenny: 574-523-3051 or jenniferc@mennoniteusa.org



**Mennonite
Church
USA**

mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/peacebuilding/women-in-leadership-project/

Women in Leadership Project

The Women in Leadership Project (WLP) is an initiative to name and undo sexism within Mennonite Church USA.

It began in 2009 when a churchwide audit revealed a decline in the number of women in leadership positions across the church. Since this time, the WLP has worked to raise awareness about sexism in both local and institutional contexts and to provide safe spaces for women to connect, share stories and inspire one another.

The Women in Leadership Project is guided by a steering committee of six women from diverse contexts across Mennonite Church USA.



Moniqua Acosta has been a part of the Women in Leadership Project since 2012. She previously served as an intern and advisory board member for the former Women's Concerns desk at Mennonite Central Committee. Her educational background is in social work, with an emphasis on children and families. She is a member of the New Holland (Pennsylvania) Spanish Mennonite Church *Jesu Cristo Es El Señor*, and has attended that church for 29 years.



Erica Littlewolf is from the Northern Cheyenne tribe of southeastern Montana and currently lives in Kansas. She works for Mennonite Central Committee Central States with the Indigenous Visioning Circle, where she is committed to the work of decolonization, authentic relationship and healing. She has a Bachelor of Science in psychology and American Indian studies and applies her schooling to social justice issues and how they affect Indigenous people.



Linda Gehman Peachey is a freelance writer living in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She has a Master of Divinity from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and is a Doctor of Ministry student at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Previously, Linda worked for Mennonite Central Committee on women's concerns and also served with her husband, Titus, as co-director of Peace and Justice Ministries. She is a member of East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church in Lancaster.



Sandra Pérez is a member of the New York City oversight ministry team for Atlantic Coast Conference. She is a member of Manhattan (New York) Mennonite Fellowship. She works and serves across cultures, equipping church leaders with resources to build strong relationships across the broader Mennonite network.



Regina Shands Stoltzfus teaches in the Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies department of Goshen (Indiana) College, where her courses include Race, Class and Ethnic Relations; Personal Violence and Healing; Spiritual Path of the Peacemaker; and Transforming Conflict and Violence. She is co-founder of the Roots of Justice anti-oppression process (formerly the Damascus Road Anti-racism Process).

Our work

- **Undoing Sexism through training.** The WLP is developing an Undoing Sexism training geared toward congregations, pastors and leaders. Through this training, participants will explore patriarchy, sexism and intersectionality — becoming especially attuned to the manners and forms oppression takes within our institutions, organizations, families and society. Is your organization interested in hosting a training?
- ***All You Need is Love: Honoring the Diversity of Women's Voices in Theology*** is a collection of papers presented at the WLP's first Women Doing Theology conference in February 2014. Visit the WLP webpage to download a copy (available in March 2016).
- **Women Doing Theology Conference.** The WLP will host Women Doing Theology conferences biennially, creating spaces to honor and celebrate the diverse perspectives women bring to theology as well as to challenge the traditional and oppressive forms theology has taken. Visit the WLP webpage for updates and conference details.
- **Men and the WLP.** The WLP welcomes the participation of men in the movement. If you're interested in working together with the WLP to undo sexism within Mennonite Church USA, contact Jenny Castro.

Get involved

- Write on themes of Women in Leadership for the **Menno Snapshots** blog.
- Encourage your congregation to use the worship resources, ***Do You See This Woman?***
- Host an **Undoing Sexism** training at your church or workplace in 2017. Contact Jenny Castro for more information.
- **Women Connecting** — gatherings of Mennonite women in leadership sponsored by the WLP. Recognizing the need for supportive spaces and mentoring relationships, we are providing opportunities to make these connections. Look for a Women Connecting gathering at your next area conference assembly.
- Keep up with what's happening with the WLP by joining the **Women in Leadership Project Facebook group**.