From Simple Affirmation to Sacred Alliance: Practical Steps for Mutuality in Ministry

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“It’s fine for women to be pastors, as long as they aren’t taking opportunities away from men.”

“Men are naturally drawn to leadership more than women are, so it’s only natural to have more male senior pastors.”

“It’s probably ok for both men and women to lead a church, but I’ve never seen it before.”
What is Mutuality in Ministry?
Live and Lead

In the **wholeness** of redemption

Not the **brokenness** of the Fall

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Why is Mutuality in Ministry Necessary?
Scripture

Imago Dei

Women pray, prophecy, and proclaim

Miriam, Huldah, Deborah, Priscilla, Lydia, Junia, Phoebe

Neither male nor female.
I won’t agree with what I don’t see.

I won’t be what I don’t see.
Girls with female congregational leaders have higher self-esteem. 

Knoll & Bolin, She Preached the Word, pg. 131
It’s Good for Girls

Girls with female congregational leaders complete more education.

Knoll & Bolin, *She Preached the Word*, pg. 135
Girls with female congregational leaders see God as more gracious than authoritarian.

Knoll & Bolin, She Preached the Word, pg. 140
Why is Mutuality in Ministry Lacking?
Mutuality by the Numbers

- ~7% of Ministerial Students are Women
- 18.3% of Credentialed Pastors are Women
- 13% Lead or Co-Pastors
- 38% Staff Pastors
- 8% of Churches Led or Co-Led by Women

Source: TWC
How Can We Build Mutuality in Ministry?
Examine & Reflect

Notice & Speak Up

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Sacred Alliance
We can preach texts that affirm women in ministry and leadership.

We can avoid stereotypes in our stories and illustrations.

We can quote and cite women ministry leaders.

We can preach the women of the Bible.

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Invite & Elevate Preachers who are Women

Build a Team that Models Mutuality

Leverage your position to give women opportunities to lead.

Recognize and nurture leadership gifts and ministry callings.
What is your next step toward mutuality in ministry leadership?