



The Indiana-Kentucky Conference Women's Board met this month, as they often do, in the Indianapolis office of the IKC to discern and pray together and discuss the work of the women in our Conference.

Traditionally, the board would be vetting nominations of new officers and focusing on putting together a guiding curriculum for the year, one that would be distributed to the associations' women's boards, a web of connection.

Instead, we considered what the future of INKY Women, as the board colloquially calls itself, might look like. We had little choice, nominations have not rolled in, members of each association are not present. You'd expect that what sounds like the typical story of decline among mainline church structures would have meant that our chat was solemn and defeated. You'd expect that we would trade stories that lament how things used to be, and wonder aloud why can't they just stay as they were.

But that's not what happened. We returned to the work of God, Christ, and Spirit in our midst, joyfully, determinedly, passionately, as women called by God so often do. Women are engaged in the calling of ministry every day, as clergy and lay people, as leaders and guides and listeners and doers. And we interpreted this silence, this small meeting without new nominees, as a chance to listen.

Church as we know it is in a spirit of change. We are ready to listen, with help from those around the conference, from our various associations, to see where God is leading us next. Expect to hear from INKY Women, not as formal members of a board, but as your sisters in Christ: Marys, Marthas, Lydias--even Miriams and Esthers, Ruths and Naomis, Hannahs and Sarahs. Expect to tell us your stories and let us share them, the work that you are already doing as the called women of the IKC, so that we can better serve in the place that God is leading us.

With hope in all the good things to come, through God, Christ, and Spirit,

Your INKY Women's Board

