

Shepherds Statement on Women's Use of Gifts (2014)

In 2014 the Shepherds of the Campus View Church completed several years of study regarding the role of women in the life of the church. Specifically they sought to discern, based on their study of Scripture and the context and feedback from our church family, what opportunities women should have to use their gifts in Campus View Assemblies in a way that would honor God's purpose of strengthening and encouraging our church family in a spirit of love and unity (1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4). There is a diversity of viewpoints and opinions in our church family. Even the leadership group has different perspectives on how to fully understand what God leads us toward in these matters. Through much study and prayer, the shepherds arrived at a decision regarding how we will move forward as a church at this time.

The shepherds fully believe that the Holy Spirit works powerfully in Christ's people, without prejudice as to race, gender, or social status. They also believe that when men and women share responsibilities and serve together as complementary partners (Genesis 1-2), the church is best served in honoring God's original purposes in creation.

Through discernment of who we are as a church family and how we should begin to go forward in this, the shepherds have agreed that 1) women should take on a more participatory role in our assemblies, specifically- sharing testimony of God's work in their lives, welcoming the congregation, sharing Scripture, and sharing other gifts of song, encouragement, service, and blessing, and 2) women should be able to offer their gift of teaching in our adult class venues.

The shepherds understand that in our journey together, just like that of the early church in Acts 15, we work towards affirming what we believe God wants his family to ultimately find together with mindfulness of the maturity of the church and the unity of the Campus View family. The shepherds highly value our common life together, our growth, our unity, and our witness to the gospel through our love and deference to each other.