

History of Alliance Women Ministries

Prayer Bands

The C&MA has always had women of prayer and spiritual maturity, but in **1914**, a group of women united to form "**prayer bands**" which became the basis for the missionary prayer fellowships. At the General Council of that year, Mary Rader, Cor Rudy, and Ella Rudy asked other women in attendance to come together to pray for world missions.

From that simple beginning, the movement spread to similar groups in local Alliance churches. By **1923**, the Alliance headquarters recognized the significance of praying bands of women and published the first "**Prayer Bulletin**".

In **1929**, the Alliance Board of Managers voted to encourage formation of women's prayer groups. By **1936**, a total of 324 organized groups were meeting for prayer and providing help for missionaries. It was soon apparent that the best equipped missionaries going overseas were those who came from districts where there were many prayer groups.

LUMO

Though the Prayer Bands were effective, there still was no general organization to unleash the potential of these women. This lack of united effort became a concern of Georgia Derk, a pastor's wife and former missionary. She felt the inward challenge to test new ideas in her own church in Albany, New York, as well as in other church in the district. Mrs. Derk was instrumental in forming the first "area" group of Alliance women in **1947**.

As the cooperative fellowship concept spread throughout the Northeastern District, Mrs. Derk was frequently used as a resource by other areas. The groundwork was laid and in July of **1949**, the first district-wide organization came into being. This was called the **Ladies United Missionary Organization** (LUMO) and Mrs. Derk served as president.

WMPF

LUMO was so successful that other district organizations were formed and at the **1961** General Council, the National Committee was formed and the name "**Women's Missionary Prayer Fellowship**" (WMPF) was adopted.

In January of **1981**, the Alliance in Canada became autonomous and the women in the United States and Canada formed separate organizations, each choosing its own annual project.

Each year since **1966**, a national missionary project has been selected and participated in by women throughout North America. By **1987**, over three million dollars had been given to the annual projects!

Alliance Women in Missions and Prayer

In keeping with the desire to be relevant to the current generation and yet remain faithful to the purpose of promoting prayer and missions, the name was changed from the "WMPF" to **Alliance Women in Missions and Prayer** in 1993 and a revised purpose was adopted. By this time, Alliance women were meeting in over 1296 local groups and had given over 22 million dollars to Alliance missionaries and their ministries.

Alliance Women Ministries

Alliance Women Ministries is an auxiliary of The Christian and Missionary Alliance organized to promote fellowship, outreach and prayer among the women and encourage support and prayer for Alliance missionaries and worldwide ministries.

As Alliance Women, we agree with our founder, Dr. Albert B. Simpson, that we are "...to keep abreast of the progress of our age and be...women of today in our message and ministry to our own generation."

Because the church exists to help people everywhere find and know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we expect that women's ministries will be a functioning part of the local church in carrying out Christ's Great Commission.

It is our goal to involve every woman attending an Alliance church in the ministries of Alliance Women.

You are invited to:

- Develop new and deeper friendships
- Discover ways to be equipped through God's Word
- Find opportunities to share your faith
- Pursue active global involvement
- Acquire encouragement and motivation in prayer

In 2007, Alliance Women Ministries was moved from a Constitution under the Board of Directors to the Church Ministries Policies and Procedures Manual. Therefore the former Constitution has been replaced with the new AWM Policies. This can be found by going to www.alliancewomen.org, Go to Resources, Go to Policies.