



TEAMWORK

TEAM

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) is a private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of gender, race, or social class.

VERSACARE FOUNDATION PROVIDES UNIQUE SUPPORT

Versacare Foundation is an independent foundation which has been funding Seventh-day Adventist ministries and a select few humanitarian efforts with grants since 1990. A self-funded lay organization, the Versacare Foundation board is comprised of both lay Adventists and present and former Adventist church employees, all committed to responsible philanthropy. Versacare’s mission statement explains its purpose to be “inspired by the example of Jesus and our Seventh-day Adventist heritage, [we] fund innovative programs and ministries that create loving and just communities.” This mission statement makes clear the alignment between Versacare and TEAM, resulting in years of meaningful philanthropic investments.

Since 2015, Versacare Foundation has been privileged to grant TEAM over \$350,000. In addition, the relationship has merited several special projects, including support of the CALLED video found on the TEAM website homepage, and a current book project intended to capture the rich legacy of TEAM through the years.

The Versacare Foundation receives hundreds
Continued on next page

AWARD FOR TIME FOR EQUALITY IN ADVENTIST MINISTRY FOR THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

The Women’s Ministry honors TEAM Board with the Spirit of Unity Award – a recognition of the spiritual gifts of faith and evangelism through their unwavering commitment to women’s ordination and equality in the Adventist Church.



Pictured, left to right: Sligo’s Women’s Ministry Leader Elizabeth Abel, TEAM Representative Dr. Olive Hemmings, Columbia Union Conference Executive Secretary Celeste Ryan Blyden, TEAM Co Treasurer Kay Rosburg and Treasurer Ms. Charlotte Conway.

Founded in 1988 as an ad hoc committee of the Association of Adventist Women, TEAM has been a powerful advocate for unity, spiritual integrity, and justice. Their mission is rooted in the belief that equality before God calls for equal authority,

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of applications each grant cycle. Staff and Board members have been given the duty to steward foundation assets in meaningful ways that uphold organization mission and values. Thus, applications are taken through a rigorous process of vetting and evaluation prior to funding decisions. At the core of project vetting, Versacare asks a few key questions.

One, is the need important? TEAM states its purpose is to provide information to women who feel called to ministry. TEAM seeks to bless these women with financial support. And TEAM draws attention to the need for church support for women as well as men to be eligible for ordination. Yes, Versacare believes this need IS important.

Two, does the project focus on areas that are neglected? Evidence of success in a neglected area is supported that during the years of partnership, four unions have voted to ordain women: Columbia Union, Mid-America Union, Pacific Union and German Union. Further, Hispanic women have been ordained, several women have been appointed as Union Executive Secretaries, women serve as pastors in many countries, and a woman theologian from Togo who is completing her coursework for the ThD, among many other accomplishments.

Three, will the project be successful? Versacare is convicted of the success of TEAM by noting scholarship support of 665 women at 42 colleges and universities within the Seventh-day Adventist worldwide church. Versacare joins TEAM in celebrating the women represented by these numbers who are now in positions as Bible teachers, chaplains, pastors, and lead pastors.

And four, is this the right organization to accomplish stated goals? The TEAM board is made up of a group of passionate women committed to the Seventh-day Adventist church who have campaigned passionately for women in church leadership roles for decades and despite obstacles. Tom Macomber, Versacare President since 2017 and board member since 2012 said of TEAM, “It is with partners like TEAM that we are able to confidently support needs within the Adventist Church, like women in ministry, that we otherwise would have minimal success with meeting.”



Versacare Foundation is honored to partner with TEAM in its support of the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of gender, race, or social class. Learn more about Versacare Foundation at versacare.org

TEAM BOARD HONORED (CONTINUED)

recognition, and financial support for women serving in ministry. Like women “at the tomb” who rise early and go first, TEAM has gone before us, challenging barriers and opening doors with quiet strength and faithful persistence.

Through hosting special events, publishing materials centered on equality, and fostering a broad network of supporters, TEAM continues to promote lasting change. Their scholarship program – offering \$150 to \$2,000 to women studying for ministry is just one of the many ways they help prepare future leaders to serve boldly.

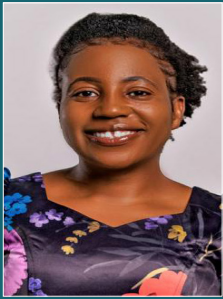
In a world where resistance to progress is real, TEAM’s work stands as a testament to God’s vision for unity in Christ. Today, we celebrate their courage, their vision, and their unshakeable faith.

Honored: Elisabeth Wear, former Chair of the Association of Adventist Women



TEAM Scholarship recipient, Dr. Gladys Ragira, first had TEAM support for her bachelor’s degree at Spicer College years ago. She recently completed her PhD in Religion from Musinde Mutiro University in Kenya.

LINAH BLESSING CHATAMBUDZA



I graduated from Rusangu University, which laid a strong foundation for my future endeavors. I now serve as Dean of Women at Eden University in Lusaka, Zambia. In this role, I'm dedicated to nurturing and guiding female students, providing spiritual support, and organizing activities that foster their growth and development. My responsibility is to create a supportive environment where these female students can thrive academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

In addition to my university role, I also serve as part-time Director of Women and Children Ministries at Midlands West Zambia Conference. This position allows me to complement my work at the university with wider outreach and ministry. I'm passionate about empowering women through preaching, teaching, and mentoring. Seeing women discover their potential, overcome challenges, and thrive brings me immense joy.

I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve and make a meaningful impact in the lives of women and children.

"There is no better investment than in scholarships to empower women called to ministry through the fire of the Holy Spirit."



Natasha Richards wrote: My journey reflects the strength and resilience that can arise in the darkest times. As a single mother, I faced challenges that made me doubt my worth. Just when I was ready to give up, I found that God had a different plan for me.

I pursued a deeper relationship with Jesus and the journey led me to ministry, allowing me to nurture my spirit and engage more meaningfully with my children. It has been an empowering journey for me and my now grown children.

I am excited to start a new chapter at Andrews University. I want to empower future ministry leaders with the emotional and spiritual tools they need to make a profound difference in their communities and serve God with strength and grace.

Thank you for granting me a TEAM scholarship for 2025.

THANK YOU TO TEAM



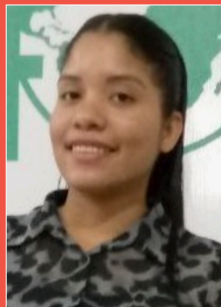
Dear TEAM Scholarship Committee, I am writing with a heart full of gratitude to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for receiving the TEAM Scholarship for two school years. I have learned much from my academic studies in religion and grown in my spiritual journey on the campus of the Middle East University in Beirut, Lebanon. Your support has been vital in enabling me to pursue my studies and achieve my academic goals.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to this scholarship. Your collective support is a testament to the incredible impact that a community of believers can have on the lives of individuals. I am profoundly grateful for your commitment to fostering religious education and faith.

I promise to dedicate myself to serving in ministry for God and the SDA Church by using the skills and knowledge I gain to win souls for Christ. It is my fervent hope that my future service will honor Christ and the trust and support you have invested in me.

With deepest appreciation and blessings,

Sara Christy Mdawar



Message from Feliannys del Valle Diaz Figueroa: I am a third year Theology major from Venezuela. I want to thank TEAM for making it possible for me to study under pastors and professors who exhibit integrity and authenticity. Like my mother, they have exemplified the importance of making Christ-likeness my lifestyle. May the Lord bless the

support TEAM provides women called to ministry!

BOARD MEMBERS – TEAM

Beverly Habada (Chair)

Jeanette Bryson (Executive Director)

Charlotte Conway (Treasurer)

Kay Rosburg (Co Treasurer)

Sharon Conway (Secretary)

Brenda Billings

Troy Campbell

Geri Ann Fuller

Olive Hemmings

Selma Chaij Mastrapa

Martha Monsalve

Dona Sandefur

Gifts of Appreciation & Remembrance

In Memory of Beverly Beem

Mission We advocate for the fulfillment of the gospel commission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, requiring accountability with the church structure.



With additional funding through Versacare, TEAM has been able to reach out to areas where anti-conversion laws exist, girls complete eighth grade and must leave school, cultural attitudes do not recognize women as leaders or called by God to serve in ministry, and where financial assistance

really makes a difference!

TEAM representatives are working with different language groups in a variety of geographical areas. There is an ongoing effort to develop relationships with pastors, conference representatives, and even presidents of universities in order to assist women called to ministry.

The following is an example of how TEAM is following innovative approaches to assisting women called to ministry:

A student from Southern Asia, **Elfino Elmo**, completed the course work for the master's degree in religion at AIIAS and must now engage in a ser-

vice period as part of her academic program. The North East University in India has offered her a position as an Associate Pastor, but she needs funds.

Pastor Elmo would be the third female pastor to serve in India. This would be an opportunity to invest in an area we have not invested in until just recently.

Cooperation between TEAM Board Member Kay Rosburg and the Sligo Church Pastor, Pranita Fielder, representing the Indian community at Sligo and the Southern Asia Church in Silver Spring, MD, and working with Narida Bates of the Association of Adventist Women and the Scholarship Committee representative Dr. Selma Chaij Mastrapa, and our contact with Dr. Ginger Ketting-Waller, PhD the President of AIIAS, a trained woman pastor can be placed in an area where TEAM has not entered.

TEAM appreciates the creative involvement of so many woman leaders and the support of Versacare to sponsor the student, Pastor Elfino Elmo.



*Graduates from the Cuban Seminary
From left to right: Loida Esquivel,
Elizabeth Sanchez and Ana Rocio Estepa.*



*Annia Vives, a recent graduate of
Montemorelos University, (with her
husband).*



*Erika Marjory Huamani-Rimachi graduated
from Adventist University of Peru and was
the first woman graduate to be awarded the
status of Valedictorian (with administrators).*

TEAM GRADUATE SERVING AS A PROFESSOR



Time for Equality in Ministry (TEAM) continues to make a difference in the lives of women globally, and it is always joyful and rewarding to see many of these women take their place in ministry.

As a professor, advisor, and mentor, **Dr. Jasmine Fraser**, a former recipient of the TEAM scholarship, is making

a difference for the cause of Christ.

Now serving as a guide for emerging pastors, teachers, chaplains, and ministry leaders, she considers it a sacred privilege to journey with those called and set aside in preparation for the work God has for them.

"A call to ministry is first a call to intimacy with God and to discover the depths of His heart. This is a transforming process that pivots us to share God's heart with others," says Dr. Fraser.

She expresses deep gratitude to the members and donors of TEAM. She endeavors to honor the support received from TEAM by investing in others, empowering them to become their best self for God's glory and to serve humanity, leading individuals to find hope in Jesus.

Dr. Fraser currently serves as Assistant Professor of Religious Education/DSLE and Program Director, PhD, Religious Education/DSLE, at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University. She is also a mentor for students and is one of the sponsors of the Women's Clergy Network.

THANK YOU TO TEAM

Danielle Bae, a new recipient, wrote: “The journey of women ministers would sometimes feel unsupported and lonely without your organization. I feel encouraged to have organizations like TEAM that support woman called to ministry.”

Erika Marjory Huamani-Rimachi, a student from Colombia, graduated from the Adventist University of Peru as the first woman graduate to be awarded the status of Valedictorian. She is continuing her studies toward a master’s degree in Theology at Villa Aurora in Italy. So thankful to God for the scholarship monies from TEAM.

Pastor Thairubys Alicia Contreras Zambrano, a student from Venezuela, is attending SETAI Montemorelos in Mexico. This TEAM Scholarship Recipient is a valued student on their campus. She is noted for improving the library holdings for theology research and developing projects in the university museum.

Victoria Gladney, MDiv student at the Andrews University Theological Seminary writes: Thank you so much for the scholarship award. It will contribute to my theological education and pastoral studies. I am grateful for your support in helping women achieve their dreams and grow the Kingdom of God for all people.

Zandile Mawela, a student at Washington Adventist University, Maryland, US, wrote: I want to express my deepest gratitude for the scholarship fund I received from TEAM. Your generosity and financial support have made a significant difference in my academic journey, and I am truly appreciative of this incredible blessing.

Pilar Camico Rivas from Venezuela wrote: “Thank you so much for your support. Truly I rejoice in the Lord, for He has shown me through TEAM how much He loves me. I was discouraged, but kept praying and today I saw my email from you! I will continue to pray for TEAM, so that donations will keep on coming. Then, at the right moment, I will help.



Thank you TEAM

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry

I sincerely appreciate your kindness in selecting me as one of your scholarship recipients. Your financial assistance is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

For TEAM, I pray that God will bless your efforts to attain equitable treatment of women in ministry. May He provide an overwhelming and consistent stream of finances, so you can assist many more women, pursuing ministry. May the recipients of this scholarship achieve their God-sized dreams and make an indelible mark on the world. In Jesus Name AMEN

Sincerely Grateful,
E. Elson

Esther Elson
Recipient of
TEAM Scholarship
2025

UPDATE ON YVONNE GAMETI

Embarking on the journey to earn my Doctorate in Theology (ThD) has been both deeply enriching and humbling. My research focuses on Early Church history, particularly the Christological writings of Irenaeus and Athanasius, and how their insights resonate with the theological conversations within the academia, and within my Seventh-day Adventist context. This process is challenging me to dive deeply into the historical and biblical texts, blending careful exegesis with theological reflection. While the journey is demanding, it is profoundly rewarding, shaping not only my academic skills but also my spiritual understanding.

My studies wouldn’t have been possible without the unwavering support of my husband, who has been my anchor through it all, and the financial assistance from TEAM, which has helped lighten the burden significantly. Also, the Seminary at Andrews University, my Professors, all the assistants, and particularly my supervisor and mentor Dr. John Reeve have been a guiding light as I navigate my own learning journey.

I’m currently one class away from completing my coursework, while also preparing for my comprehensive exams—two milestones that bring both excitement and gratitude. Each step in this process has deepened my faith and sharpened my focus, and I’m looking forward to what lies ahead.

Blessings, Yvonne

The advisor wrote: Yvonne has excellent potential as a professor, specializing in the History and Theology of the Early Church, a specialty most needed in Adventism. She will be an excellent educator of women and men pastors wherever she teaches. She did her masters degree at AIIAS, and they want her back as soon as she graduates with her ThD. I highly recommend Yvonne.

John W. Reeve
Director, PhD Religion and ThD Programs
Associate Professor of Church History

THANK YOU TO TEAM

Neida M. Rodriguez de Marques wrote: “God bless this beautiful ministry. I am very grateful for your support. I ask heaven to give me much wisdom to represent Him with dignity. God is good in a great manner.”

CALLED: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CALLED BY GOD?

by **GERI ANN FULLER**

In the Bible, a calling was not simply a sense of internal direction. It was an interaction with the Divine.

Some wanted to negotiate their own contracts. Moses, for example, when called to lead Israel, asked God to let someone else (his brother Aaron) speak for him. Some looked for or received support from someone else to understand the call, such as young Samuel, who went to Eli. When Esther was called to help Israel, her uncle Mordecai challenged her, “Who knows if you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” She fasted and prayed until she was certain the call was from God, but she did have an outside voice weighing in. For these and others, the call to action was a directive.

Some who were called didn’t accept the call. The first two men called to lead the Adventist church during its formation said no. After Ellen White accepted the call, remarkable events persuaded the early church that her call was indeed from God.

Other women are mentioned in the Bible carrying positions of leadership: Deborah, Miriam, Esther, Huldah, Phoebe, Priscilla.

TEAM’s goal is to witness our church treating men and women as equals in Christ as taught in Galatians

3:28: “In Christ there is neither male nor female . . . for you are all one in Christ.”

Dr. George Knight speaks about the New Testament custom of laying on of hands, which we call ordination today, as the way the early church “recognized the divine appointment of the apostles.” Paul and Barnabas, he says had already received their commission from God. The laying on of hands was not the event where they received their call; it was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office.

Paul in writing to Timothy (II Timothy 4:1) instructs that His followers are to preach God’s Word. The charge was not gender-oriented. Luke wrote (Acts 2:18) “Even on my male servants and female servants, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy.”

The church of the Old Testament followed Levitical laws, including laws regarding the priesthood, which the Adventist Church does not observe, since we understand God speaks the same truth to different people in different times and different ways. Using the Levitical laws as justification for denying full recognition to women pastors doesn’t make sense. Does God call women to pastoral ministry? It’s sad that in a church that teaches the Bible and with a history of women’s leadership stemming from its earliest days, we are still asking this question.

TEAM’s goal is to witness our church treating men and women as equals in Christ as taught in Galatians 3:28: “In Christ there is neither male nor female . . . for you are all one in Christ.”

By telling the story of how women’s health, teaching and evangelistic efforts have contributed to the success of the spread of Adventism, this book displays the injustice of excluding women from leadership even as their uncelebrated and often unacknowledged efforts form the foundation of this success. The book reminds all of the need for a non-gendered faith, one that celebrates the efforts and contributions of all, equally.

Jeanne Mogusu PhD, MPPA, MDiv, Pastor

Ottshofski, Hannele. Tired of Waiting: Women in Church and Society (p. 8). Kindle Edition.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAM IN 2024

**Adventist International
Institute of Adventist Studies
(AIIAS)**

Philippines
Therese Marie Ngono

**Adventist Seminary in
Venezuela**

Venezuela
Seila Pilar Camico

**Adventist University of Africa
Nairobi, Kenya**

Mary Nyambura Mburu
Esther Mugo

**Babcock University
Nigeria**

Mary Idowu Agbetayo
Nukphughi Enduarance
Charity Igodugu

**Bugema University
Uganda**

Cassifa Awino
Teresa Basweti
Ongubo Nyanchama Florence
Olivia Jepkiogei
Jannet Kia
Mary Wambui Kuria
Mercy Kwamboka
Witness Enos Manumbu
Matilda Kemunto Mbaka
Vane Monda
Mumbua Mwanza
Rodah Nyabony Nyakora
Ruth Nyang'au
Jackline Obara
Ruth Obwogi
Awiti Deborah Oketch
Mary K. Ondieki
Zinzy OrokoAwuor Syprose
Ouma
Sure Kwamboka Zipporah

**Middle East University
Lebanon**

Sara Mdawar

**North East University
India**

Elfino Elmo

**Cuba Adventist Theological
Seminary (SETAC), Cuba**

Elizabeth Sanchez Borrero
Dama Igis Salinas Chavaz
Maidelis Arrebato Diaz
Aday Marisol Lopez Diaz
Suane Rodriguez Favier
Suley Reyes Gil
Elisa Ocana Gutierrez
Mirtha Caridad Hernandez
Oslaidys Hernandez Mustelier
Allen Planchez Rios
Dannae Eline Banderas
Rodriguez
Adonay Guerra Rodriguez
Yislen Martinez Sanchez
Loida Esquivel Suarez

Mexico (SETAC)

Thairubys Contreras

**Spicer University
India**

Laidenkimi
Lyngdah Lakmeniana
Chinneimoi Mate
Deisi Surong

**River Plate Adventist
University
Argentina**

Eliana Gurierrez

**Corporacion Universitaria
Adventista
Colombia**

Rubi Yenecsy Sanchez

**University of Arusha
Tanzania**

Zakia Jumanne Dinawi
Neema N. Edgar
Neema Remius Katabi
Spelatha Simon Nyaminchu

**Adventist Seminary in
Venezuela
Venezuela**

Sarah Adames
Michele Guzman

**Instituto Avventista
di Cultura Biblica
Italy**

Erika Huamani Rimachi

**Washington Adventist
University
Maryland, U.S.A.**

Zandile Malewa

*Thank you for your
continued support*



EQUALITY



SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN



SUPPORT

SPOTLIGHT ON TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

Featured in Spectrum: Sabbath Bulletin, March 7, 2025

Pastor/Dr. Jeanne Mogusu featured in Podcast
Disquisitive: Who Gets to Mind God's Business?



Growing up in Kenya, Jeanne was confused by God's calling into pastoral ministry, as she never knew women could be any kind of church leader. With time spent in the United States during her university years, Jeanne came to see the unique ways God

equips people for the work he has planned. Returning to Kenya with her PhD in urban planning and development, she chose instead to be known as Pastor Jeanne.

"I'm so grateful to God that he took me out of the environment in which I was raised. I loved the environment because it created a wonderful, strong foundation for me in my Adventist faith. However, I was (quote) a good Adventist, but I was not a good Christian, and there's a great distinction between the two."

Integrating Self: Identity Journeys in Adventism with Kevin McCarty is a limited Spectrum podcast series (12/15,24).

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

In April 2025, I was privileged to travel to the University of East Africa, Baraton and meet with thirty-five of the female student pastors. Each one of these ladies has a distinct call from God and is passionately pursuing their studies in Theology to enable them to be equipped for the work of building the Kingdom of God. The resilience, tenacity and sheer grit that these ladies exhibit is an inspiration to us all. TEAM has been supportive of their academic journeys and the number of ladies supported by TEAM scholarships increases year after year. We are extremely grateful to each of you for your financial support that makes it possible for TEAM to provide the scholarships that allow for these amazing ladies to fulfill the call of God on their lives. — Jeanne Mogusu, PhD, MPPA, MDiv

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Follow God as a leaf follows the wind

"Do not be "tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine."

EPHESIANS 4:14

WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN DO

\$40/10 MONTHLY
TEAM Scholarship
SPICER UNIVERSITY, INDIA

\$50/MONTHLY
TEAM Scholarship
BABCOCK UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

\$60/MONTHLY
TEAM Scholarship
VENEZUELA ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

\$150/MONTHLY
TEAM Scholarship
WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY, USA

SCAN CODE



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Thank You for your continued support!

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Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry

A private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of gender, race, or social class.



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