

The Called Initiative

Discipling, Equipping, and Mentoring Evangelical Christian Women for Ministry

Why Investing in Evangelical Women Matters

The Called Initiative is unique in creating a biblically conservative space where women overlooked for leadership training can be trained, equipped, and encouraged to follow God's call.

In the early 2000s, Crown of Life Discipleship Ministries began mentoring women in evangelical churches who felt a pull to serve Christ in the church but did not know how to move forward into their calling. Without role models, training, and encouragement, they did not know how to fulfill their callings. While they knew their Bibles well, our program served as the “missing class,” training them in theology, homiletics, and writing.

Through our program, women went on to serve in traditional spaces like women's and children's ministry, as well as becoming chaplains, pastors, licensed counselors, and ambassadors for Christ in the arts. Their stories embody James 1:12, women whose faithfulness to Christ's call on their lives bore lasting fruit for the Kingdom.

Investing in evangelical Christian women matters because it provides caring, spiritually formative spaces where they can discern their callings, grow in confidence, and be equipped to serve Christ. Within a cohort, they build relationships and ministry networks that last a lifetime.

The Called Initiative builds on this legacy, combining biblical formation with practical leadership developed in community. Our aim is not only to prepare women to step further into ministry, but to empower them to disciple others, multiplying fruitfulness for the next generation.

“Through CLDM I was trained in the Word, sermon writing, and how to speak in front of a crowd.

*This gave me a confidence I never thought I could have
and an understanding of the call of God on my life.”*

Alicia Vargas, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Pastor

Mission Statement

The Called Initiative, a ministry of **Crown of Life Discipleship Ministries (CLDM)**, exists to disciple, equip, and mentor Christian women for leadership in the Church and world. Rooted in

Christ's Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), our mission is to create vocationally formative spaces where women can discern their callings, grow in leadership, and serve with boldness.

Vision Statement

We envision a movement of women who are empowered to live out their callings, lead with wisdom and courage, and walk faithfully through challenges. Through discipling, equipping, and mentoring, The Called Initiative will prepare women to become disciple-makers in their local churches, communities, and beyond—multiplying the reach of the gospel for generations.

What Makes This Ministry Unique

Unity. The Called Initiative bridges church divides to disciple, equip, and mentor evangelical women for ministry, ensuring the next generation of leaders is not left unseen or unsupported.

The Called Initiative is one of the few mentoring programs intentionally designed for evangelical women who feel called to ministry yet often lack access to leadership training, role models, and supportive networks. While mentoring opportunities exist in progressive spaces, evangelical women are frequently left without guidance as they discern how to step forward in teaching, preaching, or other forms of Christian leadership.

What makes this ministry distinctive is its rare commitment to bring together mentors from across church traditions while remaining grounded in a biblically conservative framework that affirms Scripture as inspired and infallible. Within this space, women receive encouragement, theological formation, and leadership development so they can thrive in their own church contexts. Whether pursuing roles in the pulpit, nonprofits, education, or the arts, participants are equipped to see that faithful women before them have already blazed the trail—and to know with confidence that it is possible for them, too.

Key Objectives

1. **Discipleship:** Deliver theological training, ministry skills, and practical resources that ground women in Christ and prepare them for leadership.
2. **Equipping:** Provide tools for digital ministry by helping each woman develop a personal platform, including headshots, a speaking video, and an online launch.
3. **Mentorship:** Facilitate structured mentor–mentee relationships for Christian women in leadership.
4. **Community:** Cultivate a supportive network where women encourage one another, wrestle with theological and cultural challenges, and find belonging.

5. **Kingdom Impact:** Multiply leaders who disciple others, fulfilling CLDM's vision to *disciple the nations*.

My journey began with a simple invitation to a weekly small group, which evolved into a women's ministry training that became invaluable to me. Through CLDM, I not only grew in my faith and formed lifelong friendships but also developed a deep desire to learn more about God. This ministry gave me the opportunity to speak at several conferences and equipped me with the professional skills to become a leader. With that encouragement, I pursued a Master of Fine Arts degree, and now I use my creative gifts to share the Christian faith visually.

Elise Aleman, MFA, Director and Founder of Ex Nihilo Gallery

Statement of Belief

The Called Initiative is a ministry of [Crown of Life Discipleship Ministries](#), a 501(c)(3) organization. We affirm the [Statement of Faith of the National Association of Evangelicals](#) as the foundation of our theology and teaching.

We affirm the full participation of women in all areas of Christian ministry, including ordination. We recognize that women serve Christ faithfully in a wide range of church traditions, and we welcome applicants from both egalitarian and complementarian contexts. Our program provides biblical teaching on what Scripture does—and does not—say about women's ministry callings, while allowing women the freedom to hold their own convictions regarding church practice and family structure.

Our aim is to create a Christ-centered environment where women can study Scripture deeply, discern their callings faithfully, and grow in confidence as leaders as they follow God's leading in their unique ministry contexts.

Program Format

- **Cohort Model:** 12 women in a 10-month cohort, selected through an application process.
- **Class Times:** Monthly 3-hour online sessions and three in-person one day workshops.
- **Timeline:** 12-month program (launching early 2026 with Oregon women, followed by a national cohort).
- **Commitment:** Attend all sessions, workshops, and complete assignments.

Program Components

- **Monthly Cohort Gatherings:** Monthly group meetings with biblical and theological study, leadership training, workshops, and guest speakers.

- **Mentor–Mentee Coffees:** Monthly one-on-one coffee conversations with a female Christian leader over zoom or in-person to share thoughts about life, the program, and being a woman in Christian leadership.
- **Weekend Workshops:** A February one-day workshop and a September Friday-Saturday workshop for deep formation, networking, and speaker preparation. Housing and location provided by Camp Harlow in Eugene, OR. These replace the Zoom meeting for that month.
- **Practical Training:** Speaking coaching, professional headshots, personal ministry webpages.
- **Capstone Project:** A culminating initiative where each participant designs and launches a ministry project in a digital or local context, applying what they have learned.

Curriculum Framework

Over the 10 months, participants will engage in structured theological and biblical formation:

- **Months 1–3: Scripture & Canon** – Who wrote the Bible, and why does it matter? Exploring the authority, interpretation, and formation of Scripture as the firm foundation for Christian life and ministry.
- **Months 4-6: Women in the Bible and Christian History** – How have women led in the church? Wrestling with the controversial passages about women in Scripture and learning from women who have shaped the Church throughout history.
- **Months 7-10: A Biblical Theology of Leadership** – What kind of leader is Christ calling you to be? Developing a theological vision of leadership rooted in Christ, shaped by servanthood, and practiced for the building up of the Church. We conclude with a capstone leadership project.

2026 Oregon Cohort – 10-Month Schedule

Month 1 —

February 2 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Onboarding session and Introductions

February 21 (Camp Harlow, 9am–5pm)

Divine Revelation: How God Speaks and How We Listen

Month 2 — March 3 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Interpreting Scripture: A Practical Approach to Hermeneutics

Month 3 — April 7 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Owning Your Approach to Scripture: Why Your Interpretation Matters

Month 4 — May 5 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

1 Timothy & 1 Corinthians Are Not a Problem

Month 5 — June 2 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Retrieving Women's Story in the Early Church

Month 6 — July 7 (Camp Harlow, 7–9pm)

The American Church and Your Ministry Story

Month 7 — August 4 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Clarifying Your Call: Discerning Your Voice, Gifts, and Direction

Month 8 — September 25–26 (Retreat at Camp Harlow)

Leading From Conviction: Owning Your Theology and Identity

- Mentor gatherings, headshots, and speaking video

Month 9 — October 6 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Leading Through Resistance: Navigating Systems, Power, and Pushback

Month 10 — November 3 (Zoom, 7–9pm)

Leading With Resilience: Building Strength, Boundaries, and Sustainability

Educational Grant for Graduates

As part of our commitment to ongoing discipleship, it is our desire for each participant who completes the program to be awarded a **\$1,000 educational grant**. These funds may be applied toward a ministry-related conference or academic course, ensuring that the growth

begun in The Called Initiative continues to bear fruit and strengthen the broader Church. We are currently raising the funds for this grant, so the amount is subject to change. One option is for an institution to give the participant credit for one class for having completed the program.

Participant Criteria

- **Mentees:** Women engaged in Christian ministry and sensing a call to “do more” for Jesus, to serve Him with their lives.
- **Attendance:** Full participation will be required at the retreats and monthly Zooms. Participants should make arrangements in advance to cover their care giving and work. Full attendance and participation required to attend the September workshop with headshots and video, as well as the educational grant.
- **Application Process:** Online application due by Dec 11, 2026 by midnight with 2 references. All applicants will be notified by Monday, January 19, 2026 if they have been selected.

Current Need

To launch the **first Oregon cohort in 2026**, CLDM requires **\$24,000 base cost** (\$2,000 per woman). We have secured \$12,000 from Twin Oaks Christian Church. The **remaining \$12,000 is needed** to fully fund the program. An additional **\$12,000 educational grant fund** is also envisioned, supported through scholarships and donors. That works out to **\$3,000 per woman for the Oregon Cohort**.

We will need **\$4,500 per woman to run national cohorts**, which will include airfare to Oregon and housing for two weekend retreats.

Without further funding, the first cohort could be delayed and would be significantly reduced in scope. Retreats, guest speakers, and media support may be scaled back, limiting the program’s depth and effectiveness. Most importantly, fewer women would be reached at a time when many are eager for guidance and support in pursuing ministry.

With support, The Called Initiative will launch in 2026 with excellence, providing a replicable model that equips Christian women to step confidently into leadership and disciple others for years to come.

Volunteer Opportunities

Provide any of the following:

- Meal, snack, or welcome bags for the workshops
- Office and administrative support (copies, binders, handouts)
- Childcare
- Media support (recording, editing, photography)
- Housing for guest speakers or participants
- Prayer Team

Why This Initiative Matters

The Called Initiative provides a caring space to explore calling and vocation, offering *agape* love and *koinonia* fellowship. Women mentored grow into leaders who serve Christ boldly in churches, non-profits, and other vocations. As Matthew 28:19 reminds us, we are all called to “make disciples,” and when women are empowered to step into this work, the Church is strengthened.

CLDM would like to add a special thank you to our ministry partners. Your investment in The Called Initiative will directly disciple women leaders who will multiply the gospel’s reach in churches, nonprofits, and communities across Oregon and beyond.

Contact Information

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www.cldm.online