

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Rudd Empowerment Center (REC) at American Baptist Women's Ministries Launches the *Lead Like a Woman Institute* February 2026

King of Prussia, PA - December 2, 2025 – American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is pleased to announce the launch of the ***Lead Like a Woman Institute***, an initiative of the Rudd Empowerment Center (REC) designed to elevate, equip, and empower women leaders across generations.

Women lead with creativity, resilience, strategic insight, and collaborative strength, yet the pathways to leadership and the resources available to women often differ from those available to men. The *Lead Like a Woman Institute* will explore essential questions about women's leadership:

- What distinct strengths do women bring to executive and organizational leadership?
- How do women build, nurture, and expand high-performing teams?
- What challenges do women encounter on the path to leadership, and what strategies help them thrive
- How can emerging leaders be mentored and supported by those who have gone before them?

Beginning in February 2026, the *Lead Like a Woman Institute* will unite the following programs and resources under the Rudd Empowerment Center:

- The Annual REC Empowerment Webinar Series during the month of February
- The Bi-Annual Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Conference during the month of September
- In person and virtual seminars led by local, national, and international women leaders
- Research and data-driven materials addressing trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping women's leadership
- The *Lead Like a Woman* Podcast

- Online tools and guides to help women identify and secure funding for the work they lead
- Mentorship and networking opportunities connecting emerging and established leaders
- Collaborative partnerships with colleges, universities, seminaries, and professional training programs that offer certificates and continuing education units (CEUs)

Rev. Dr. Chris Smith, Associate Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries and Director of the Rudd Empowerment Center, shared:

"The Rudd Empowerment Center is honored to launch the *Lead Like a Woman Institute*. At a time when women's rights are being challenged and the contributions of women leaders are too often dismissed or undervalued, we cannot sit silently on the sidelines. We have a responsibility to prepare, uplift, and stand with women who are called to lead.

This initiative is not simply a program. It is a declaration that women's leadership matters, that women's gifts are indispensable, and that women deserve access to the training, support, and community that will help them rise. The Institute will offer practical tools, spiritual grounding, and an empowering network so that women, whether young or seasoned, can walk confidently in their God-given purpose and soar."

Rev. LaThelma Armstrong, Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, added:

"Women have always led with courage, compassion, and clarity of purpose. The *Lead Like a Woman Institute* reflects our commitment to nurture those gifts and to create pathways for women to thrive as leaders in their communities, churches, workplaces, and beyond. We believe that when women rise, communities rise, and we are honored to invest in the next generation of bold and visionary women leaders."

About American Baptist Women's Ministries

American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) is a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to encouraging and empowering women and girls to serve God. With a history of over 70 years, ABWM is committed to fostering leadership, spiritual growth, mission engagement, and advocacy for women and girls worldwide.

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