





# Interfaith Women Leadership Initiative

In 2002, the *Interfaith Women Clergy of the Delaware Valley* was formed in conjunction with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia. In 2004, the Interfaith Women Clergy came under the leadership of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. In 2008, it was decided to expand the initiative from women clergy to women religious leaders, paving the way for greater inclusivity of membership.

## Mission

To engage the rich diversity of women serving congregations and communities in order to:

-  Strengthen spiritual connections
-  Enhance understanding
-  Share resources
-  Affirm our distinctive calls to action

"A lovely, nurturing day. I enjoyed the opportunity to hear stories and meet challenges!"

"So many women gathered is encouraging on my own journey."

"Sharing stories of faith bonded us together as women."

"The space was wonderful -- open and full of light."

"We managed to share on a suprisingly deep level."

"The structure of the retreat allowed for sharing, connecting, healing, and community."



## Retreat

Each year since 2003, an interfaith retreat has been held for women clergy of the region. The one-day retreat centers on a specific theme and includes dialogue, reflection, storytelling, text study and workshops to examine and reflect on the retreat's theme. Themes of the annual retreat have included: *Body, Mind, Spirit, Women and Power, Replenishing the Wellsprings of Joy, and Creating Sacred Space Within and Without.*

## Daughters of Abraham

This interfaith book group strives to overcome stereotypes and to foster mutual respect and understanding among Jewish, Christian, and Muslim women by reading and discussing books that explore each of these faith traditions. Committed to building relationships with each other, the group will aim to have 21 members, seven from each of the Abrahamic religions and meet eight times during the academic year.