

Finding our prophetic voice

Last night I dreamed I was speaking at a large gathering of Mennonite women. We were in a conference hall with double doors on either side of our room. As I spoke, I realized the back of a white tractor trailer semi truck was backing into the room and was just about to hit some of the women. I knew immediately why the truck wanted to go through our room. Traffic was congested outside the conference center and our room was the only way for the truck to get through.

I could see that the women nearest the truck were oblivious to the danger, so I ran into the adjoining room alongside the trailer, screaming, “What do you think you’re doing?” I felt derision and scorn in the unseen driver’s irritated answer implying the women didn’t matter. Returning to my speaking, I gradually realized the truck was gone.

I awoke from this very vivid dream with a lingering sense of surprise that the truck left without hitting anyone. All I did was yell, “What do you think you’re doing?” But somehow my voice made a difference.

Last spring 30 women gathered at Camp Amigo to discern vision for Mennonite Women USA in the coming years (see cover photos). From that meeting a new vision statement was adopted at the November 2009 board meeting. While our mission remains essentially unchanged—to nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, use our gifts, hear each other, and engage in mission and service—the vision took a new focus:

Mennonite Women USA invites women across generations, cultures, and places to share and honor our stories, care for each other, and express our prophetic voice boldly as we seek to follow Christ.

When I woke from my dream, I could still feel the powerlessness of screaming at the side of a tractor trailer. Then I thought of our new vision statement and my struggle to know what this prophetic voice of women is to say. Running alongside a truck to help another person didn’t feel strong or profound, but a prophetic voice means much more than how one feels. It’s about speaking boldly for what matters as we seek to follow Christ. ☑



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