

# Episode 11: Women in Ministry

## Show Notes

### **SHOW OPENING (JM)**

Welcome to Let's Chat, an ongoing conversation with youth workers and leaders about student ministry and whatever else we end up talking about. Thanks for joining us!



Today's episode will be a conversation about **Women in Ministry** and how to identify, encourage, and empower the female students entrusted to us and the women we serve alongside as they explore and navigate their call to ministry.

I'm your host, J.M. McGinnis and today I'm thrilled to be joined by:

**Hannah Beers** - Pastor to Youth and Families at Olathe College Church of the Nazarene in Olathe, Kansas

**Jen Willard** - Friend of the show, Pastor to Students at Crossroads Church of the Nazarene in Ellicott City, Maryland, Editor of the NYI USA/Canada Blog, Coach for Fuller Institute,

**Dr. Kara Powell** - Executive Director, Fuller Youth Institute at Fuller Theological Seminary and Chief of Leadership Formation at Fuller Seminary, Author, or Coauthor of dozens of books including:

3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager

3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future: A 60 Day Exploration of Who You Were Made To Be Faith In An Anxious World,

Growing With

Growing Young,

Essential Leadership: Training On Ramps for Your Youth Ministry Team,

Deep Ministry in a Shallow World,

Help! I'm A Woman in Ministry

Dr. Powell is also a regular speaker at the National Youth Workers Conventions, The Orange Conference, The Simply Youth Ministry Conference, as well as retreats and conferences around the country.

### **EPISODE PREVIEW (HOST)**

On this episode we're going to be asking. . .

- How can youth workers advocate for and empower young women and adult women as they pursue their call in ministry? What does it look like to make room at the table or even change tables in an effort to send a clear and unequivocal message of welcome partnership in ministry?

**Hannah's Notes:**

**Jen's Notes:**

**Kara's Notes:**

## HOST OUTLINE / QUESTIONS:

- Tell me about your experience as a woman in ministry. (Kara) Very positive. Denomination pro-women. Male mentors/supervisors. And yet still felt different. Esp in 20s - hid during a meeting, not wear skirt.
- Where are we on this issue? What does our report card look like? Where are we making progress, where do we need improvement, and where might we need a bit of demolition to rebuild? (Kara) Progress in more female role models. Me needed to see full-time youth pastor in high school. Need Improvement in actual jobs.
- How does being a pastor influence how you are as a wife or mom? Do you find that people perceive being a wife and a mom as a liability? (Jen) Setting boundaries became more important to me. Being a pastor didn't change. I've had experiences where being a wife and a mom was threatening to churches. We have to treat women *and men* as whole people. It is important to ask these questions in an interview.
- How do we invite people into this conversation who want to engage but aren't sure how? (Hannah) Be patient with them. Allow them to make mistakes...at least they are trying. Graciously offer alternative perspectives and help them lead alongside you...invite them to witness your leadership but also the impact your leadership has on those around you.
- What are some things churches / youth groups do that they may not realize are subtle signals to a lack of openness to women in ministry? (Kara) Unconscious bias. Me with Nathan and the volleyball team. Watch your words, assumptions. Create an environment in which others can speak up and that you can ask for feedback.
- What are some ways churches can say "WE BELIEVE IN YOU" to women in ministry? (Jen) Hire them and pay them the same as you would a man. Let women lead. Don't suggest that we can't.

## LET'S GET PRACTICAL: (Takeaways)

- What would you tell a youth pastor or youth worker who wants to help the female students in their ministry flesh out their call to ministry? (Kara)
  - What are the first things they could say? What do you think God's calling you to? How can we help develop your skills?
  - What are the first things they could do? Mentors. Me would drive an hour. Not just full-time ministry but gifted female leaders in other field. (Besides listening to this podcast and reading everything Dr. Powell has written.)
- What would you say to the women in ministry who are listening right now who are struggling with their identity or finding subtle and perhaps not so subtle resistance to their role as a woman in ministry? (Hannah) Know your WHY! Surround yourself with voices that can challenge you but also support you when the strain of shepherding the church gets overwhelming. The men and women in your ministry are watching, some you will never

**know about but they are watching for how you respond and live the way you lead. You are called!**

### **NEXT STEPS**

*What are some resources we could point our listeners to who'd like to know more about supporting Women in Ministry?*

### **SUMMARY**

Host summarizes the discussion in a few sentences and then transitions into the show closing.

### **SHOW CLOSING**

Thanks for joining us on Let's Chat!

Check out the links on the podcast tab at [nyiconnect.com](http://nyiconnect.com) for resources and more episodes!

- **FEATURE**
  - For more on WOMEN IN MINISTRY check out [NYICONNECT.COM](http://NYICONNECT.COM) for blog posts and more.
  - AND, if you'd like to download the resources we talked about, visit the show notes for this episode at [NYICONNECT.COM](http://NYICONNECT.COM)
- **And if you enjoyed today's episode, we'd love for you to . . .**
- **ASK**
  - Comment on the podcast! It lets us know who is listening out there and gives us the opportunity to connect and get feedback from you!
  - If you have a friend who came to mind as you were listening to this episode who needs to hear this conversation, you can share the link with them or on your social media.
- **Until next time, we believe in you!**