

## Her-stories

Every story is important—Every story counts!

What does “her-story(ies)” mean? It is a play on words using the prefix of the word “his-story” emphasizing the masculine pronoun (his) in contrast to the female pronoun her and creating a neologism: her-story. It is a political approach to the experiences and stories written from a feminist perspective and emphasizes the role of women.

Telling stories is an exercise to organize experiences. Furthermore, it is a political action and a powerful tool to mold and define identities. Women’s stories and experiences are normally not included in the official texts and canons. Most of the time, women’s stories are marginalized—left out from the officially recognized structures and texts in church life and theological reflection. Therefore, the component of telling her-stories in the process of *Women on the Move* will revive memories of women from different spheres of life: grassroots lay women; ordained women, theologians, formal educators, pastors, disciples, deaconesses, etc.

We want to tell the stories of women who

- ▶ Provoked change in church and society
- ▶ Empowered others, especially other women
- ▶ Produced/did theology.

In this process of recovering women’s experiences it is crucial that we recognize that women have been silenced for various reasons. Sometimes women were not successful in their attempt to reform. It is important to name the obstacles they encountered on their journey—those moments of frustration, tiredness and those instances when there was no positive final outcome.

### How many stories?

At the local church level the number of stories should be defined by the local women’s organizations or groups. At the regional level the selection will be made by a regional working group, established through the WICAS Regional Coordination Network. At the global level, a working group, facilitated by the WICAS program, steers the process and selects the stories.

