

## Women's ministry looks to the future



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**N**inety-nine years ago, a fellowship for girls was formed in two Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) boarding schools. The aim was to bring the students together for prayers and Bible study and to teach them how to live Christ-like lives. The fellowship (called Girls' Guild) was founded on Romans 12:11–13: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality."

In 1943, the fellowship was renamed Women's Guild as its membership included both women and girls. Through the decades, the association has touched the lives of many in the community, taking care of destitute children and the needy. Their presence is relied on during church weddings and funerals. The women in blue headscarves have a reputation for being well organised and getting things done!

Fast forward to 2021 and we're in a village where all the Guild members belong to the same age group. Having grown old together, they can no longer carry the heavy *sufurias* (giant cooking pots) in which food is prepared for church functions. Who will take their place?

This question needs to be addressed as the organisation approaches its centennial celebrations in 2022. Rev Elizabeth

Kimani, the Guild director, is leading the national board as they take time out to look at the health of the organisation today and cast a vision for its future ministry.

The curriculum team have written two handbooks for use in training the 'followers' wanting to become Guild members. Over the next few months, another curriculum will be designed for mentoring girls with the same basic aim as back in 1922 – bringing girls together for prayer and Bible study and teaching them to live Christ-like lives.

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#### Please pray:

- Thank God for Rev Elizabeth Kimani in her role as the director of women's ministry and remember the board as they meet to pray and plan for the centennial events in 2022.
- Ask for God's blessing on the curriculum team tasked with designing the mentoring book for girls. Pray over their first meeting which will take place in April and for the preparation work needing to be done beforehand.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work within the Guild, encouraging members to purposefully mentor younger women and girls as part of their ongoing ministry.