

## Beautiful Authority



2014 Beautiful Authority Conference participants

Beautiful Authority began as a grassroots way to gather young female clergy for formation, support, networking, and friendship. Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves and other senior female clergy leaders were aware of how easily young female clergy could feel isolated in their ministry.

Each year since 2011, a group of about 20 young women gather for discernment, support, and networking in a three-day retreat guided by women who are senior leaders in the church. Participants explore key topics for ordained women: identity, ministry passions, and work-life balance. These also are vital to good leadership, wellness, vocation, values and other aspects of ministry that also enter the conversations and sharing.

The first Beautiful Authority conferences focused on women age 35 and under, and the needs and challenges they faced in the ministry. The conference in 2014 brought together women between age 35 and 45 to discern their next steps in ministry, including possibilities in church leadership. The 2015 conference, June 8-11, again focuses on the interests and needs of ordained women in the 35 to 45 age group.

The annual Beautiful Authority conferences seek to be both affordable and transformative for the women who participate. Networks and relationships often continue on, as part of a growing effort to become effective leaders and model wellness in their ministry and in other aspects of their lives.

If you would like to learn more about being part of a Beautiful Authority community through participating in a conference, or if you would simply like more information, contact [The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves](#), Bishop, Diocese of El Camino Real.