My experiences with women in leadership inside and outside of the church have been consistent throughout my life. I have seen women lead with grace and capability in many areas. When the topic of gender and leadership came up in the context of the bylaws at MVC, I was interested and ready to dig into the texts that have influenced the church's view. I would say that I was aware of the biblical passages that talked about leadership, but I had never done any studying in depth until we began this process. I have done a lot of reading, studying, and praying about this process and have consistently been led back to the belief that we are equally called God's beloved and given the same capacities to lead and serve regardless of gender. I believe we will get to witness such beauty and wholeness when the entire body of Christ is free to serve and lead as we are called.