

## WOMEN BY THE NUMBERS

### White House reports U.S. women still paid less, more likely to live in poverty

By Elaine Moy\*



A recent White House report is being billed as the government's "most comprehensive report on the state of women in 50 years."

Findings, based on figures for 2009, include:

- Men still make more money on average than women;
- Women are more likely than men to live in poverty;
- Most college-educated women marry around age 30, high school-educated women marry around age 26;
- 62% of women are married, compared with 72% in 1970;
- 46% of women between 25-29 didn't have children in 2008 compared with 31% in 1976;
- 87% of women 19 and older are high school graduates, slighter more than men;
- 28% of both men and women have at least a college degree;
- Women ages 25-34 are more likely to have a college degree than men of the same age, and more women than men go to graduate school;
- Women continue to make up a disproportionately high number of administrative support jobs;
- Men are still paid more on average than women doing the same or similar work, regardless of educational level;
- Women earn about 75 cents for every \$1 earned by a man in comparable jobs.

Some questions to ponder—

How do these findings impact your local church? Your annual conference staff?

Does your congregation offer Bible studies or adult classes on faith and financial management, addressing gender injustice, and understanding how the economy works?

Are adult Sunday school or class leaders women, men or both? Are men and women assigned to teach topics based on their gender alone? For which topics?

Who teaches Sunday school for children, youth and adults? Who sits on your finance committee? Who are your trustees? Who gets asked to take notes in the committee meetings?

Do you pay your church staff members a living wage?

Do members of your Cabinet counsel congregations on receiving a new pastor, so that wages and compensation are consistent and fair, regardless of the pastor's marital status and/or gender?

*\*Information provided by the Wall Street Journal, March 1, 2011.*

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