

✿ Introductory words by the organizer explaining the methodology and presenting the speaker(s) (5 minutes)

✿ First reflection by the speakers (5-10 minutes)

✿ First course (about 10 minutes so that people have time to help themselves and eat)

✿ Discussion around the tables on the topic presented (15 minutes)

✿ Short interlude of music - one of the participants can sing or play an instrument (5 minutes)

✿ Main course (about 15 minutes, so that people have time to help themselves and eat)

✿ Second reflection by the speaker (5-10 minutes)

✿ Discussion around the tables on the topic presented (15 minutes)

✿ Short interlude of music (5 minutes)

✿ Dessert (10 minutes so that people have time to help themselves and eat)

✿ Exchange around the tables on the main topic(s) discussed

The structure in the left box is meant to serve as a suggestion. Please feel free to adapt it or to simplify it as needed and appropriate to your own congregation or women's group. The conversations are motivated by inputs brought by the women speakers. Two or three speakers representing different constituencies initiate the conversation by providing initial input. The speakers can consist of influential women from the church (theologian/ordained/lay leader), as well as from women in politics and business, arts and sciences. Each speech should last a maximum of 10 minutes, be provocative, able to open up discussions, inviting for sharing and building new proposals.

4) Conversations: what are the issues to be discussed

Speakers are asked beforehand to prepare specific issues related to women in leadership; they can bring memories of women from different spheres of life: grassroots lay, ordained, theologians, formal educators, pastors, disciples, deaconesses. It is expected that they open up a safe space to discuss important themes of relevance to women's life and witness in the church and world at large.

Ways to initiate the "Conversation at Catharina's table":

- ▶ Special women's fellowship meetings can be used to organise it in a local church.
- ▶ Women's story(ies) can be part of the liturgy of Sunday worship.
- ▶ Make use of cultural resources, like songs written by women, oral or written stories by both women and men, to remember the life and the ministry of the women in your community(ies). The oral stories from women in your church/ community can give life to the women's her-history and they need to be documented.
- ▶ At the Catharina's table a welcoming place can be created for the younger members (Sunday school, junior bible school, and youth group) from your community(ies) to hear and participate in the discussion. This will also encourage women with young children to attend.

5) Document it, take notes, or record, if possible the main discussions and take pictures

Photos and notes from this experience are very important. Someone should be appointed to be responsible for the documentation. Stories are going to be published at LWF- WICAS website to encourage more women's groups and congregations to adopt this methodology.

6) Share it

- ▶ With the church news
- ▶ In a newspaper in the city (if possible)
- ▶ With LWF WICAS