

# St. Phoebe Center

FOR THE HISTORY OF THE DEACONESS

[orthodoxdeaconess.org](http://orthodoxdeaconess.org)

(Friday, December 5, 9am-6pm - Sophia Institute Conference)

\*\*\* Venue for both Conferences: James Chapel, Union Theological Seminary

## Friday, December 5, 7:30pm – Pre-Conference Dessert Reception, James Chapel

for Conference attendees

- Presentation by Elena Narinskaya, Chair  
Ministries in the Church: Women and Men in Christ, Oxford, England

## Saturday, December 9am–5:30pm – Conference, James Chapel

### •••Women and Diaconal Ministry in the Orthodox Church: Past, Present, and Future

9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration (Coffee/bagels, etc.)

9:30 am - 10:00 am Opening Prayer Service (with participation of conference attendees)

- Blessing of food products for Emmaus House, Harlem

10:00 am - 10:15 am Welcome

10:15 am - 11:30 am **Women and Diaconal Ministry: The Past**

- Presentations: Valerie A. Karras, ThD, PhD and Caren Stayer, PhD
  - Followed by Q+A
- Respondent: Phyllis Zagano, PhD

11:30 am - 12:00 pm Break (Ministry and Book tables open)

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm **Women and Diaconal Ministry: The Present**

- **Chaplaincy** – Clio Pavlantos, MDiv
- **Spiritual Direction** – Sister Rebecca Cown, New Skete Monastery
- **Ministry of the Word** (as Chanter, Reader, Homilist) – Susan Ashbrook Harvey, PhD
- **Parish Administration and Philanthropic Outreach** – Ann Marie Mecera

1:15 pm - 2:30 pm Lunch (Follow-on: Ministry Discussion tables)

- Short Presentation – *Reflections of a Young Orthodox Woman*, Paulina Pedas

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Women and Diaconal Ministry: The Future**

- Presentations: Fr. Steven Tschlis, MDiv and Teva Regule, PhD (cand)
  - Case Study: *Recovering the Tradition—Changing Perceptions of the Diaconate*
  - *Rejuvenating the Diaconate: Opportunities, Challenges, and Steps*

4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Break

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm **Next Steps: Where Do We Go From Here?**

- Discussion Groups followed by Plenary and Closing Remarks

6:00 pm - **Optional Post-Conference Dinner** for attendees (Local Restaurant; Dutch treat)