

DISCIPLES WOMEN
GENERAL PROGRAM

Date: 2014

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Installation Program ~ Legacy of Leadership

PURPOSE:

Recognize, celebrate and connect the current leadership and participants of the local groups of Disciples Women with the stories of the leaders who have faithfully modeled leadership for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) before them.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11: 1 – 3

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith. By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible
(Common English Bible)

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LEADER:

This service is designed to be used in a gathering of the women of the church, although it may be used within a Sunday morning service. If it is to be used in worship and your terms of office begin in January, Laity Sunday, which is on January 26, 2014, might be a good time.

In your gathering space, have a table with a white cloth. In the center of the table place a large white candle, signifying the light of Christ on each side of the candle place six white tapers. In front of these place, a votive candle for each of the leaders who is to be installed. The Christ Candle is lit before the service. The six tapers are lit during the Litany of the Faithful. Instruct the leaders who are being installed that they are to light a votive when they are called forward during the installation service.



PROGRAM/ SERVICE

Statement of Purpose:

Leader: Today we are gathered to commission and install the women who have been called to serve as the officers and leaders of the Disciples Women's Ministries (Christian Women's Fellowship) of this congregation. These women join others across the country and through history who have heard God's call and who have responded, "Here I am."

Litany of the Faithful

based on Hebrews 12

Reader 1: Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith. By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible (Hebrews 11: 1 -3)

Reader 2: By faith, Sarai walked by Abram's side from the land of Ur and by faith she, Sarah, gave birth to a nation. By faith, Miriam danced by the sea, proclaiming the might of God who heard the cries of slaves in Egypt and led them forth as God's chosen. By faith, Deborah, a prophetess, judged Israel. *Light a candle*

Reader 3: By faith, Martha and Mary opened their home to the Lord Jesus, providing him shelter and comfort in his ministry to others. By faith, the women gathered at the foot of the cross to mourn as Jesus suffered and died. By faith, Mary Magdalene went to tomb on the first day of the week, where she was called as apostle. *Light a candle*

Reader 1: By faith, Chloe opened her home for worship, as the house church gathered. By faith, Lydia shared the gospel given her by Paul. By faith, Lois and Eunice shared the good news with future generations. *Light a candle*

Reader 2: By faith, Catherine of Sienna charged men to faithfulness. By faith, Hildegard of Bingen had visions and sang song of praises to her God. By faith, Teresa of Avila charged all to contemplation. By faith, Marguerite Porete died a martyr's death. *Light a candle*

Reader 3: By faith, Nancy Gove Cram, Sadie McCoy Crank, and Clara Hale Babcock heard the call as pastors and evangelists. By faith, Carrie Nation, Zerelda Wallace, and Osceola Aleese Dawson heard a word from the word and spoke prophecy to the people. By faith, Jane Campbell, Emily Harvie Thomas Tubman, and Sarah Lue Bostick studied God's word and made possible for others to do the same. By faith, Carolyn Neville Peare and Oletha Brown Blayton showed compassion and lived to establish justice as they worked for the kingdom of God. *Light a candle*

Reader 1: By faith, *insert the names of the women who have served as leaders in 2013*, heard the call of God and have served faithfully in the offices to which they were called. We give them thanks. *Light a candle*

Words of Commissioning and Installation

Leader: Will all who have been called to serve in this coming year please come forward as your name is called. *(Leader will name each woman and the leadership role that she will fill. As she comes forward to take her place she will light a votive candle symbolizing her place with the leaders in the litany.)*

Leader: From the days when Jesus walked the Judean countryside, healing and caring for the people, women have been a vital part of his ministry. In each generation, women have provided leadership, called for renewal and transformation, have been a part of writing the ongoing story of God's love and faithfulness as revealed through Jesus Christ. Today, we have heard the role call of some of the women who have faithfully answered God's call to serve. We remember their courage and boldness, their creativity and innovation, their

compassion and mercy. We remember their lives formed by study of God's word and shaped by conversations with God in prayer.

Standing before you are women selected to join these leaders. They too are called to bold and courageous leadership. They too are called to serve with mercy and compassion. They too are called to lead with wisdom that holds on to that which serves the gospel of Jesus Christ while at the same time confidently bringing forward new ideas. They too are called to build relationships and bridges between individuals and groups.

To be faithful to the task they too will need to study God's word and pray. They will need to be in conversation with you and with others. They will need to be open to the movement of the Spirit. I ask you now as those called to leadership in 2014 to affirm your willingness to serve in the capacity for which you have been called.

2014 Leaders: *"I join with those who have heard and responded.*

Through God's grace I will serve with faithfulness."

Leader: To be successful in the tasks before them, these women will need your prayers and your support. They will need you to respond to God's call to work beside them as together we step into God's future. If you accept these leaders and agree to support them with prayer and partnership, please answer together:

Assembled: *I will join with them in partnership responding and faithfully serving God.*

Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for faithful who throughout the generations have heard your call and responded. As you have guided their steps and watched over their ways, we ask that you walk beside this group of women. Fill them with your Spirit so that they may lead with wisdom. Fill them with your Spirit so that they may lead with compassion. Send them

dreams and visions so that they be inspired and in turn inspire others as together we work for the Kingdom of God. We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.

Conclusion of Commissioning/ Installation

Leader: It is written in Psalm 119: 105, “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path” and in Matthew 5:14a, “You are the light.” As a reminder that you are to fill yourself with the light of God’s world so that you may reflect that light in all you do and say, take the votive that you lit with you and place it someplace where you can see it frequently.

Song of Response: *They will Know We Are Christians* – Chalice Hymnal #494

Benediction

God be merciful and bless us and cause your face to shine upon us that your way may be made known on earth, your saving health among all nations.