

# African American Disciples Woman

A Newsletter produced by Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

## 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session - National Convocation



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The historic city of Memphis, Tennessee, will be the host site of the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) July 25 to 28, 2008. Our theme is "God Our Weapon in Spiritual Warfare" and is based on 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Be there to participate in a vast array of exciting workshops, powerful worship and congenial fellowship with sisters and brothers in Christ from all over the nation.

Sisters, come and experience the anointed fellowship at the National Convocation Disciples Women's Luncheon on Saturday, July 26, 2008, from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M.. We need volunteers to serve as hostesses. See page 4 for details on how to participate.

You can also have the opportunity to attend the Pre-Event which will be held on Friday, July 25, 2008. The Institute will offer specialized leadership training sessions for Clergy, Lay Leaders, Musicians and Youth/Young Adults.

Register for all of these events at <http://www.disciples.org/convo/biennial.htm>

*The National Convocation Disciples Women celebrate the ministry of Lonnie Graves, who served as the ODW Program Director/Merger Staff for three years, ending her service January 31, 2008. Lonnie set a standard of excellence for us to follow. She poured her gracious spirit into the lives of not only African American women, but women all over our country and the world. We are excited and are looking forward to the next level of ministry that God has in store for Lonnie.*



### Special points of interest:

- The 20th Biennial Session of the National Convocation, July 25 to 28 in Memphis, TN
- Quadrennial 2010—Greensboro, NC Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for Quadrennial!
- Sister Share: Email us and share how your women's ministries is transforming lives.
- National Convocation Disciples Women Luncheon—Saturday, July 25 1:00 PM  
Come, See, Experience!

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Part of the Biennial experience will be time spent at the National Civil Rights Museum located on Mulberry Street in Memphis. One of the exhibits is called "Wednesday in Mississippi: Civil Rights as Women's Work—Breaking down human barriers & mobilizing women."



Polly Cowan and Dorothy I. Height, Co-founders of WMEC (only photo of 1962)

Information from the web site: "Northern women of different races and faiths traveled to Mississippi to develop relationships with their southern peers and to create bridges of understanding across regional, racial, and class lines. By opening communications across societal boundaries, Wednesday's Women sought to end violence and to cushion the transition towards racial integration." Visit <http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org> for more information about the museum.

**Upcoming:** Women who are on a mission—around the corner and around the world.



## *Blessed to be a blessing to you, Sheila P. Spencer*

### *Dear Sisters in Christ:*

*Abraham's life- Genesis 12: 1- 2 (The Amplified Version)*

“Now [in Haran] the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself [for your own advantage] away from your country, from your relatives and your father's house, to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [with abundant increase of favors] and make your name famous and distinguished, and you will be a blessing [dispensing good to others]. “

*Sheila's Life – December 12, 2007 - (The Amplified Version)*

“Now in Los Angeles, the Lord said to Sheila, Go for yourself (for your own advantage) away from California, from your relatives, friends, house, job, new and old relationships, and all that's familiar to the city of Indianapolis. I will bless you more than you could ever imagine (with abundant increase of favors) to stretch you out of your comfort zone, travel, speak and encourage people all over the country, and you will be blessed to be a blessing.”

### **2008 is the year of New Beginnings**

My name is Sheila P. Spencer and I am honored and excited to serve as your Program Director/Merger Staff for the National Convocation in the Office of Disciple Women. My hope is to continue the standard of excellence set by my predecessor, Lonnie Graves. God's call to this position caused me to reposition and step out of my comfort zone (California) and step into His plan. Like Abraham, I trust and believe that God's blessings would make up for all I could lose or leave behind, supply my wants and answer and exceed all my desires. The reward to this risk? I have perfect peace and am exactly where God wants me to be for this season of my

life. It reminds me of the Master Card commercial.

*Ticket to Indianapolis: \$300  
Knowing you're in God's perfect will: Priceless*

My job includes providing resources, workshops and implementation of women's events and ministry for African American churches and women's groups. This position gives me the opportunity to work for the two groups that have nurtured and mentored me: Women's Ministry and National Convocation. My call is to honor and learn from the generation of trailblazers that have gone before me, encourage my

generation of innovators that walk beside me, inspire and mentor the next generation of leaders that God has called. The vision is to form a bridge between all of God's daughters.

Let's step out of our comfort zone and step into His plan: it's always better than our own.

*The rewards of sharing and caring: Priceless.*

*Thank you for giving me this great opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing you at Convocation -*

## *An Invitation from the Vice President, Patricia Quarles Bluit*

As an adult and a lifetime Disciple, I have missed only four National Convocation meetings and this year will not be the fifth. I am registered and the hotel room is booked! I am so excited about going to Memphis in July!! You are invited to join the excitement at the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convocation. There will be Bible lectures, workshops, evening services, singing in the choir, making new friendships and renewing old ones.

The workshops include subjects of women's concerns and new study materials. Come and join us at the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convocation July 25 to 28, 2008!!



### *Did you know that every woman in a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation belongs to the Disciples Women's Ministry?*

Come and be a part of the Disciples Women's workshops, luncheon and the installation of the Disciples Women's officers for 2008 – 2010. The luncheon will be an informative event. The Word, music and food are always exceptional. The installation of the 2008 – 2010 National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry officers is an event that no woman should miss. The installation is a chance for every woman to meet the new Disciples Women's Ministry officers. As Vice President of the National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry, and your President-Elect, I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Memphis this July.

## Notes from the President, Daisy Chambers



**Come, see and experience** what the Lord has in store for us! Your National Convocation Disciples Women staff and officers have planned a luncheon highlighting worship and fellowship. During our time together we will share progress made toward the achievement of stated goals, such as:

### Promoting Oneness with the Whole People of God

During the early years of our history, one of our leaders stated that unity for Christians is our polar star. Oneness of the Spirit led all church structures including the National Convocation, National Convocation Disciples Women and International Disciples Women Fellowship toward a common mission. This indicates our oneness with Christ and with each other. This knowledge is to be nurtured and celebrated. Let us as National Convocation women make this goal a priority.

### Effective Communication Strategies

Our news is being communicated through a variety of sources. It is imperative that you are aware of and participate in opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education, leadership development and creative ministries. God is calling for each of us to be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Therefore, your generous financial gift to National Convocation Disciples Women during the luncheon will support the expansion of communication efforts, other projects, and a multitude of ministries, shared goals and a wide range of activities specifically designed for women.

### Support for International Disciples Women Fellowship

A Blessing Box is an over and above offering given out of gratitude to God for blessings we receive on a daily basis. It is a gift to the whole mission of the church. There-

fore, you are encouraged to bring your gift and watch it multiply as your sisters from the United States and Canada join you in supporting this effort. Dedication of these gifts will be one of the highlights of the event.

### Support for National Convocation

The gift of your presence is a viable means of giving support to our parent organization. Have you registered for this 20<sup>th</sup> biennial session? If not, don't delay - register today. Do you need to reserve a room for this occasion? If the answer is yes, please contact the Marriot Memphis Hotel Downtown at (800) 228-9290 today because rooms may not be available tomorrow.

**Come, see and experience** the move of the Holy Spirit in worship and fellowship as we lift up the name of Jesus. Our luncheon is to be one of those *Hallelujah* times. Don't miss the joy!



Rava Chapman

## Reflections: Leadership Apprentice Program

*It was a time for spiritual peace* and a

moment for much needed atonement. The very instant that I realized that my life would forever be altered came for me in September of 2006 at a beautiful monastery in San Francisco, California. I, along with five other women, traveled from across America to gain knowledge about the functioning of the church, but in the process gained sisterhood and a deeper spiritual commitment to the path Christ has placed before us. We are the Leadership Apprentice Class of 2006. Although I am the youngest of the group and represent a very special population of the church - young, black and a woman - I undeniably felt

the weight and plight of my peer group inside and outside of the church. It was at this retreat that I realized I had something to bring to the table. God provided me with all things needed to do His/Her will, just like all persons who make up the church. Realizing that although we are the minority - young, black or woman - of our church that we have a calling on our life, just as with any other person, it is very important. *There is no age, race or gender preference for fulfilling God's will and living our divine purpose.* I came to this understanding through my experience with the Leadership Apprenticeship Program and attending national conferences such as the Quadrennial and General As-

sembly. There is a shift taking place in our church where people are beginning to realize that we must open the invitation up to all people, especially people who have long histories and current realities of being discriminated against. As Christ's true vision for the church manifests, we must move and alter our thinking to be more in tune with Christ's will not our comfort and false pretense. Going forward we must answer the questions: Where do we fit? What is our role in the manifestation and teaching of the word of Christ?

*It is with these questions we must move to take action and to active roles in our churches, in our communities, and in our families.*

2006—2008 Officers of the  
National Convocation Disciples Women

President	Daisy Chambers (North Carolina)
1st Vice President	Patricia Bluitt (Southwest)
2nd Vice President	Pam Winton (Tennessee)
Immediate Past Vice President	Barbara Williams (South Carolina)
Member at Large	Janis Brown (Arizona)
Member-at-Large	Courtney Stanton (Pacific Southwest Region)
Chaplain	Betty Jo Brown (Southwest Region)
Secretary	Norweida Roberts (Great River Region)
Staff	Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)

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## Join us for lunch . . . .

**National Convocation Disciples Women's Luncheon**  
**Saturday, July 26, 2008 / 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.**  
**Memphis Convention Center Ballroom A**

One of the highlights of the Convocation is definitely the Women's Luncheon. This Convocation will continue the tradition and yet have new dimension. Come and fellowship with your sisters, meet the new officers, enjoy worship and share with each other how your women are transforming lives for



Christ. See page 3 for more information on the offerings that will be sown into the ministry for the Women of National Convocation. Tickets are only \$28 and can be purchased online at <http://www.disciples.org/convo/biennial.htm> when you register for Convocation.

## Expand your experience . . . .

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO SERVE AS TABLE HOSTESSES.** Call-out to Memphis Sisters: we especially want to hear from you. Local contacts are sought.

Contact us at [sspencer@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:sspencer@dhm.disciples.org) or (317) 713-2668..

## Connection Section



Register and purchase tickets for Women's luncheon at the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation in Memphis, TN July 25 -28, 2008  
[www.disciples.org/convo](http://www.disciples.org/convo)

Find out how Disciples Women' Ministry can transform your congregation!  
[www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)

Stay updated on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

## Sister Share



If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail us at [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org); include "African American Disciples Women Newsletter" in your subject line; you will be added to the list. If you are a women's group leader who will be sharing this newsletter with your network, please indicate the name of your group in the message. Please note that from time to time you may receive other e-mails that inform Disciples Women of relevant activities.

**Help us fill this space. . . .** We want to hear your joys, concerns and how your Women's ministry is transforming lives. **God is awesome! Share what He has done for you or your group at [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org).**

## Great Dates

**July 25 to 28, 2008**  
20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation  
Memphis, TN



**July 29 to August 2, 2009**

General Assembly  
Indianapolis, IN

**June 23 to 27, 2010**

Quadrennial Assembly  
Greensboro, NC  
*(Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for Quadrennial!)*

[www.disciples.org/  
convo](http://www.disciples.org/convo)

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Women of the National Convocation of the  
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