

African American Disciples Woman

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

National Convocation Highlights

From a woman's perspective

The 20th Biennial Session of the National Convocation was held in Memphis, Tenn., July 25-28, 2008. It was a tremendous event and the women were an integral part of the success of the event. Over 200 women attended the sold-out luncheon. Kathy Jeffries and the Shekinah Glory dancers treated the women to the creative arts ministry of dance and spoken word.

Other highlights:

- Patricia Q Bluitt was installed as the president of the Convocation women.
- Viann Bristow was installed as the president of the National Convocation.
- Rev. Ayanna Johnson preached a powerful and healing message on Monday morning.
- *Just Women*, the new resource for women's ministries was introduced!
- Re-emergence of African-American Clergy Women's Fellowship.

Perhaps one of the best indicators of the experience is the comments from the women themselves:

"This was my first time at the National Convocation and I am already thinking about what I need to do to attend the next Convocation. This has been a blessing."

"It's been a great experience when we can all come and fellowship together and grow in the oneness of Christ in all areas. I've enjoyed this experience."

"Okay, this whole experience has motivated and inspired me to get more involved with Women's Ministries!"



2008-2010 Women's Officers

Sheila P. Spencer, Daisy Chambers, Patricia Q. Bluitt, Pamela Dubose, Marilyn Williams, Brenda Etheridge, Kathy Davis, and Almetia Brown
(Not pictured: Karen Barrett)



Volume 1, Issue 2

August 2008

African-American Clergy Women's Fellowship (AACWF) exists to:

- **Embrace** authentic Christian witness in our pulpits, our communities, our homes and our witness;
- **Empower** clergy women by providing advocacy and resources for its members;
- **Equip** Black Women for Christian Ministry through resource development and training; and
- **Encourage** each other through spoken and written media to become all that God is calling us to become.

To be included in the e-mail network contact Yowanda Bowens (President of AACWF) at tulsad1@aol.com

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***Upcoming:
Ambassadors for
Christ***

We Are Women on a Mission, Sheila P. Spencer

Mission:

Calling an objective or assigned task that somebody believes is her duty to carry out or to which she attaches special importance and devotes special care.

Church work in community a campaign of religious work, often including community aid at home or abroad.

“That woman is on a mission.” You hear that phrase and several images come to mind. One image may be that of a sister called to special journey, a shelter around the corner or an orphanage on the other side of the world. The other image may be of a sister who is simply determined to carry out the task that she has been called to do. In both cases, the phrase gives us images of sisters who are unwavering in completing what they have been called to do. You don’t want to get in the way of a woman on a mission.

This issue will give you inspiration from women who are on a mission from our past, present and our future. God has a plan and design for each of us. What’s your mission?

The following prayer from Melvia Field’s book stands as a tribute to the few named and many unnamed African American women whose memory continue to call the church to it mission. It is a prayer that we can offer in memory of every woman trailblazers, past, present and future. Let’s pray....

“Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our savior....that we recall those women who came to this land not on the

deck of a ship, but in the dark hold of the slave ship, who preserved an African heritage and understood the liberating message of the Christian gospel; who knew the double jeopardy of being black and female.

That we are heirs of those women who call the church to accept new forms of leadership even today; that we are all of these women and more who seek to serve you, our Lord, we offer this prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude. We are many, and yet we are one. We are bound

together as women. We are a part of the family of God. We are empowered for mission because of these women. Thank you God. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.”



Melvia Fields

PS. The name of Melvia Field’s book? *Women on a Mission.*

Meet your past—Sarah Lue Bostick, excerpt from Streamers

Sarah Lue Bostick, beloved and respected Disciples of Christ preacher, educator and leader, was born near Glasgow, KY in 1868. This trailblazer was known for her compassionate spirit and ability to motivate all people to work together. She attended college in Arkansas in 1888 where she met and married Minister Mancil Bostick. Both were ordained to ministry by the Christian Church. They preached together in black, white and mixed congregations. In spite of bigotry, Sarah’s dedication to Christ, perseverance and loving spirit allowed to build bridges.



These bridges allowed her to found schools to serve the educational needs of African American students. Her interests were The Southern Christian Institute in Mississippi, Jacob Kenoly’s mission school in Liberia, and Jarvis College in Texas, which she helped start. Sarah founded the first African American Christian Women’s Board of Missions (the Negro Christian Missions Board – NCMB) and was responsible for organizing African Americans across the country for missions.



Family pump organ

This woman of God committed her life to the service of others. After she died in 1948, her Will designated money painstakingly saved to help the people she loved, with \$100 each going to support Jarvis College and Southern Christian Institute and \$50 to her home church.

We are here because of the bridges we have crossed. Sarah Lue Bostick was a bridge.

Notes from the President, Patricia Quarles Bluitt



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. I hope everyone who attended the National Convocation in Memphis was blessed by the messages that we heard on "Spiritual Warfare." My prayer is that everyone made it home safely and all was well in your homes.

Thanks to all of the National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry for your show of support for me as your new president. As I told you in the meeting, with God as my guide, I am your servant.

Three goals for the National Convocation Women 2008 – 2010 are:

1. Continue to be a group of women that will support, encourage and stand together; united as women of faith.

2. A brochure for the National Convocation Women to highlight past presidents, our support of Blessing Boxes, Disciples Women's scripture, prayer, benediction and other things we do as a group.
3. The National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry needs the Convocation Churches Women's Ministries financial support.

My three goals are reaching ones, but I feel with God's guidance and your prayer, they can and will be a reality. We share with our regions, areas and local women's ministries. I know this will make us a stronger group of women. The brochure should be in all of our churches: 1) to show our spiritual walk with God, 2) what we stand for, and 3) encourage other women to attend the National

Convocation Women's luncheon and workshops. We are about the mission of the church and our financial contributions can afford us to do a mission project in the city the National Convocation is being held.

I look forward to working with you the next two years and representing you at different meetings as your president. If you need to get in touch, please e-mail me at the address below

In Jesus name,
Patricia Q. Bluitt
President of the National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry
pireneb@yahoo.com

Betty's Eyes, Monique Crain

Minister Monique Crain was part of a group of 12 seminarians who visited Venezuela. The group was led by Rev. Julia Brown Karimu, Global Ministries Mission Personnel Executive, and Rev. Carmelo Alvarez, a Global Ministries Missionary to Venezuela. During this journey they met with the leaders and congregations of the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela. Monique shared how this was a transforming experience. That's what happens to women on a mission. One of the sisters in Christ had a profound impact on Monique. This encounter inspired Monique to pen this poem: (Venezuela is the site for the 2009 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide experience.)



I see such stories in her eyes as I've seen in my own
 Like when I've looked in the mirror after a long cry
 There are few words to describe them, but if they could speak they'd moan
 Stories of sadness and struggle sprinkled with hope
 A faith that resounds beyond her oppression
 Those eyes, so loving and yet serious, watered by the fortitude it takes to cope
 How is it that I'm a guest in her home, but feel I should be serving her?
 Perhaps it's the magnitude of her poverty?

No, they're Betty's eyes that petition me to her spirit, the presence of something Greater
 They say I need help, but expect nothing.
 I've trained myself to be numb through suffering.
 My silence is my singing and my worship is my being.
 Betty's eyes, those eyes, my eyes, our eyes . . .
 Telling it all, all that we'd dare not tell
 Showering my soul with her despair
 I do not know her truth, only what's been shared
 But I see it, I feel it, it's all there
 In her eyes, I've seen it before
 Yes, it's the awaiting of something promised, something more.

Portuguesa, Venezuela
Iglesia La Esperanza

Monique & friend



2008—2010 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women



President	Patricia Bluit (Southwest)
1st Vice President	Pamela Dubose (Mississippi)
2nd Vice President	Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)
Immediate Past President	Daisy Chambers (North Carolina)
Member at Large	Karen Barrett (California)
Member-at-Large	Kathy Davis (Virginia)
Chaplain	Almetia Brown (South Carolina)
Secretary	Brenda Etheridge (Michigan)
Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)

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Connection Section

Discover the excitement of Disciples Women programs that reach beyond the confines of your own backyard.



Visit <http://www.discipleswomen.org> to learn about:

- Women's Action Web (domestic program)
- Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (international program)

Find more opportunities available through Division of Overseas Ministries at <http://www.globalministries.org>.

Explore the History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Download a copy of the wonderful new historical publication, *Streamers*, at <http://www.discipleshistory.org/tools/streamers>.

Stay connected with African-American Disciples Women - If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail us at 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.



Sister Share

Special Prayer Request:

Please join us in prayer for Patricia Bluit (TX), Sandra Waggoner (FL), Barbara Williams (SC), and Marilyn Williams (NC) as they participate in the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2008 experience in Israel and Palestine, September 28 to October 10, 2008.

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.**

The Women's Ministry of **Centennial Christian Church** (St. Louis, MO) held their first annual "Baby Shower" for pregnant teens. This was held as a part of their Women's Day weekend. The *young women* of the *Disciple Women's Ministry* of the church spearheaded this activity along with the support of the entire ministry and are in the process of preparing for next year.

True Destiny Christian Church (Charlotte, NC) held a Summer Bi-Ble-Que. They hosted services outside and prepared a bar-be-que meal for the community. It was a unique experience that took the church outside of the walls and ministered to the whole community.



Great Dates



July 29 to August 2, 2009

General Assembly
Indianapolis, IN

October 4 to October 10, 2009 Women's Action Web

June 23 to 27, 2010

Michigan Region
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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