IDWM Cabinet Meeting 2009

The International Disciples Women Ministries of the Christian Church opened up the New Year in a new way! The Cabinet meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina, brought together over 100 women leaders who encouraged each other. Here is a small sample of some of our resources. Go online and grow as a Disciples Woman:

Just Women Magazine: Just Women (Embracing Life) is the official new resource and Bible Study for Disciples Women Ministries provided by International Disciples Women’s Ministries and the Office of Disciples Women. The January issue has been released. There are online study guides and reading lists for book clubs. These online sources can be used for your personal or group devotional time. Subscribe online at www.JustWomenMagazine.org

Women’s Action Web – WAW is a week long experience through a region which exposes women to a wide variety of services to the least, the last, and the lost in a community. The biennial Women’s Action Web is a mission experience designed to help women look at their own communities with new eyes and take personal responsibility for the mission of Jesus Christ into the world. The WAW trip for 2009 will be in Michigan, October 4 to 10. More info coming to www.discipleswomen.org.

Called, Gifted and Sent – This is an annual resource available free online containing expanded information on all of the programs and resources available for women. Information is included for leadership, justice and service, spiritual growth, outreach and social action projects and resources available through the Office of Disciples Women. This is available as a free download at www.discipleswomen.org

Quadrennial Assembly – Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for Quadrennial. The theme is “Awake, Awake!” based on Judges 5:12a. This event is held every four years and is an opportunity for networking, fellowship, worship and leadership training for all women. The dates are June 23 to 27, 2010 in Greensboro, NC. Go to www.quadrennial.org for more information. Register begins at the General Assembly this summer!

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide: WWW is a mission/study experience which enables women to personally meet with and begin to understand the needs and issues of people in other countries. This program has taken women all over the world. Lives are changed, understandings broadened, congregations transformed, mission enhanced and issues facing us as Christians in a global community are lifted up through this ministry. This year the journey will take us to Venezuela/Colombia. The dates are November 8 to 23. Applications are available online at www.discipleswomen.org.

What’s in a name? You tell us!

Name: A word, term or phrase by which something is known and distinguished from other people or things.

We still need your help. The Newsletter is searching for a new name. Short and Snappy. Be creative and send your suggestions to odw@dhm.disciples.org with a subject line of “Newsletter Name”.

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Meet your past, Rosa Brown Bracey

Rosa Brown grew up in Port Gibson, Mississippi, the daughter of a pastor. At twelve, she entered the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards, Mississippi. In 1917, Rosa Brown became the first Field Secretary for Negro Work with the Christian Woman’s Board of Missions. After 1920, she worked as staff member for both the newly-formed United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) and the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC). After marriage, Mrs. Bracey, sometimes known as the “Sojourner Truth” of Black Disciples of Christ, worked until retirement in 1938. She continued her efforts as a missionary to the African American disciples until her death, at which time she was President of the NCMC’s Christian Women Fellowship. We thank Rosa Brown Bracey for helping to build a foundation and legacy for all the women.

Picture is from the holdings of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society

Thank you, Rosa Brown Bracey.
Cabinet/Staff Fellowship 2009 Reflections,  
by Roslyn Cunningham

Note: Roslyn Cunningham, a seminarian from Oregon, is a member of the 2008 Leader Apprentice Class. She, along with her class members, attended the January 2009 Cabinet/Staff Fellowship Meeting in Greensboro, N.C. It was a moving experience for her. Here are some of her reflections:

As a member of the Leader Apprentice Class, and on behalf of myself and my sisters, attending the 2009 Cabinet/Staff Fellowship Meeting of IDWM has been a valuable and blessed opportunity. The Leader Apprentice Program is a program that identifies and trains new talent and potential among the women of color in the Disciples of Christ Women’s Ministries (IDWM) throughout the United States.

After a joyful praise and prayer opening, we were treated to some new developments within the IDWM. Every attendee received a CD of all of the ministries and resources available to DOC Women. Imagine! A gold mine of information with one click. In addition we were introduced to the inaugural issue of “Just Women” magazine. This is the new magazine/resource aimed at women of all ages and is full of inspiration, encouragement, more about the mission trip to Bosnia, as well as helpful articles and tips for keeping healthy, stress free and steadfast in our faith.

The upcoming Quadrennial Assembly, with its emphasis on Social Action, is an event we are all eagerly anticipating. It will take place in Greensboro, NC, in 2010 and more information will be available at the ODW website. We were sworn to secrecy about what’s in store so you’ll have to come to find out!

After a few more updates we broke off into small groups for workshop sessions.

Upon our return from lunch, several of the 2008 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide participants shared their experiences from their trip to Israel/Palestine. They shared some of the beautiful pictures and handwork made by the Israeli and Palestinian women.

Sheila Spencer provided information about the upcoming mission trip to Colombia and Venezuela and several past participants shared how participating in these mission trips changes your life forever.

We received more information about women’s resources available for us to take back to our regions and were updated on the happenings around the church including the National Convocation, Hispanic and NAPAD divisions.

In closing, I would like to say that this was a most informative and faith building experience for me. As Christian women, our work should never be limited to Sunday services but rather to every area of our lives. These women displayed a commitment, courage and joy that I will never forget and I can only pray that God equips myself and my LAP sisters to follow in their footsteps as we give our all to the Glory of God.

Worship is the Center of Everything.

And we had Fun, too.
2008—2010 Officers of the National Convocation Disciples Women

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Patricia Bluitt (Southwest)

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Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)

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Sheila Spencer—Program Director & Merger Staff
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Sister Share

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.

Congratulations to Rev. Brenda Etheridge

November 2009 ordination of Brenda Etheridge, 2008 to 2010 secretary for National Convocation Disciples Women

Thanking Brenda for past IDWM leadership as 2002 to 2006 president is Adonna Bowman, Executive Director ODW

Great Dates

July 29 to August 2, 2009
General Assembly
Indianapolis, IN

July 30, 2009
Disciples Women’s Lunch
National Convocation Dinner
at Marriott Hotel. Visit www.disciples.org/convo for more info.

October 4 to October 10, 2009
Women’s Action Web
Michigan Region

November 8 to 23, 2009
Woman-to-Woman Worldwide
Venezuela and Colombia

June 23 to 27, 2010
Quadrennial Assembly
Greensboro, NC

July 28 to August 2, 2010
National Convocation
Charleston, SC

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