

Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

The Joy is in the Journey

November 2009

Dear Sisters in Christ:

The Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey is designed to have women experience solidarity with one another, affirm unity in Christ, and join the common struggle for justice and peace in the world today. Each woman who has participated in this experience can tell you that it is a life changing experience.

By the time this newsletter is published, 2009 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide participants will be connecting with our sisters in Christ from Colombia and Venezuela. Each day, whether we are abroad or at home, is an opportunity to experience joy in the journey. So, before the hustle and the bustle of the season begin – here is a very simple message to send:

The Journey Begins....

I brought two bags for my journey – one was filled and the other was empty

The one that was full was filled to the brim – with my hopes, expectations and joys within.

It included a reminder to view this trip through the lens of God's eye to never overlook the ordinary moments God wants to magnify.

The yoyo represents the ups and downs the trip may bring – And knowing that God is in control and pulls the string.

The heart represents the love that God, our friends and family have for us – And reminds us that we are covered with a protection that we can trust.

Now the next step is to empty our bags by opening up ourselves to God's will

And once they are empty we can begin to refill
Fill it with our senses of taste, touch, sight, smell and sound
Immerse yourself in the relationships all around
Fill it with the joy of connecting with each sister and brother –
Fill it with the treasures and wonders you will discover.
The more you release, the more you will grow-
And when you return from this journey your bags will overflow –
Bulging with memories and moments that are inscriptions in your heart and soul
Immersed with memories that make you whole.
The promise that we can already claim –
Is that when you return, you will never be the same.

The joy is in the journey
The joy is in the journey

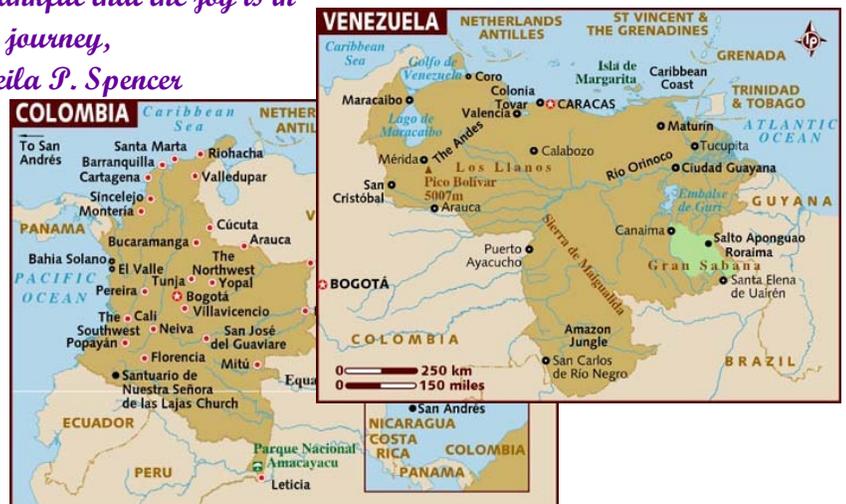
*Thankful that the joy is in the journey,
Sheila P. Spencer*

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Learn more:

- Visit www.discipleswomen.org and click on "Woman-to-Woman Worldwide" / "Trip List" / "Venezuela & Colombia."
- Subscribe to *Just Women* www.JustWomenMagazine.org.



What makes you say “Thank You”? *By Umoja readers*

I am thankful each day when I wake in the morning. I am thankful for my health. I am thankful for peace of mind. I am thankful that I have more days of happiness than of sadness. I am thankful that God loves me a sinner who sometimes does stupid things. I am thankful that God loves me enough to use me to do his will. I am thankful that God loves me enough when I tell him my plans He shows me a better plan and doesn't laugh too hard. I am thankful that God loves me enough to show me and give me opportunities that I would never even dreamt of. I am thankful that God loves me enough to put the assurance in my soul that no matter what happens in this life that God's got my back and I have nothing to fear even unto death. LaVerne from Arizona

Thank you for including me in the Email Newsletter list. I always appreciate hearing about things going on in the life of Disciple Women and rarely have an opportunity to connect. The church with which I am most involved is UCC and Presbyterian which means their women's programming is a different creature altogether and I don't have a chance to connect with Disciple friends very often. It sounds like there are many good things going on and for that I'm glad. I look forward to hearing about the ongoing life of Disciples Women. Norma

I am so Thankful to be able to spend time daily with all seven of my grandchildren. I don't spend everyday with each of them. however, from Sunday to Sunday I would have at least had an opportunity to be in the company of each one of them and to me that is a lot to be thankful for. Sometimes, I think that I could use that 5-hour energy drink that I hear so much about, just to keep up with them and all of their activities. Barbara from South Carolina

I am so thankful for the fellowship with so many talented and anointed women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They have been blessed to be a blessing to me. Cheryl, Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship.

I am truly thankful that blesses me to wake-up healthy, in my right mind and I thank God each day. I am also thankful for my siblings, our children, family and church life. Thank you God for being so good. Patricia from Texas.

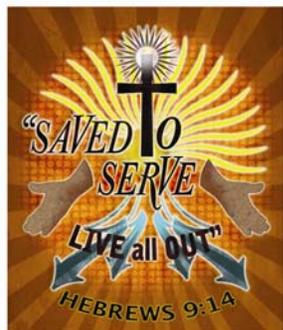
Our Legacy, Janice Newborn

A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Janice Newborn was educated at Youngstown University and Malone College. Before joining Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM), Newborn taught school, was a physical therapist, and was an administrative assistant for two Missouri state senators. In Indianapolis, she worked for the Division of Overseas Ministries. Newborn joined DHM in 1983 as director of program implementation for the Department of Church Women. In 1986, she directed the Quadrennial Assembly. Newborn was the first African American to lead the Department of Church Women from 1988 until the office was abolished in the 1991 Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM) reorganization. Thenceforth, Mrs. Newborn was the senior associate for the Office of Disciples Women within the Center for Leadership and Mission of DHM until her retirement in 1994. Not one to rest in retirement, Newborn received an honorary doctorate from Christian Theological Seminary in 2008. Picture is from the archives of the Office of Disciples Women.



Thank you, Janice Newborn.

21ST BIENNIAL SESSION
OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION



JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2010

Join us in OK City, OK for . . .

Uplifting preaching, melodious singing, invigorating resource groups, nurturing meals and heartfelt fellowship at the:

Renaissance Convention Center Hotel,
10 North Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Call today—(405) 228-8000. If you snooze you loose, the cutoff date for reduced lodging is **June 28, 2010.**

Updates will appear in the Convocation newsletter, Selah and on the website www.disciples.org/convo as information becomes available.

Invitation from the President, Patricia Q. Bluit

Sing aloud unto God, our strength; make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. (nmia)

National Convocation ladies let us ALL raise our voices unto our God for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed on us all.

There are two major events coming next year and our presence needs to be felt and known at both events.

The first event is the Quadrennial Assembly (QA), June 23 to 27, 2010, in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Koury Convention Center & Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel. If you have never been to a QA you are missing an awesome event. Opening night speaker will be Bishop Vashti McKenzie, our own Rev Sharon Watkins and other great speakers. I started going in the 80s and have only missed two. With the two that were missed came a profound sadness for the

lost fellowship with my sisters in Christ and I have not missed another one since. So, start saving your money. Rest assured that I am and I would love to see ALL of you there.

The second event for 2010 is the 21st Biennial Session of National Convocation in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, July 28 to August 3 at the Renaissance Hotel. This year is an election year for Disciples Women Ministries officers and we need ALL of you there. Make your voice be heard. The DWM luncheon, workshops, and evening services are all informative and spirit-filled. This is a treat for every woman attending. I love to travel and I go every two years and gain so much love for the National Convocation. I meet a new friend every time and renew those friendships every two years.

I can tell you a special memory from each event. At the last QA (called the Mix in '06 because it was joint event

with the women of the UCC) we exchanged scarves. As providence would have it, I exchanged with a lady from Greensboro, North Carolina. We are all to bring our scarves in 2010.

Biennial Session—I attended the Faith and Life pre-event two years ago and promised myself that I will never miss another. Rev. T. Garrett Benjamin of Indianapolis preached an awesome message.

Come to both events to learn and increase your knowledge of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Disciples Women's Ministry.

Come and join me in Greensboro and Oklahoma City in 2010 Blessings—Patricia

Discover more about the 21st Biennial Session & the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly at their websites.



Preachers, Teachers & Speakers

- ◎ SHARYN DOWD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DECATUR, GEORGIA
Author and Pastor for Spiritual Formation & Missions Engagement
- ◎ AMY GOPP CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
ordained minister & Week of Compassion Executive Director
- ◎ JOANNE KAGIWADA
lawyer & former Disciples representative to the National Council of Churches
- ◎ BISHOP VASHTI MCKENZIE AME CHURCH
1st female Bishop of the AME Church in its 213-year history
- ◎ EVELYN NIEVES
founder of the Christ Family Church (DOC) Bronx, NY & Hispanic Northeastern Convencion, President of Programming
- ◎ ANDRA MORAN
Disciples singer, songwriter & musician & contributor to Chalice Praise
- ◎ SHARON WATKINS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
General Minister & President in the United States and Canada



Bishop Vashti McKenzie



Andra Moran



Rev. Amy Gopp



JoAnne Kagiwada



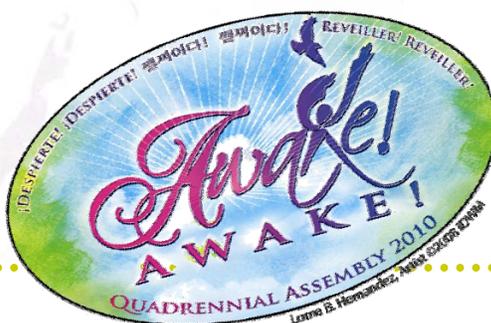
Dr. Sharyn Dowd



Evelyn Nieves



Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins



2009-2010
Quadrennial Service Project:
Human Trafficking: Breaking the chains of modern day slavery

Learn how to join Disciples women in breaking the chains of human trafficking; visit our web site at www.discipleswomen.org and on the right hand side, click on "Human Trafficking" for downloadable resources, ideas and presentation.

See page 4 for how to win a **FREE** room at Greensboro's Sheraton at Four Seasons

www.quadrennial.org
to register

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

Quadrennial Assembly 2010

Register at www.quadrennial.org



- If you register, either online or on paper, by January 2, 2010, your name will be entered in a drawing for a **FREE ROOM** at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons

- The scholarship applications are online. You may begin the application process before registering.
- Information about the Stewards & Team Leaders Program is available from your regional office.

Just Women Magazine

Subscribe at www.JustWomenMagazine.org

- Learn about the Woman-to-Woman 2008 journey to Israel & Palestine in the current issue.
- More life-changing adventures are found in "Adventures of a new church planter" written by Ayanna Johnson, Illinois.

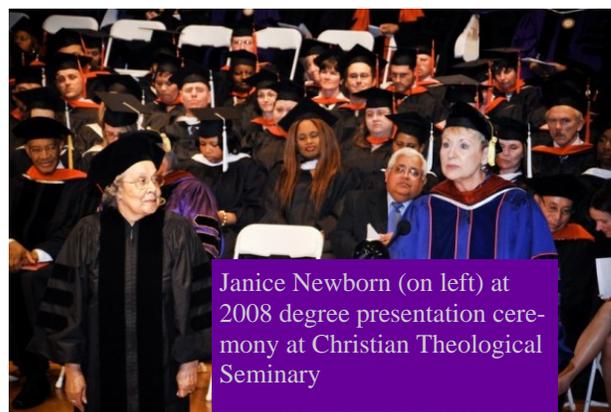
Every issue has a new adventure or advice to offer.

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 "Umoja" in your subject line; you will be added. Please note if you are a women's group leader.

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.**



Janice Newborn (on left) at 2008 degree presentation ceremony at Christian Theological Seminary

Great Dates

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

June 23 to 27, 2010 Quadrennial Assembly
Four Seasons Sheraton Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, NC

July 29 to August 1, 2010 National Convocation
Renaissance Convention Center Hotel
Oklahoma City, OK

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

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