

Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

Just Women

Winter 2010

International Disciples Women's Ministries (IDWM) affirmed that *Just Women*, a quarterly magazine for Disciples women will continue. *Just Women* was originally founded in 2009 as a partnership between IDWM and DisciplesWorld, Inc. IDWM provided all of the seed money to develop and publish *Just Women*; DisciplesWorld, Inc. provided the expertise and infrastructure to launch and publish it. When DisciplesWorld, Inc. announced that it was dissolving, IDWM became the sole publisher. Former *DisciplesWorld* staff are partnering with IDWM to help with a smooth transition.

Adonna Bowman, executive director of the Office of Disciples Women and Secretary/Treasurer of IDWM said, "We anticipate a smooth transition, and while we grieve the loss of *DisciplesWorld*, we embrace the opportunity for *Disciples Women* to publish their own resource."

Judy Row, IDWM President shares. "*Just Women* is committed to continue to address the timely and pertinent issues that affect Disciples Women and the world. We will continue to share articles that will strengthen women's faith, promote justice and minister to the spirit, body and soul."

Below is an order form for your convenience. Your support is appreciated.

Inside this issue:

The Journey by Sheila Spencer	2
PSWR Leader Apprentice Program by Na' Keya Haslett	2
QA 2010 and 21st Biennial Information	3
Connection Section: Sister Share; Websites, Directory	4

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The joy is in the journey . . .



Dear Sisters in Christ:

This June, women from all over the world will gather in Greensboro, North Carolina, for the 2010 Quadrennial Assembly. One of the rich traditions of the past few Quadrennial is the unique tote bags made by our sisters in other countries.

This year, these treasures will be created by our sisters from the Congo. When you carry these bags, you will be linked to your sisters in the Congo. You will also have helped them to provide for their families.

This February 10 to 24, I was part of a delegation that traveled to the Congo. The purpose of the journey will enable us:

- To understand the social, politi-

cal, cultural and economic conditions which shape the lives of the people and churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo (RC).

- To be a source of encouragement for the young, growing Disciples community in the Republic of Congo
- To witness the faithfulness of the Community of Disciples of Christ in the DRC as they work to bring spiritual wholeness and a message of hope to its 650,000 members.
- To participate in the dedication of the pediatric wing of the Bolenge Hospital and explore ways of future participation in the medical ministry.
- To witness the work of the

church in areas of health care, education and development

- To promote a continuation of the partnership with Haiti, Congo and African-American churches and seminarians.
- To assist our U.S. churches in understanding our role and that of our government in the plight of the people of the DRC.

We will spend time talking with the leadership of the National Women's Department concerning our involvement with women and children who are victims of the war in the east.

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

Pacific Southwest Regional Leader Apprenticeship Program

All praises, glory, and honor to whom ALL blessings flow! What a wonderful time spent in Loch Leven in Mentone, California January 8, 2010, with beautiful spirit filled women. The Leadership Apprenticeship Program (LAP) opened with a song, prayer, and an activity that allowed each person to get to know the other intimately. God truly met us there in the mountains.

When it was first brought to my attention to be a part of the experience, I did not know the purpose of the program or what to expect. The only thing I was told was to fill out the application because it would serve as a great tool for me in my new position as the Christian Youth Fellowship Coordinator. I was very hesitant about

going, but I am so glad I did! God really placed great women in my life and at such a pivotal time in my life.

One of the activities was taking a personal assessment to discover our talents, how to perfect those talents, and where to effectively use them for ministry. The gifts I had all along in my hands, were now identified, understood, and expected to be used for great things.

Another activity was sitting in the "hot seat" and allowing complete strangers to speak words of encouragement and life in us. I was taken away by the fact that I allowed myself to be so transparent that these women were able to speak to my heart. It absolutely reassures that we must put God first, followed by the

word, and have it embedded in our hearts, because you never know when someone is looking at you to see God.

Meeting such great women from different backgrounds really opened my eyes to the power of sisterhood and loving God, and bridging the gap of disparity that we often face. They say you can never know where you are going until you know where you come from. But I chose to believe the journey begins when God places strong sisters in your life that help you fulfill God's ultimate plan.

Reach one, teach one because God is love.

Na'Keya Haslett,

105th Street Christian Church
CYF Coordinator



You are invited to join your sisters at . . .

Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina for... **QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY!**



www.quadrennial.org
or (888) 346-2631
to register

June 23-27, 2010
Greensboro, NC



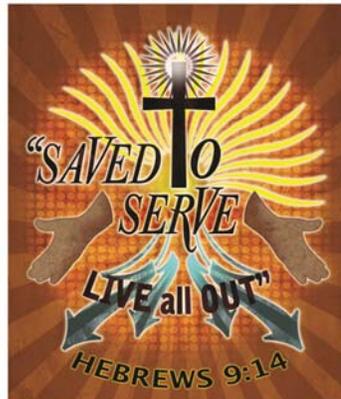
The winner of the
FREE room is Laura H
of Colorado Springs!!

Thousands of Disciple Women under one roof!!!! What could be finer?
Ministry Fellowship Worship Music Sharing Learning...we've got it all!

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

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. You can make a difference in another person's life.

**21ST BIENNIAL SESSION
OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION**



JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2010

**"Saved to Serve,
Live all Out"**

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.

The cutoff date for reduced lodging is **June 28, 2010**.
Latest information available in the Convocation newsletter, Selah,
and online at www.disciples.org/convo.

Online registration is now open.

2008—2010 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women

President	Patricia Bluit (Southwest)
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Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)



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Connection Section

Quadrennial Assembly 2010
Register at www.quadrennial.org



- 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
Story on Page 1

The Bible Study is the next issue, available in April
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.



Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemo, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides **FREE** housecleaning - one time per month for four months while she is in treatment.

All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>



Sister Share



Adonna Bowman, executive director of Office of Disciples Women (ODW) and secretary/treasurer of International Disciples Women's Ministries (IDWM) (left). January 11, 2010, marked the celebration of Adonna's seven years of service to ODW and IDWM, a life time of involvement with Disciples Women and the beginning of a new path. She has officially "retired" from Disciples Home Missions, but will continue in her current roles on a volunteer basis. Here she is receiving a service recognition plaque from Julia Brown Karimu from Global Ministries recognizing Disciples Women and Global Ministries partnership in Woman-to-Woman Worldwide.

Great Dates

February 10 to 24, 2010

Congo Trip

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

July 30, 2010

October / November 2010

Women's Luncheon
Woman-to-Woman
Worldwide - Turkey

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

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