

Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

Disciples Women— General Assembly 2011 Telling Our History-Making Story!

Fall 2011

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Celebrations:

Disciples Women presented their first report as a General Ministry. The Human Trafficking Resolution presented by Disciples Women was unanimously approved.



Dr. Charisse Gillett -
New President of
Lexington Theological Seminary



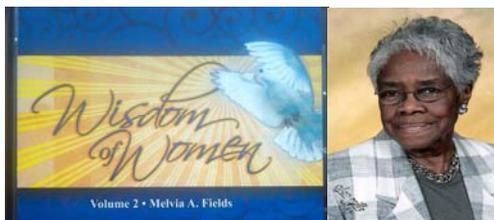
Dr. Gillett

Rev. Julia Brown Karimu -
New President of Disciples Division
of Overseas Ministries and Co-
Executive of Global Ministries

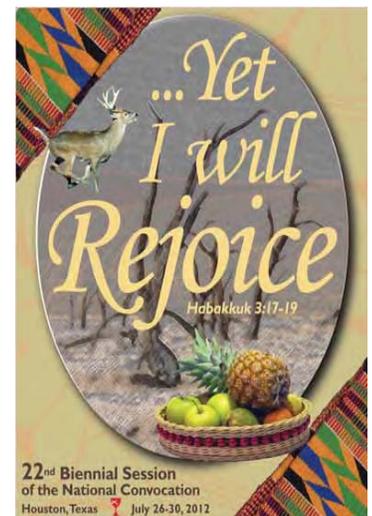


Rev. Brown Karimu

Wisdom of Women Volume 2—
Melvia Fields premiered at National
Convocation Dinner.



Disciples Women's Luncheon with
Commissioning of Patricia (Pat)
Donahoo and announcement of June
25– 29, 2014 Quadrennial Assembly
site— we're coming to Atlanta, GA!



22nd Biennial Session
of the National Convocation
Houston, Texas July 26-30, 2012

Mark your calendars:
22nd Biennial Session of
National Convocation in
Houston, TX
July 26 to 29th, 2012

The purpose of Disciples Women is to provide opportunities for spiritual growth, enrichment, education and creative ministries to enable women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the church of Jesus Christ and to provide a channel through which women in the congregation and the regional Women's Ministries in the United States and Canada may be joined in fellowship and find means for effective participation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Joy is in Giving and in the Living

Remember: *A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting **God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.** 2 Corinthians 9: 5-7 (Message Bible)*

This summer the 2011 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Delegation journeyed to the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was a life changing experience for all of us and it reminded me of my first visit to the Congos last year.

Our Congolese family baptized us in love and drenched us with grace and hospitality. During service, the offering is truly a worship explosion, as men, women and children dance and joyfully give with their whole hearts. It is normal for the offering to last 45 minutes or more.

I remember asking one of our hosts about the offering. He shared, "God gives us life, air to breath, a place to stay and food to eat. God brought your group safely to us from across the waters. God who gives us everything, gives us the opportunity to give back to Him!"

Then he looked at our American delegation and said, "**But surely, as blessed as you are in America, your offering must take up two hours every Sunday.**" Not a single member was able to reply, I began to cry. From that moment, I have never viewed offering the same way. It is truly Worship.

The second journey to the Congo was another learning experience in offering. After preaching in a local congregation, the offering worship experience began again. My translator explained how the different offerings were used. But this time, I noticed a large basket was placed near the altar. People poured money, fruits, vegetables and food into the basket.

The translator looked at me and said, "This offering is for you." I began to cry and asked her if I could give it back to the congregation. She gently took my hand and said, "No, you must use it for yourself, you have poured out the Word of God to us and we must pour back into you." Another speechless moment.

The pastor presented the offering to me with a simple message,



"We are a house that wants to be blessed and never cursed, that is why we will always be a blessing to everyone who comes in this house."

Sisters, God has created us to be temples of blessing and we want to be blessed and never cursed, that is why we should always be blessings to everyone who comes to us.

Thankful,

Sheila J. Spencer

To learn more about Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Experiences go to www.discipleswomen.org

Reflections from the 2011 WWW Delegation will be featured in the Winter, Summer and Fall 2012 issues of Just Women Magazine. Have you subscribed? Go to www.discipleswomen.org today!



Disciples Women Give Thanks All Year Long

Blessing Boxes are a means of teaching the spiritual discipline of giving in gratitude for the gifts received from God. Since 1999, Blessing Boxes have contributed a total of \$2,663,882 for the mission of the church, with \$311,814 of that going to support women's ministries. The amount put in may be a quarter or more. The amount is not nearly as important as the discipline of regularly remembering God's goodness through the acts of dropping in coins and praying prayers of thanksgiving. For more information on Blessing Boxes —go to <http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/pages/DW-BlessingBox>



From The President.....

As the holidays approach, we are busy with our everyday hustle and bustle AND the holiday frenzies. I just want to take time out and let you know how wonderful you are and that I am thankful for you. You are precious gifts, irreplaceable gems, and majestic beauties. Thank you for your prayers, your words of encouragement, and the selfless acts of kindness that you bestow upon your families, congregations, and especially your sisters. Where would we be without each other? There is no love like sisterly love.

We are looking forward to coming to Houston for the National Convocation Biennial Session – July 26 –

29th. Our Disciples Women’s Ministry Luncheon is on **Friday, July 27** at noon and we’re planning a special service project benefitting Houston Area Women’s Center . This organization provides emergency shelter for abused women and children . We want to be a blessing to the community where we gather.

I will have sooooo many hugs waiting for you.

Be Blessed,

Pamela Y. Dubose

National Convocation Disciples Women’s Ministry President
Pameladubose@yahoo.com



A Personal Invitation for You— We’re headed to Houston!

What an exciting time for the National Convocation Disciples Women’s Ministry next year in Houston, Texas, as National Convocation gathers around the theme of “...and yet, I will rejoice”. We welcome the Disciples Women and the opportunity to participate in workshops, worship and a luncheon.

A special service project benefitting Houston Area Women’s Center is also being planned by the National Convocation Disciples Women’s Ministry. H.A.W.C. is the President Pamela Dubose will provide more information on the items that are needed.

Disciples Women always have the ability to impact and empower the community in which they gather. Houston will be blessed by your presence and you will be truly blessed by being part of this experience.

On behalf of the Location Arrangements Committee and the Disciples Women of the Christian Church in the Southwest, we are looking forward to seeing you in Houston, July 25th-29th, 2012 at The Hilton Houston North Greenspoint Hotel.

Stay connected at

www.2012nationalconvocation.com

Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont

2012 National Convocation
Local Arrangements Chair



2010-2012 Officers of the
National Convocation Disciples Women

President	Pamela Dubose (Great River Region)
1st Vice President	Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)
Immediate Past President	Patricia Bluit (Southwest Region)
Member-at-Large	Karen Barrett (Northern California)
Member-at-Large	Lashaundra Smith (Great River Region)
Chaplain	Almetia Brown (South Carolina)
Secretary	Brenda Etheridge (Michigan)
Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)



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Merger Staff
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Connection Section

- **Did you know Disciples Women now have e-commerce options available? Now you can purchase online -Just Women subscriptions, Wisdom of Women and other great resources. Go to www.discipleswomen.org and grow as a Disciples woman!**



Join us on Facebook:



Connect and engage in conversation with Disciples women from all over. We can't wait for you to join our fan pages. Be a friend and tell a friend!

- *Disciples Women*
- *News from 2012 National Convocation*
- *Umoja Unity*
- *Just Women Magazine*

Sister Share

How is your Disciples Women's Ministry transforming your church, community and world? Submit the information to odw@dhm.disciples.org and put Umoja SisterShare in the subject line.



Wanda Redd, President of Piedmont District Convention Disciples Women's Ministry sits beside some of the gifts the women collected and donated to three shelters in the local area this summer. The Piedmont District Convention is comprised of the African American Disciples churches in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

Great Dates

July 26— July 30, 2012 National Convocation
Houston, TX

July 13 –17, 2013 General Assembly
Orlando, Florida

June 25 to 29, 2014 Quadrennial Assembly
Atlanta, GA

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

JUST+WOMEN

EMBRACING LIFE

P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206 888/346-2631 www.DisciplesWomen.org

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Just Women magazine was created to encourage women with articles to minister to the spirit, body and soul. It is the resource and Bible Study for Disciples Women’s Ministries provided by International Disciples Women’s Ministries (IDWM) and the Disciples Women’s Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is published quarterly – January, April, July, and October - and the April issue is an Ecumenical Bible Study. Go to www.discipleswomen.org and read an article from our Fall 2011 issue – “Life as a Balancing Act” – by Patricia Maples. Have you considered blessing someone with the gift of a *Just Women* magazine subscription?

Just Women features:

- Theme articles inspired by scripture: Devotions, meditations and prayers; reflections on healthy living, stewardship and Disciples history. Study guides for each issue are available for free download at www.discipleswomen.org
- Woman-to-Woman Worldwide – Enjoy the reflections of your sisters’ 2011 journey to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo
- **One year subscription is only \$19 USD**; Bundles—15 or more copies to one address is only \$17 USD each Subscriptions can be purchased online or by calling (888) 346-2631 -

Blessings,
Sheila P. Spencer
Program Director /Merger Staff
Disciples Women’s Ministries

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