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

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

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

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!

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 P. 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!
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 Bluitt (Southwest Region)
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Treasurer & Staff       Sheila Spencer (Office of Disciples Women)

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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:

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.

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.

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

A Newsletter produced by Disciples Women of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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](http://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](http://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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