

# Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

## National Convocation Disciples Women Ministry~ Making the Choice to Rejoice

Summer 2012

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The 22nd Biennial Session of the National Convocation presented an opportunity for Disciples women to Rejoice!



Disciples Women's Ministry presented over \$400 and boxes of school supplies, toiletries to Houston Area Women's Center. Anneliese Davis (far left) represented HAWC.



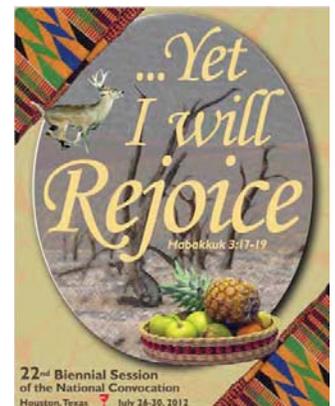
Young Adult Steppers opened our worship



Our tables were filled with both angel centerpieces and angels sitting around the table.



Patricia Maples and Barbara Williams installed the Executive Committee for National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry.



**JUST WOMEN**  
EMBRACING LIFE

Just Women magazine was created to encourage women and minister to the spirit, body and soul. One year subscription is only \$19 USD;

A bundle of 15 or more copies to one address is only \$17 USD per copy. Subscription can be purchased online at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) or by calling (888) 346-2631.

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).

## From The President.....Marilyn F Williams

### Greetings My Sisters,

It ain't over, it's just beginning! What a wonderful celebration in Houston, Texas. "Just women the Choice to Rejoice" was the theme of our 21<sup>st</sup> biennial session women's luncheon. And rejoice we did. Every table was decorated with an angel rejoicing sitting upon or adorned with Kente cloth, all of which was donated by the host state women. *Thank-you Texas!* And *many thanks* to all the women for the overwhelming out pour of participation to our local service project HAWC. And what can I say about the "Praise with a Purpose" dancers from University Christian Church, you all were outstanding! *Thank-you!*

This year the "Well" also followed through with both the Convocation theme and our Luncheon theme ~ "Rejoice". The space was adorned with two curtained rooms for meditation and privacy, while the gathering space had tables with angels; you guessed it Rejoicing. Not only did the Well invite you to rest, renew, relax, and recreate, but we celebrated women. Yes, a display of pictures of women from all regions, all levels of the church, our founders, our leaders, beginners, our seekers, our liberators, snap shots of women at their retreats and other gatherings. We would like to make this an ongoing celebration, so send us your photos. Share with us. We would like to celebrate you, your group, and your church.

The first meeting of the 2012-2014 officers took place, with 16 (sixteen) other ladies present. We are excited about the road ahead. *Thanks Ladies,* for accepting the call to serve. As we begin to plan

for the next two years, we have initiated a travel expense fund for Officers. More information about the fund will be given in our December Newsletter. A Recommendation concerning this fund has been since to the board and will be voted on at the December Board meeting. Oh, by the way, we received our first donation of \$52 toward our travel fund at the end of our meeting.

We are also in conversation with the Rev. Marilyn S. Fiddmont regarding an endowment fund for National Convocation Disciples Women. It is our hope to unfold this at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Session in Columbus, Ohio.



As I shared with many of you in Houston, God has chosen our officers for such a time as this. It is my sincere prayer and hope that we not only choose to rejoice in praise, but also in action and deeds.

It is my gift from God to be able to serve you.

*Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice!*

*Serving with you,  
Marilyn F. Williams*

President, National Convocation Disciples Women!



## 2014 Quadrennial Assembly Logo Unveiled



The winning design for the QA 2014 logo is here. It was created by Michael A. Dominguez. This is a familiar name for Disciples Women ~ he also created the new Disciples Women's logo that you see today.

There is a lot of thought, research, and planning that goes into the creation of a logo. There is nothing easy about the process. Following is the story of the

symbols and their meeting.

### Symbols in the Logo

- The **inner circle** with its vertical and horizontal lines intersect each other and symbolize the world.
- The **heart shape** that surrounds the world represents the women of the Church. We see ourselves as being committed and in solidarity with all peoples of

the world. The symbol emphasizes the Quadrennial 2014 statements such as: "We see...their despair... their heart... their hope... their value... their humanity..." etc...

- The **shepherd's crook** symbolizes our dedication to caring and nurturing.
- There is a **cross** on the left side of the circle symbolizing our faith.

The overall theme of our event is "I SEE YOU. . .". Our daily themes will be:

- **I see you through eyes of grace**
- **I see you through the voice of compassion**
- **I see you with hands of justice**
- **I see you with a heart of joy**
- **I see you whole**

We will see you in Atlanta at the Marriott Marquis, June 25 to 29, 2014

## Journey to the Congos by Janie Troublefield

Janie Troublefield was part of the 2011 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide delegation to the Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is the second part of her reflections  
*Kinshasa*



One day I had the opportunity to visit a sewing center in which women are taught the trade of sewing. After they learn to make garments, they are able to either make clothing for their families, or sell clothing to make money to support their families. This sewing program focused on making clothing for women, men, and children.

They also made scarves and pocket-books. I was amazed at the way they went about developing various items to sell in order to be able to support their families. They were very creative and knew how to diversify their products and not depend on just one item in order to make money for their families. Their economic expertise shone through as they demonstrated how they purchased material, sold the finished product for a profit, and then was able to buy more material to continue their work.

*Brazzaville*

Soap making is something I experienced as a little girl growing up in rural eastern North Carolina. My grandmother had learned this trade from her father who also lived in the rural south at the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Therefore, when I heard that soap making would be taking place during my journey in the Congo, I was extremely excited. It was great and awe inspiring to be able to relate to what my Congolese sisters were doing.



When I saw them mixing the soap making ingredients together and heating it in order to make soap, my mind went back to my childhood days of watching my grandmother do the same thing. Again, their economic expertise came alive as they explained to us that they would sell the soap in order to make money to support their families, as well as, buy more ingredients to keep making soap

Visit [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) to learn how you can help these women..

2012-2014 Officers of the  
National Convocation Disciples Women

President	Marilyn Williams (North Carolina)
1st Vice President	Wanona Redd (Virginia)
2nd Vice President	Pernella Shortie (Great River Region)
Immediate Past President	Pamela Dubose (Great River Region)
Member-at-Large	Karen Barrett (Northern California)
Member-at-Large	Lashaundra Smith (Great River Region)
Chaplain	Frankie Williams (Texas)
Secretary	Robin Cushingberry (South Carolina)
Treasurer & Staff	Sheila Spencer (Disciples Women Staff)



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Sheila Spencer - Program Director /Merger Staff  
[sspencer@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:sspencer@dhm.disciples.org)  
Arlene Pimentel - 2014 QA Coordinator  
[apimentel@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:apimentel@dhm.disciples.org)

## 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](http://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*
- *Umoja Unity*
- *Just Women Magazine*
- *News from 2012 National Convocation*
- *QA 2014*

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

## Sister Share



On Saturday, September 15, 2012, Rev. Mary Anne Glover was installed as the **Regional Minister in the Northeastern Region**. This is a historical moment in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as Rev. Glover is the *first* African American woman to be installed in the office of Regional Minister.

*Congratulations!!!!*

## Great Dates

**July 13 –17, 2013    General Assembly**  
Orlando, Florida

**June 25 to 29, 2014    Quadrennial Assembly**  
Atlanta, GA



Houston Area Women's Center  
Ending Domestic and Sexual Violence

Board of Directors  
Diana M. Hudson  
Chair

Executive Committee  
Sandra Ramirez Aultman  
Genora Kendrick Boykins  
Robert A. Peiser  
Carrie G. Potter  
\*Shawn Raymond  
Elaine Makris Williams

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Stephen K. Carroll  
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Michael A. Dirden  
Arvia Few  
Megan Gostola  
Melanie Gray  
Christine Holland  
Caressa Hughes  
Michael Johnston  
Ronda Mills  
Kimberly O'Brien  
Sue Ortenstone  
Sara N. Ortwein  
Kent W. "Rocky" Robinson  
Kelly B. Rose  
Debra Runge  
Jan L. Schott  
Mark C. Schroeder  
Jeanne "J. J." Spedale  
Richard T. "Tom" Stilwell

President and CEO  
Rebecca L. White

\*Immediate Past Chair

August 2, 2012

Ms. Sheila Spencer  
Disciples Women Ministries  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
130 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Sheila,

Thank you very much for sponsoring the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church. The luncheon raised \$420 to benefit the Houston Area Women's Center.

The funds you raised are helping ensure that women and children escaping violent homes have a safe place to sleep tonight. That callers to our hotline reach caring advocates who know how to help. That sexual assault survivors have a hand to hold in the hospital and a place to turn for counseling. That children testifying in court about unspeakable abuse have a friend and advocate by their side

Your support makes all of this – and so much more – possible. I hope you will visit [www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org) and friend us on Facebook to hear the latest news about how you are helping change lives and end domestic and sexual violence in our community.

Thanks again for your part in helping us realize our mission.

Sincerely,

*Anneliese*

Anneliese Davis  
Chief Development Officer

*Sheila,  
Many thanks to all the amazing National Convocation women for blessing survivors of domestic & sexual violence with your generous gifts! I hope we will stay in touch!*

You will be recognized as Disciples Women Ministries Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you would like to change your recognition name, please contact Patricia Covarrubias, Donor Relations Specialist at (713) 528-6798 ext. 2230 or at [pcovarrubias@hawc.org](mailto:pcovarrubias@hawc.org).

The Women's Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and you may be entitled to a tax deduction for your donation. Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for your tax purposes. No goods or services of any value were or will be provided in exchange for this donation.

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Houston, TX 77019-3902  
(713)528-6798  
Fax (713)535-6363  
[www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org)



United Way of Greater Houston  
Harris County Community Services Department



HOUSTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER  
LOOKING BACK LEADING FORWARD