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).
Greetings My Sisters,

It aint over, it’s just beginning! What a wonderful celebration in Houston, Texas. “Just women the Choice to Rejoice” was the theme of our 21st 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 22nd 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!
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 pocketbooks. 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 19th 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 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              Sheila Spencer (Disciples Women Staff)
Treasurer & Staff

Disciples Women Staff
130 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(888) 346-2631 www.discipleswomen.org

Patricia Donahoo - Executive Director
pdonahoo@dhm.disciples.org
Sheila Spencer - Program Director /Merger Staff
sspencer@dhm.disciples.org
Arlene Pimentel - 2014 QA Coordinator
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 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

Great Dates

June 25 to 29, 2014 Quadrennial Assembly
Atlanta, GA

July 13 –17, 2013 General Assembly
Orlando, Florida

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!!!
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 21st 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 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 Davis
Chief Development Officer

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.

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.