

# Umoja - Unity-Oneness-Harmony

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

## Disciples Women— The Gifts are in the House!

Winter 2012

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### Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (WWW)

*This is a life changing journey. Join us.*

Apply for the 2012 fall journey to China. Visit [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) to download the 2012 China application and read the Candidate Guidelines. The deadline is April 1, 2012.



Invite a Disciples Woman from the 2011 WWW delegation to share her experiences for a personal journey to the Congo.

Serve via the Congo service project.

For WWW information: [www.DisciplesWomen.org](http://www.DisciplesWomen.org) under "Woman-to-Woman" link in the "Program Pages" box.

### JUST WOMEN

EMBRACING LIFE

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

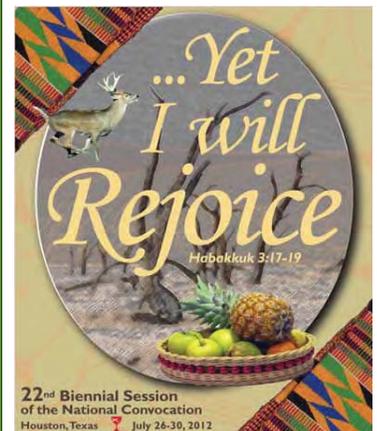
A bundle of 15 or more copies to one address is only \$17 USD per copy. Subscription can be purchased online at [www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org) or by calling (888) 346-2631.

### Women's Endowment Fund (WEF)

Have an idea for ministry project that includes: women-focused leadership training, outreach ministries, faith development, programming and scholarship support? Apply for the **Women's Endowment Fund**. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2012.



For WEF guidelines and application - [www.DisciplesWomen.org](http://www.DisciplesWomen.org) and click on "Women's Endowment Fund" under "Program Pages".



Mark your calendars:  
**22nd Biennial Session of National Convocation in Houston, TX**  
**July 26 to 29th, 2012**  
**Disciples Women's Luncheon:**  
**Friday, July 27, 2012**  
**\$30**

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).

## Celebrating the Life of the Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges

National Convocation Disciples Women's Ministry celebrates the life of our colleague Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges. She served as Merger Staff for the National Convocation and Director of Christian Education in the General Ministry of Disciples Home Missions.

One of her signature phrases was *"Sheila, I am proud to be a Disciples Woman"* She was a strong supporter, advocate and constant presence at Disciples Women's luncheons at National Convocations and General Assemblies. She wrote for Disciples Women's resources, attended Quadrennial Assemblies, supported *Just Women* magazine, keynoted at Disciples Women's retreats and served as an advisor for the Women's Ministry at her home congregation—Light of the World Christian Church..

Billye was my mentor, colleague, sister-in-Christ, teacher and friend. She always had a smile and a high five. It was an honor to work with her at Disciples Center and worship with her at Light of the World Christian Church.

Rev. Brenda Etheridge, Michigan, shares her personal reflections:

*"Rev. Dr. Billye Bridges was a giving and creative person. She was a collaborator and encourager. Whenever Billye saw you she had a word of praise and adoration to God and affirmation of those in ministry. She worked tirelessly to prepare us for our ministries to our congregations, regions and communities. She will be greatly missed"*

Dr. Bridges wrote an article on Stewardship for the 2008 issue of *Called, Gifted and Sent*. She was always the giver; thus, writing on Stewardship was an appropriate topic. Here is an excerpt from her article. *"The Three Ts of Stewardship"*

*"Women wear many hats, have numerous responsibilities and maintain multiple relationships. How do we prayerfully practice good stewardship of our time? Women are gifted, multi-talented, and usually called in many directions. How do we trust God in becoming good stewards of our talents? How do we wisely seek Godly guidance in becoming good stewards of our treasure?"*



*The Rev. Dr. Billye P. Bridges  
1945—2012*

*"Christian stewardship involves one's whole life. Nothing is excluded"*

*Thank you, Billye for blessing the Body of Christ with your time, talents and treasure. God calls each of us to do the same. Nothing was excluded.*

*Blessed to be a blessing,  
Sheila P. Spencer*



### Billye Bridges Faith & Life Institute Scholarship Fund

This fund has been established to help persons attend the National Convocation Pre-Convocation Faith and Life Institute Clergy and Lay Leaders Training. Event. Checks are to be made payable to Disciples Home Missions Fund. Please include "Billye Bridges fund" in the memo line. Send your donation to : **Disciples Home Missions Fund, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Online donations may be made at [www.discipleshomemission.org](http://www.discipleshomemission.org). Please designate the "Billye Bridges fund" as your area of ministry.

## From The President.....National Convocation Checklist

### Dear Sisters in Christ:

We are excited about our upcoming National Convocation Disciples Women’s Ministry Luncheon.

**Save the date** - Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.

The tickets are \$30.

Go to [www.nationalconvocation.org](http://www.nationalconvocation.org) to purchase meal tickets, register for 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation and get other updates.

We also need your support – we need women to volunteer as table hostesses, greeting guests at our Disciples Women’s booth and helping gather items for Houston Area Women’s Center. Please send your

complete contact information to [odw@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:odw@dhm.disciples.org) and put “Convocation volunteer” in the subject line. Feel free to bring a friend with you to share in the joy of service.

If you are reading this message, you have a wonderful opportunity to share this newsletter with a sister. Pass it on!



Blessings,

*Pamela Y. Dubose*

President

National Convocation Disciples Women’s Ministry  
[Pameladubose@yahoo.com](mailto:Pameladubose@yahoo.com)

## National Convocation—Blessing Checklist!

Houston Area Women’s Center [www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org)



This agency provide shelter, counseling and advocacy to support them in building lives free from the effects of domestic and sexual violence. We are asking all Disciples Women to select items from the following list and bring them to the luncheon. We will present the gifts to a representative of the agency.

- Toiletries and packages of new underwear - all sizes for women and children
  - Travel umbrellas
- Check donations are made payable to Houston Area Women’s center

*Bring to Disciples Women’s Luncheon*

### Other Things to Know:

- Go to [www.nationalconvocation.org](http://www.nationalconvocation.org) and check out the [What’s New](#) section
- Register online for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Session of the National Convocation
- Purchase meal tickets—Disciples Women’s Luncheon is on Friday, July 27, 2012 - \$30
- Keep updated and informed
- Like our page on Facebook: Umoja Unity

**22<sup>nd</sup> BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION**  
 HILTON HOUSTON NORTH GREENSPOINT HOTEL  
 12400 GREENSPOINT DR  
 HOUSTON, TX 77060  
 Phone (281) 875-2222 Fax (281) 875-1652

*“...YET, I WILL REJOICE!” HABAKKUK 3:17-19*

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 (Disciples Women Staff)

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Sheila Spencer—Program Director &  
Merger Staff  
[sspencer@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:sspencer@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*
- *News from 2012 National Convocation*
- *Umoja Unity*
- *Just Women Magazine*

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

## Sister Share

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



**Leymah Gbowee** (left) is a Liberian peace activist responsible for leading a women's peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. This led to the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Liberia, the first African nation with a female president. They were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work." **Sheila Spencer** (right) met her during Gbowee's lecture in Indianapolis, IN.

## Great Dates

March 15, 2012 Women's Endowment Fund application due

April 1, 2012 Woman-to-Woman Worldwide application due

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