

Umoja Unity-Oneness-Harmony

Fall 2013

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

Message from our President

Hello my Sisters,

Oh, somebody said that it couldn't be done, but your President, your Sistahfriend, your Sister in Christ with a chuckle replied that maybe it couldn't but she wouldn't say so until she tried. And with your help WE will succeed. The year has almost come to a close and the National Convocation Disciples Women are in the **RED**.

We have not yet met our Goal.

The **Plea**: Every woman sends in \$1 per week for a total of \$52 a year.

The **Aim**: To build up the Treasury of the National Convocation Disciples Women

Why ??????? I'm so glad you asked.....

- * Monetary **support** for President/VP travels to meetings, when not paid by National Convocation general funds (transportation, lodging and meals for December Board meeting)
- * **Seed** money to start National Convocation Endowment fund for African-American Disciples Women. This Fund is to provide resources for African-American Disciples Women to serve the mission and ministry of the church through projects, studies, mission journeys, and more. We have received donations specifically for this fund totaling \$545; \$1000 is needed to start fund, our goal is to unveil this fund at our luncheon in July 2014.

We are half way there!

* Hospitality/Condolences **fund**

Plans are being made.

As the color of leaves began to change, so begins the worshipful work of Fall and Winter. Similar to the animals we hibernate but we spring forward with new ideas, upcoming project and programs. National Convocation Women have many plans in the making. Our upcoming board meeting on December 5-7 in Indianapolis, is where we will be finalizing plans for QA 2014 in Atlanta, and the 23rd Biennial Session to be held in Columbus, OH ~ Workshops, Luncheons, Health Fairs ~ and always Fellowship.

Please send your gift of \$52 in today!

Your tax deductible gift will make a difference. Make your check payable to National Convocation, Memo line: Disciples Women Fund 52. Please mail to National Convocation, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN. Thank you for being a part of this ministry.

I still have peace, I still believe, WE can conquer anything and it's still by the grace of God.

Serving You, Marilyn



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Just Women 2014 Themes

Winter 2014

I See You with Compassion ~ Changing our culture of violence / creating a culture of care

Spring 2014

Bible Study ~ I See You with Hand of Justice ~ Women of the Bible: Seeking Justice

This study is written by Disciples women scholars.

Summer 2014

I See You with Eyes of Grace ~ Nurturing Healthy Relationships

Fall 2014

I See You Whole ~ Mental Health Wellness

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).

Quadrennial Assembly 2014 Planning Continues

It is hard to believe that in less than 230 days the women of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will take Atlanta by storm. What a wonderful time we are going to have June 25-29, 2014!



When the planning team started this journey together in April of 2012 it seemed like just an image in our minds of what we wanted to happen. But now, the closer we get to June our vision becomes clearer. **“I See You”**.

This has been one awesome time for me to be able to work with women of all ages, ethnicities, geographical regions, colors, and positions in the DOC church. I can truly say that they have all become my sisters.

I grew up with four brothers so it has always been a challenge for me to connect with other females in any situation. But, I learned to love each one of these women in several different ways and each one taught me how to have a closer and stronger relationship with the Lord. It is clear that we all may not worship the same way but we worship the same God. My only regret is that it will come to an end on June 30, 2014, but the ties that bind will still be there.

If you have never been to a Quadrennial Assembly before, QA 2014 is the one with which you want to start. From sun up to sun down the Marriott Marquis will be on a non-stop buzz. I want to encourage eve-

ry woman to start making preparations to be there; it is still not too late to get ready.

I also want to encourage any woman that feels she has the time, commitment, and energy to be a part of some leadership team in the Disciples Women Ministry. After working with these great women of God you will not come away the same. You will be able to see your sisters with eyes of grace, through the voice of compassion, with hands of justice, with a heart of Joy, and most importantly WHOLE.

Wanona Rogers-Redd

QA 2014 Interest Groups & Workshops

1st Vice President National Convocation Disciples Women

Quadrennial 2014 Updates

The latest information about QA2014 is just a click-away at the Web site ~ quadrennial.org ~

Registration is now open. Registration fees are discounted until January 1, 2014

Scholarship assistance is available. Applications are on the Web site on the ‘Scholarship’ page.

Unsung SHeroes Celebration is the latest addition to the ‘Special Events’ Web page.

Are you a professional crafter? There is a place for you to sell your wares. Check-out the ‘Exhibitor’ page.

Does your church group sell items? There is a place for you. Check out the ‘Special Events’ page for the Bizarre Bazaar options.

See you there!

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2012 ~ China

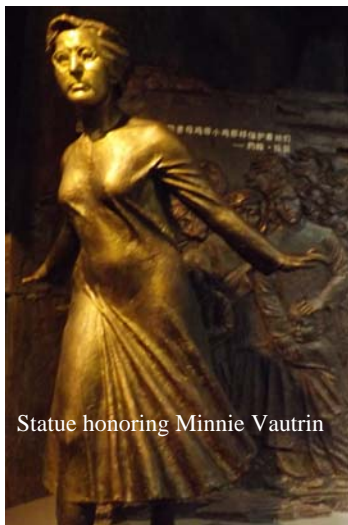
By Tanya J. Tyler (continued from Summer 2013 issue)

The article began with . . . In November 2012, 14 Disciples women from across the country. . . And continues with. . .

The group attended the **100 millionth Bible printing** at the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing. Amity is the largest Bible printer in the world. At the celebration, there were delegates from all around the world – the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia. The 100 millionth bible was passed to various Amity workers, including the maintenance staff, the manager from the research and development department, and finally the general manager until it was reverently placed on a special stand.

Another highlight of the journey was discovering a **Disciple heroine**. On July 7, 1937, Japan launched an attack against China. The Japanese began to assault Nanjing on Nov. 12. After the city fell, the Japanese troops massacred unarmed Chinese soldiers and citizens. The massacre lasted six weeks, and the number of victims was more than 300,000. There were more than 20,000 cases of rape. Nanjing had become “hell on earth.” But during this War of Japanese Aggression, a heroine emerged. Wilhelmina Vautrin, know as Minnie, was a Disciples woman from Illinois. She lived in Nanjing from 1912-1940. She served as dean of Gingling College for Girls, now Nanjing Normal University. When the bombing began and Chinese and internationals evacuated the city, Minnie remained. She gave refuge to more than 10,000 women and children at the college. There is statue of Minnie shielding refugees in the Nanjing Massacre Museum. Her bravery and sacrifice earned her the title “Living Goddess.” However, the trauma led her to take her own life when she returned to the United States in 1941. The Chinese government

posthumously gave her the Emblem of the Blue Jade for her sacrifices during the Nanjing massacre. While they were at Nanjing University, the women placed a floral wreath at Minnie’s bust. As their post-journey project, they chose to promote a scholarship in Minnie’s honor. Gifts to the Minnie Vautrin China Fund will be used for projects for poor and marginalized women and girls from the rural areas of China, including education, medical care and small loans for women starting small businesses through the Zhoukou Lay Training Program in Henan Province and the YMCA in Shanghai, both of which the contingent visited.



Statue honoring Minnie Vautrin

In addition to the seminaries, the women visited with a group of local business people, educators and pastors and the general secretaries of the YMCA and YWCA in **Shanghai**. They visited a community center for autistic children and a senior citizen center. They also visited an AIDS village. HIV/AIDS is a growing problem in China. Many people in the provinces got AIDS from blood transfusions. The farmers would sell their blood, but they reused the needles. In the village, there is one doctor, Dr. He Hong Tao, taking care of all the people who have aids – 39 of them in this one village. Medicine is free from the government, but Dr. Tao has to give it to the patients himself to make sure they don’t sell it. The church provides bibles and reading material, including information about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention. Dr. Tao said they can’t cure AIDS but they can control it. He says he is poor, making the equivalent of \$50 a month, but he really feels rich.

Besides the various institutions, the women also had an opportunity to visit some of China’s **historic landmarks**, including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Museum with its 2,000 pottery warriors.

The women came away from this journey with a broader worldwide view and an appreciation for the lives of their sisters in China. They are all glad to know that across the world they have friends who are thinking of and praying for them, and they are united in their love for and devotion to the One God who watches over us all.

Tanya J. Tyler, who lives in Lexington, Ky., is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She serves as pastor of Chalice Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a new church start in London, Ky.

Every Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey selects a service project from the various places they visit. This journey adopted a different approach. They created a new fund in honor of Minnie Vautrin (picture of a statue honoring her is to the left). Donations may be sent to Global Ministries, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986, memo: WWW Minnie Vautrin China Fund.

The donations will be used help marginalized women and children in China. Please visit DisciplesWomen.org and click on the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide link. The service project link is in the ‘Resource’ box.

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	Robyn Cushingberry (South Carolina)
Treasurer & Staff	Open (Disciples Women Staff)

Disciples Women Staff
130 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 635-3100 www.discipleswomen.org

Patricia Donahoo —Executive Director
pdonahoo@dhm.disciples.org

Open —Program Director &
Merger Staff
@dhm.disciples.org

Arlene Pimentel—QA Coordinator
apimentel@dhm.disciples.org



Connection Section

Did you know Disciples Women now have an e-commerce options available? Now you can purchase study resource materials online: *Just Women* subscriptions, *Wisdom of Women* and more. 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. Come, join our fan pages. Be a friend and tell a friend!

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



Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship (TCMF)

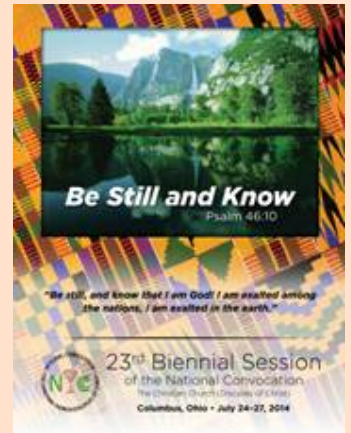
TCMF is pleased to welcome Mrs. Sally Green of Dallas, Texas, as their new president. She is succeeding Ms Frankie Williams who also serves as National Convocation Disciples Women's Chaplain.

What is happening in your Region or in your Community? Umoja would like to 'Sister Share' your activities. Please email Marilyn Williams at marfrwms@yahoo.com with Umoja as the subject.

Woman-to-Woman

Worldwide 2013 ~

México journey articles will begin in the next issue. First one is by Tammy Simpson of North Carolina.



Yearly Calendar Notes:

- March 15 - Women's Endowment Fund application due
- April 1 - Woman-to-Woman Worldwide application due
- October 15 - Women's Endowment Fund application due

Special Dates to Remember:

- December 5 to 7, 2013** **Board Meeting**
Indianapolis, Indiana
- June 25 to 29, 2014** **Quadrennial Assembly**
Atlanta, Georgia
- July 24 to 27, 2014** **23rd Biennial Session**
Columbus, Ohio