

Disciples Women's Leadership Council (DWLC)

January 21-25, 2015

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Wednesday afternoon:

Pat Donahoo presented orientation for first time attendees; which included introducing all the departments of the church and the 'alphabet soup' of abbreviations.

Thursday: Opening Meditation presented by Jean Muir, Montana

Pat presented the DW Staff report.

1. She shared with us the "Disciples Women on the Move" program. They would like to have pictures and comments posted in social media about the activities that Disciples Women are participating across the country and Canada. They can be posted to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or on the Disciples Women Facebook page. Be sure to also include in the message #DWsoar. They use the #DWsoar to search out articles. The hope is to share who and what we are about. A full report and slides can be found at discipleswomen.org
2. There will not be a 'Well' area at General Assembly this year because of money. Expensive to set up. This body of women would like to see some sort of women gathering place. Can share the information in our regions and maybe the groups or individual women might like to help support whatever kind of gathering place could be setup.
3. At QA we set a challenge for the women of each congregation to share their blessings by collecting \$1000 in Blessing Box giving through the next year. When it is send back to DMF be **sure it is designated on the form Blessing Box**. Without this notation is becomes part of the general fund and the 50% for Women's Ministry will not be directed to them. Remember blessings and Blessing Boxes are not for women only. Make sure our men are aware of offering gratitude for their blessings. *"Count your many blessings, Name them one by one, Count your many blessings, See what God has done"*
4. Human Trafficking is being lifted up in three areas of focus:
 - a. Labor Trafficking
 - b. Sex Trafficking
 - c. Demand
5. Leadership Training (LAP) is still active. We would like a list of graduates of the LAP program so that we could consider inviting them to present about the LAP program maybe at regional events.
6. News from 2014:
 - a. Partnered with Center for Public Witness to sponsor an additional Peace Fellowship Intern.
 - b. Purchased new Purchasing software to help keep track of inventory and in shipping requested sales items. It will calculate the shipping cost more accurately.
7. Social Media. All information is posted at www.discipleswomen.org. Continuing to build our social media network thru a variety of programs. It was asked that all regions consider having a direct button link from their regional women web page to the Disciples Women web page.
8. Travel Pool dues are due now. This group requested a bill type e-mail be sent to each regional leader. They need a paper trail to submit to have it paid.

9. DWLC – Prayer list, Pat is developing a weekly prayer list for each region's use. It will be posted on the DWLC web page.
10. DWLC – this meeting is still the best sharing resource.
 - a. It will include one Staff, president or other representative from each region. (Pool pays for one person to attend)
 - b. A second person could attend but the region would pay the cost of travel, housing, and food.
 - c. Asking for continued support for inter-regional gathers every four years to reach large groups.
11. DWM is requesting origami cranes to be used at General Assembly in accordance with the theme SOAR. They are working toward 1000 paper cranes with prayers written on them. Some of these will be folded at GA. Others are being put together at regional gatherings and will be sent back to the ODW before GA.
12. Financial Report: A letter has been mailed to disciples women that have contributed money to Disciples Women in the past discussing the need for money to support the DWM programs. There is a new button on the DW web giving page that allows for direct donations to DWM. This letter can be shared with others. You will select the button to give but be sure to select DWM from the drop down list also before submitting. It is a two-step process.
13. Quadrennial Assembly 2014. We had fewer registrations than planned. (1225 registrations, planned for 1500, drop of 30%). Registration costs were kept low and maybe they should have been increased in accordance with the increase in economy. The future of QA will be discussed further in the future. We know there will be changes. Just not sure what they will be. A letter from the IDWM executive committee is being drafted for our use in sharing with our regions. The hope is that we all share the same information in a productive and positive manner. The letter will be posted on the web site for us to access. An email will be sent to each DWLC member with a PDF of the message and a link to the web site.

Chesla Nichelson, new Program Director and Merger Staff, report:

1. She joined staff June 2014 in time for QA.
2. Discussed *Just Women* Magazine. The spring edition will be the Bible study. It should be available near the first of March. It is going to print very soon.
3. The next Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey for 2015 is going to Israel & Palestine, October 4-16, 2015. Approximate cost is \$4000. Application deadline is March 15, 2015.

Constituency reports:

1. Wanona Redd from Convocation offered a report. The Umoja newsletter is still being published. If you are not receiving a copy and would like to, send an e-mail to Bev Ledwon to be put on the list. She is working with Chesla on the next LAP class to help form young women leaders.
2. Soo Yun from NAPAD reported; they are working on an emphasis on women, women pastors, and women seminarians. Working together to support each other.

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide 2014 report from Pat. They traveled to France and Italy. They are working on the script, PowerPoint, and program for the W2WW presentation. Sounded like another very interesting trip.

**** An offering will be received on Saturday morning during the opening meditation. We voted at this time where that offering would be given. Karen Yount moved that the offering go to DWM. Second from Wendy Paquette. Motion carried. This was voted on at this time to allow the women to be prepared Saturday morning.**

Friday: Opening Meditation presented by Maria Martinez, Convencion del Suroeste (TX, LA, OK, NM)

Marilyn Williams discussed Best Practices.

1. How do we communicate with each other? Go to the person with the knowledge when you have a question or need to find out something you didn't know. Know your communication boundaries. You do not need to answer the phone beep, remember your manners. Know your audience, if not technology savvy, will need old fashioned mail or phone call.
2. Shandra Yost presented a program on **technology**. Showed us how to navigate to the discipleswomen.org site. How to search disciple's women in YouTube or click on the link inside Disciples women. Signing into Facebook and how to like and follow. Answered other technical questions from the group. Discussed using the #DWSOAR tag when posting DWM pictures and events.

Kathy McDowell introduced the next **Just Women Bible Study**. She is the lesson guide writer. The Study program was written by three Disciples' women scholars. The group divided into smaller groups to walk through the study on Anna in the temple Luke 2:21-38. Very interesting

3. April Johnson, ARPR, (Anti-Racist and Pro-reconciling) **Department of Reconciliation**.
 - a. Discussed human trafficking, residue of slavery in America.
 - b. How do we have these conversations; Racism,
 - i. C - Create a safe place
 - ii. A – Ask deep and probing questions
 - iii. R – Reflect theologically
 - iv. E – Enact or Engage –(So what do we do about it)
 - c. Viewed **video with Dr Joy DeGrew**. Broke into small groups to discuss what we saw, heard, and felt. The video discussed how whites and people of color are often treated differently in basic everyday activities and we don't even notice. If we do notice, what do we do?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wf9QBnPK6Yg> Also visit www.PaulKivel.com/Components/Jdownloads/finish/1/23/15.
 - d. Visit www.ReconciliationMinistry.org, Website Breaking the Code. All these sites have information to help us develop guidelines for being Strong White Allies.

Saturday: Opening Meditation presented by Marilyn Williams, IDWM President.

1. We split into small groups to discuss and brainstorm **Quadrennial Assembly**. There currently is not an all in one convention center available. They all book up years in advance. Where does the money come from? How would we like it to look? How many days? Lots of ideas put down on paper and sent home with Pat and Chesla. The IDWM Executive committee will also be reviewing and discussing. Marilyn's quote "*Grace is free but ministry cost*"

2. Rev Dr Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director of **Refugee and Immigration Ministries**. Shared stories and facts about what is happening with refugees and Immigration laws. Bible verses shared

1. Leviticus 19:33-34
2. Exodus 2:1-10 (Violence, Decisions, Danger)
3. Exodus 2:11-12 (Enslavement, Unjust treatment)

A. What can we do? Look for EFI labels (Equality Farmworkers Initiative) Costco is one of the best in supplying these kinds of labeled products. EFI supports fair labor practices for men and women, fair pay, women have a way of reporting rape and abuse in the fields. FLOC – Farm labor Organizing Committee.

1. DOC helped resettle 8% of refugees that come thru CWS.
2. Need help putting together refugee hospitality kits; there is a flyer that lists supplies.

B. She gave a report on unaccompanied children /moms crossing our borders. Up to 58% are eligible for asylum because they have either been trafficked, history of violence toward them, etc.

1. TVPRA – Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act”
2. All unaccompanied minors go before an immigration judge to determine status. Many are able to be placed with distant family or foster care.

3. Family detention centers are currently being run by businesses that run prisons. The conditions are very poor and tend to be degrading. They are poor facilities that demand a lot of money and demand to be paid even for empty beds.

4. Facebook and like Refugee and Immigration Ministries. Thru DHM or can twitter with @stanleyRea

3. Constituent reports:

- a. Guillermina Peralez, Hispanic Women’s Board.
- b. Claudia Pearson-Griffin Church of Christ (DOC) quote *“When the Dr turned us over he didn’t find an expiration date”*

****4. DWLC business meeting:** The only business we needed to conduct at this time was election of new officers. The nominating committee included Barbara Runge, Janet Fountain, and Wanona Redd. Barbara submitted the new officers for nomination: This slate was unanimously accepted.

President – Christal Williams

Vice President – Teresa Olberding

Secretary/Treasurer – Gloria Gilliard

Member at Large – Sarah Himaya

Member at Large - Maria Martinez

Sunday: Opening Meditation presented by Janet Fountain, Sarah Himaya, Awit Marcelino, Canada

Wrap up:

1. Sharon Stanley-Rea reminds us this is the last week of Human trafficking awareness month. There are still several government bills that need to be completed. Contact legislatures and ask them to vote.
2. Cathy Meyers-Wirt has developed an interactive study session. It will be posted to the DW site for sharing.
3. Closing worship was designed by Cheryl Cloar. It was a very meaningful time. Sending forth by Pat.

Interregional Report for WWOW.

There was not a lot of planning at this time. We are still planning for May 5-7, 2017 in Arizona. We are thinking about the Franciscan Retreat Center. Since Carol Friesen has retired the retreat center has not been contacted for price and date availability. Sue Delap, representative from Arizona will follow-up when she gets home. She will also investigate and suggest other possible meeting places.