



*Did you know that Disciples Women do not receive funds directly from Disciples Mission Fund (DMF)? DHM provides a portion of their DMF funding to support Disciples Women's Ministry.*

*Did you know that part of Disciples Women funding comes from Blessing Box and Blessing Bag offerings? 50% of what is received through this offering stays with Disciples Women while the other 50% is given to DMF to support the mission of the whole church. Blessing bags are a form of spiritual discipline more than a financial discipline.*

*Did you know that you can make a direct gift to Disciples Women's Ministries by writing a check made out to Disciples Women and mailing to DWM office?*

*Did you know that when a staff person is invited to a region, group or congregation that we ask that you pay for our travel and room only with no honorarium expected? Did you know that when a staff person receives an honorarium it is put back into the travel fund? Did you also know that when leadership is requested and the group is unable to pay for travel and room, we come anyway and ask that you give what you can?*

**The funding provided to Disciples Women through your generosity helps to fund all of the following ministries as well as many others:**

As we began to live into our Principles of Mutuality shortly after QA 2010 we have had opportunities to participate more fully in whole church ministries with participation of executive on General Minister and President's cabinet, the Justice Table, etc. Disciples Women reports to the Disciples Home Missions (DHM) board with president as a voting member and we report at both General Board meetings and General Assemblies. This provides the opportunity for Disciples Women to better educate the church on our ministry and to find ways to partner with other general ministries. There are additional costs associated with having a place at the table.

We continue to provide resources and update materials for education and advocacy on Human Trafficking. We are building relationships and partnerships to help end modern day slavery. The North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia regions are working together to combat human trafficking in their areas and along the I-95 corridor. The women of West Virginia organized to get laws against trafficking on the books in their state and improving their state's grade. These women were educated and inspired in part through our annual meeting of women's regional representatives at the Disciples Women Leadership Council.

**Just Women** magazine is the official resource for Disciples Women. Because of the commitment to provide resources for Disciples Women in the United States and Canada, we took on the task of publishing when Disciples World ended its publication. We celebrate this year's Bible study written by Disciples Women scholars. Previously we purchased our study from the Presbyterian women but

beginning this year we kicked off a new era. This Bible study has already been so well received we had to order an additional printing.

Each General Assembly we gather with 500 or so of our best friends at a Disciples Women luncheon to celebrate our combined ministry, to catch up with our sisters, and to have a little fun. We sponsor a booth so we can share information and learn from one another. We often have logo items for sale so we can recognize our common ministry in our sisters.

We recently conducted a search for our new Program Director, Chesla Nickelson. This search has taken time and resources to complete and we are confident that Chesla is the person God has prepared to do this ministry.

Each year we take a delegation of women outside the U.S. and Canada to discover what it means to be a woman of faith in another country. We absorb all the information we can from our gracious hostesses while offering our love and support for them in their situations and circumstances. As we travel we discover the rich history of women everywhere. While we were in China in 2012 we heard the story of a Disciples Woman from Illinois who became 'the goddess of Nanjing' and were moved by her dedication to God's people and her passion to serve and protect the women of China. While the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey is funded by the participants, the cost of staff leaders comes from the Disciples Women budget.

We continue leadership development through our Leader Apprentice Program (LAP) developed for the needs of women of color. Women who have completed this training are now serving at all levels of the Disciples church. We also train and provide opportunities for women to develop their leadership skills at annual meetings of regional staff and at interregional gatherings.

We provide anti-racism training to regional staff and representatives as well as to the Executive Committee. We celebrate and reflect the diversity of the Church in all we do working to ensure that voices from all our variety are heard. We continue to approach our ministry as a joint effort where all voices are heard and valued.

We are represented and participate in events dealing with New Church, Seminarians Conference, Black Ministers Retreat, National Convocation, Hispanic Convenciones and Assembly, and North American Pacific Asian Disciples. We lead, train, present, and participate at local, regional, interregional and general events. Through these connections we participate in the 2020 vision of resourcing new congregations and transforming congregations, and modeling and encouraging anti-racism and pro-reconciliation, all the while developing and identifying leaders for the Christian Church.

Disciples Women provides resources for local, regional, and general women's activities and emphases. The staff is available to lead in the use of the resources and/or to train others in their use. Most of our media resources are available online for free download and many are available in Spanish, Korean, or French.

We organize together in interregional gatherings every four years where leaders of each cluster have the opportunity to organize and plan an event for the women in that interregional group. Disciples Women staff provide leadership as requested with costs coming out of Disciples Women budget. At these events we have experienced women hearing a call to ministry, gaining a new passion for women's ministries, building relationships with their sisters, learning about social action, learning about worship and study, and gaining the confidence to be leaders. At an interregional gathering in the West the women discovered during an intergenerational activity just how much they had in common and how much they celebrated the gifts of other generations.

The coordinator and the assistant to the coordinator for Quadrennial Assembly are funded through Disciples Women. QA used to be an income-producing event but broke even in 2010. Our 2014 budget is strained.

We do all these ministries with what funding we receive. Some of our past ministries had to be discontinued because of inability to support staff and programs with current budget.

*It is an exciting time to be a Disciples woman. In gratitude for what women's ministries means to you, we hope you will consider supporting Disciples Women with your gifts.*

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