



HerStory Continues Fund

In 1874, Caroline Neville Pearre recognized her call to organize the women of the Disciples Church to initiate the Christian Women's Board of Mission (CWBM) to work in the missions and ministries that were then lacking in the church. This endeavor was organized and managed exclusively by women to serve in both home and foreign missions. Since then Disciples Women has been serving the needs of God's people across time, culture, and geography.

The CWBM provided training programs, which equipped thousands of young people and established four Bible Chairs at state universities.

In 1886, a group of women in St. Louis, recognizing a need to assist poor and orphaned children, and led by Mattie Younkin, began what is now the National Benevolent Association, the social services ministry of the church.

In 1895, Nancy E Atkinson, a founding member of the CWBM, and her husband received news of the death of a pastor who left behind a nearly blind widow and several children with no means of support. Establishing a fund to provide support for this family was the beginning of the Pension Fund.

Sarah Lue Bostick was a field worker for the Christian Women's Board of Missions and the National Christian Missionary Society and became one of the first African American women to be ordained to Christian Ministry in the late 19th century.

During the 1890s, Hispanic women in Texas began to organize within congregations and later began networking across congregations and regions. In the 1970s with preparation of materials in Spanish and a growing desire to connect throughout the diversity of the church the relationship has grown. Hispanic women have always had representation on the IDWM Cabinet.

The CWBM joined with interdenominational churches to provide the first college for women in Central China. Ginling College in Nanjing became one of the most influential schools for higher learning among women in China. A Disciples Woman, Minnie Vautrin, became a legendary heroine for her efforts to save the women at the school during the Japanese invasion.

Joining provinces of Canada and the organized states of the United States in cooperative work, the women formed the International Christian Women's Fellowship in 1953.

Late in the 20th century, Asian women began to network and organize. Even prior to this organizing work, Asian women, like Maureen Osuga, served on the IDWM cabinet.

The work of many has been celebrated across the decades and Disciples Women in the United States and Canada continue to be a conduit for diverse connections empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call.

The *HerStory Continues Fund* (HCF) is an opportunity to be part of this ministry as it continues to train, empower, and resource women of the Disciples of Christ into the future.

Making a legacy gift to Disciples Women is simply making Disciples Women the beneficiary of all or part of one of your retirement accounts or life insurance policies. There is no cost to change it and your plan administrator or insurance representative can make the change to your beneficiary by using a designation form.

All gifts to this fund will be invested with the Christian Church Foundation investing in the Bostick Select Fund. The interest will be used to continue the ministry of women of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you wish to have a named fund within HCF you can use a pledge card to 1) contribute a gift of at least \$1,000, 2) pledge to name Disciples Women in your will or trust, or, 3) both contribute and pledge. Those with named funds will be recognized in a variety of ways including being listed on the HCF website. If you prefer to be recognized as a group or give anonymously, just make a note on the pledge card of your preference. If you prefer to make a gift without a named fund, you will not need a pledge card.

Checks for this fund should be made payable to *Disciples Women* and note in the memo line "HCF". Both pledge cards and checks can be mailed to Disciples Women, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206. If you wish to make a gift online, you can go to www.discipleswomen.org and choose the "Support Disciples Women" tab and then choose "HerStory Continues Fund" from the drop down menu. Use the 'notes' section to designate named fund if gift is \$1,000 or more.