

46TH ANNUAL BLACK MINISTERS RETREAT

Be Bold



"And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed— keep ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible."

2 Timothy 1: 1-7 (Message Bible)

March 9-12, 2020

Embassy Suites—Nashville Airport
10 Century Blvd
Nashville, TN 37214

Sponsored by the Office of Black Ministries
of Disciples Home Missions



Greetings from Disciples Home Missions & our partners in ministry



The Division
of Homeland
Ministries

Equipping Disciples for Christ

30 January 2020

Greetings in that wonderful name of Jesus!

It is a joy to welcome you, our special attendees and participants from the north, south, east and west, to the 46th Annual Black Ministers Retreat on March 9-12, 2020 at the Embassy Suites Airport in Nashville, TN!

*In the day when I cried out, You answered me,
And made me bold with strength in my soul. Psalm 138:3*

Be guided by the theme "BE BOLD!" I pray that God grants a boldness of the Spirit to flow in and through each of you that broadens the expressions of your faith in glorying Jesus, the Christ!

God's love,

Sotello V. Long
President
Division of Homeland Ministries
dba Disciples Home Missions of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the
United States and Canada

Division of Homeland Ministries dba Disciples Home Missions (DHM)

P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana
46206-1986



The Christian Church in Tennessee
(Disciples of Christ)
4008 Ashland City Highway, Nashville, TN 37218
Tel 615/646-3705 Fax 615/646-3707
Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams
Regional Minister and President
christal@indisciples.org

March 9, 2020

Greetings Black Ministers Retreat Colleagues,

On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee, I want to welcome everyone to Nashville for the 2020, Black Ministers Retreat, entitled, "Be Bold 2!" Surely, the Lord has brought you to the land of Barbeque, Country Music, and deep Spirituality. Take the time to enjoy it! Allow me to extend a special thanks, to the Rev. Dr. William Lee, and the planning team for choosing to "Be Bold" for a second time in the Tennessee Region.

The BMR is a unique opportunity for us to come alive and regain a sense of Passion, Renewal and Hope toward our ministries. I believe spending time in Nashville will assist in doing so. There will be great worship, awesome preaching, and incredible Bible lectures, and the historic Greenwood Cemetery to complete, our time together. This BMR is truly about you. Yes, you! It is about your arrival, your participation and your ability to claim Rev. Preston Taylors' legacy as part of who we are as "Disciples." May we receive the power of God's grace, and Rev. Taylor's legacy as we spend this week living out of the boldness of the Holy Spirit in you.

After three years, I am continuing to lead the Tennessee Disciples in their long history of boldness. Since, the early days of Rev. Dr. Preston E. Taylor, and the "Colored Disciples Church" at Vine Street Christian Church, the Black Disciples in Tennessee have been taking to heart the Spiritual, Theological, and Educational, and Entrepreneurial Spirit modeled by Dr. Taylor. So, from the throes of Appalachian Mountains, our Cumberland gap and to the flats of the Mississippi Delta, of DeSoto County, boldness lives on in the Tennessee Region.

We Love you, and Together we are Disciples of Christ,

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2020 OCTOBER 9 & 10 HALEY FARM 1000 ALEX HALEY LANE,
CLINTON TN 37716

"MAKING ROOM AT THE TABLE: SEEKING UNITY IN OUR DIVERSITY"

February 14, 2020



Rev. Dr. William L. Lee
Director of Black Ministers
Retreat
540-314-3265
Rev.wlee@gmail.com

Marissa Ivey
Ministry Associate
317-713-2641
Mivey@dhn.disciples.org

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 46th Annual Black Ministers Retreat. We trust that our retreat offerings in lectures, workshops, worship meet and exceed your expectations. Thanks to all of our partners for your support in helping to make this retreat possible.

Thanks to the team that planned every detail of our event. Special thanks to Marissa Ivey Chiles, my Administrative Assistant for her extraordinary skills that made our planning a time of joy. Marissa gets all of the credit for this incredible final product that you are now reading.

Embassy Suites staff did an awesome job last year hosting us and we anticipate even greater service. If you have any concerns while you are at this retreat, please contact us at the registration desk.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. William L. Lee
Director of Black Ministers Retreat
Disciples Home Missions

"It meant everything-- without it, we'd have been sitting around catching water in buckets. The support we received through Week of Compassion shows that the Body of Christ-- which is all of us--can come together when there is need."

— REVEREND VERNELL WESTON,
SECOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH, JEFFERSON CITY, MO



When Second Christian Church in Jefferson City, MO was struck by a tornado, Week of Compassion responded. A grant helped the congregation make repairs and continue serving their neighbors.

weekofcompassion.org

Retreat Schedule

Monday, March 9th

- 5:00pm** **On-site Registration and Check in**
- 7:00pm** **Opening Worship**– Rev. Yolanda Norton
Sponsored by: **Fellowship for Black Clergywomen**

Tuesday, March 10th

- 8:30am** **On-Site Registration and Check in**
- 9:00am** **Preston Taylor Institute**
CE Course I: Rev. Yolanda Norton
- 10:30am** Break
- 10:45am** **Bold Preaching that Grows Churches**– Rev. Dr. Stacy Spencer
- 12:00pm** Lunch
Meal is on your own
- 2:00pm** **Day #1 (Select 1 workshop option at this time)**
- Workshop 1:** Re-imagining and Remembering Christian Education and Spiritual Development– Rev. Chesla Nickelson
- Workshop 2:** Helping Preachers find their Preaching Model Voice– Rev. Larrin Robertson
- Workshop 3:** Bi– Vocational Ministry- “Sign of the Times: The Way We’ve Always Done Ministry” - Rev. Kris Bentley
- Workshop 4:** Selah Circles: Being Whole While Doing Ministry– Rev. Shannon Dycus and Rev. Lee Ivey III

- 5:15pm** Free Time, Enjoy the City!

Wednesday, March 11th

- 9:00am** **Preston Taylor Institute**
CE Course II: Rev. Yolanda Norton
- 10:30 am** Break

Retreat Schedule *(continued)*

10:45am **Bold Preaching that Grows Churches–** Rev. Dr. Stacy Spencer

12:00pm Lunch
Meal is on your own

2:00pm **Day #2 (Select 1 workshop option at this time)**

Workshop 1: Re-imagining and Remembering Christian Education and Spiritual Development– Rev. Chesla Nickelson

Workshop 2: Helping Preachers find their Preaching Model Voice– Rev. Larrin Robertson

Workshop 3: Bi– Vocational Ministry- “Sign of the Times: The Way We’ve Always Done Ministry” - Rev. Kris Bentley

5:15pm Free Time

7:00pm **Evening Worship Service–**
Rev. R. Janae Pitts-Murdock

Thursday, March 12th

10:00am **Morning Praise and Worship–**
Communion & Benediction

11:00am **** Optional**** Tour Historic Greenwood Cemetery and visit to 3 HBCUs (Tennessee State University, Fisk University and Meharry Medical College) Lunch and Transportation will be provided by Greenwood.

3:00pm Arrive back to the retreat location/ Retreat Ends

Blessings & safe travels home!

My ROAD TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS MEANS I Can Plan For My Future

“ So much of my work as a pastor is about planning for the church and securing the church’s future. I had to slow down and work on the resources that God was laying out for my future. As pastors, we give and give to others; that it begs the question of who gives to us? I’m in the middle of my vocation as a pastor and it’s time to increase my budget and plan for retirement. I thought I had all the time in the world. As I mentor new clergy coming into ministry I have learned alongside them how to better plan for the future. ”

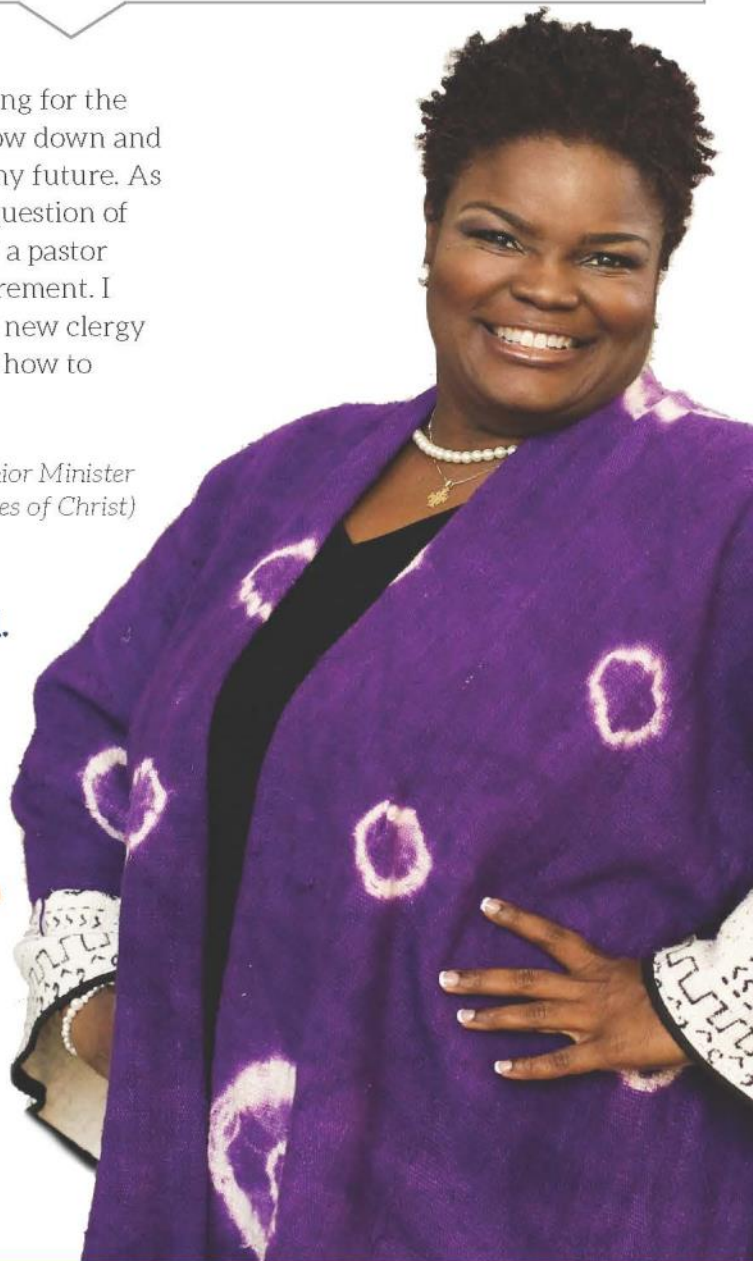
Virzola Law, *Senior Minister*
Northway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Please join our presentation on Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. or stop by our booth!

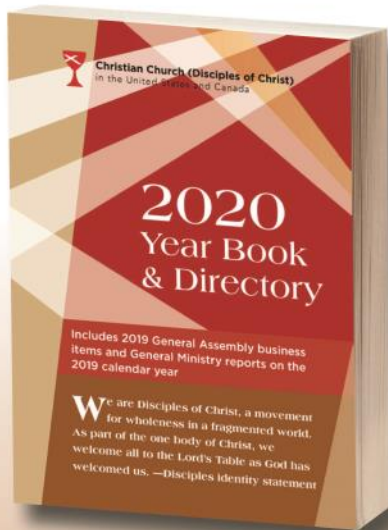
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KEEP UP YOUR DISCIPLES CONNECTION

(and your 501c3 nonprofit status)

Submitting a year book form online between
JANUARY and MARCH 15, 2020.

- Reminder postcard with PIN number was sent January
- Go to disciples.org/yearbook to fill out the form before March 15
- Order your copy of the year book by May 15 for delivery in the summer



What could be easier? Disciples Mission Fund enables congregations and individuals to channel resources simply – to be shared across the life of the Church. Your ongoing core support of DMF ensures your region and general ministries have consistent income.



Special day offerings are supplements directed to specific ministries at Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For more information, go to
disciplesmissionfund.org

To change supply orders for special day offering materials, e-mail supplies@disciples.org

STAY CONNECTED!

- **SUBSCRIBE** to Disciples News Service weekly e-letters at disciples.org/dns
- **ORGANIZE** an identity study with materials on disciples.org/our-identity
- **INCLUDE** Disciples Mission Fund in your congregation's budget



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Disciples Exchange
(program ideas/resources)



Follow us @DisciplesNews

SAVE THE DATE

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 31–AUGUST 4 Louisville, KY



Join the whole Church
in Louisville, KY for the
2021 General Assembly

Black Ministers Retreat Recap 2019– Nashville, TN



2020 EXPERIENCE IT'S REAL!

REV. 7:9-17

July 22 - 25, 2020

You are invited!

To participate in this historic gathering where the National Convocation, Obra Hispana, and NAPAD Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will celebrate their biennial sessions together.

Our Preachers



Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes, III
Wednesday, July 22nd



Rev. Xose Escamilla
Thursday, July 23rd



Rev. Sandhya Jha
Saturday, July 25th

Bible Lecture



Rev. Dr. Frank A. Thomas
Thursday, July 23rd



Rev. Dr. Samuel Pagán
Friday, July 24th

REGISTER NOW!

2020ITSREAL.COM

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY | FORT WORTH, TX

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Evening Worship

Order of Worship (Wednesday Evening Only)

Announcements	Rev. Dr. William L. Lee
Musical Prelude	Musician/Choir
Call to Worship/Invocation	Worship Leader (or Appointee)
Praise with Music	Musician/Choir
Scripture	Worship Leader (or Appointee)
Pastoral Prayer	Worship Leader (or Appointee)
Offering	Worship Leader (or Appointee)
Introduction of Preacher	Worship Leader
Praise with Music	Musician/Choir
Sermon	Preacher for the Evening
Altar Call/Invitation	Preacher/Worship Leader
Special Recognitions	Appointee/Dr. William L. Lee
Communion	Appointees (Wednesday night only)
Benediction	Worship Leader

(Worship Leader may appoint others to assist him or her.)

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"LTS has provided me with the Biblical knowledge, Spiritual disposition, and the hands-on practical skills for pastoral leadership."

– Foster Frimpong, M.Div. student



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- D.Min., Certificate, M.Div., and MTS - online!



DHM ministries work together to strengthen and develop partnerships, support congregational transformation, resource leadership development, sustain faith formation, provide mission opportunities and advocate for justice, fairness, and equality.



The goal of congregational transformation is to transform 1,000 congregations by the year 2020 to realize the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The above number will be updated at the first of each month.



Evangelism resources helps your congregation spread the message.

What Disciples Believe

Marks of a vital, healthy church

Which evangelism tool is right for your congregation?



Visit our booth at BMR to find other ministry resources



Be sure to check out all of our ministries at www.discipleshomemissions.org



Preacher



Rev. R. Janae Pitts- Murdock

Interim Senior Pastor, Light of the World Christian Church
PhD Candidate African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric
Christian Theological Seminary
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. R. Janae Pitts-Murdock, a native of Detroit, Michigan, and ordained into the gospel ministry at New Bethel Baptist Church under Rev. Robert Smith, Jr., is a lover of God and God's people. She travels the nation inspiring people to live their best lives. Rev. Janae is a lifelong learner who believes that excellence honors God, and for her, anything less is unacceptable.

Rev. Janae is a graduate of the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies, Carnegie Mellon University with a Master of Science degree in Public Policy & Management, United Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree, and University of Memphis with a Master of Business Administration. Rev. Janae has been featured in The African American Pulpit, a quarterly journal that served as a repository for the very best of African American preaching and provides practical and creative resources for persons in ministry. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and served as Chaplain of the Southern Region which includes Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and the Bahamas. She is the sorority's Collegiate Connection Coordinator for the state of Arkansas.

Rev. Janae served in the U.S. Department of the Army as a U.S. Presidential Management Intern and later as a Logistics Management Specialist. She was employed at The Pentagon during the September 11, 2001 attacks. While grateful to have been on assignment and away from The Pentagon on that day, Rev. Janae mourns with those who lost loved ones. Rev. Janae served as Lead Pastor at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Memphis, TN under Pastor Frank A. Thomas. While at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Rev. Janae charismatically led transformation focused ministries into new models of ministry and spearheaded the church's satellite campus launch. After Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Rev. Janae was employed by the City of Memphis as the Coordinator of Teen Services for the Memphis Public Library and Information Center where she was responsible for teen programming at 18 public library locations. In this role, she spearheaded the \$2 million construction and development of a digital teen learning lab, CLOUD901, transforming Memphis youth from information consumers to information creators.

Rev. Janae resides in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She is a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary. She is united in holy matrimony to the one she calls, "God's embodiment of divine love," Jeffrey Allen Murdock, PhD, who is Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education and Associate Director of Choral Studies at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Murdock is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Together they have three children – Jasmine (age 16), Jeffrey III (age 7) and John Patrick (age 5).

Presenter



Rev. Dr. Stacy L. Spencer

Senior Pastor, New Direction Christian Church
Memphis, TN

Bold Preaching that Grows Churches (Tuesday and Wednesday) @ 10:00am

Dr. Stacy L. Spencer is the Senior Pastor of New Direction Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, a multi-site congregation with church plants in Collierville, TN and Idutywa, South Africa. The Olmstead, KY, native is a dynamic speaker, visionary and author. His energetic and culturally relevant messages address the spiritual growth of the individual and issues in society. He has a passion to teach Kingdom living- to equip people with biblical guidelines and practical resources that can transform their lives and the world. Dr. Spencer's Kingdom mindset led to the development of Eden Square Town Center; a multi-million- dollar community model intended to reinvigorate an area of Memphis that is considered a food desert. The mixed -use development project includes a middle school, performing arts center, wellness center, retail spaces and housing. In 2018, Dr. Spencer also wrote "U-Turn: A 12 Step Guide to Spiritual Transformation" to help people experience a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with Jesus.

Dr. Spencer is chairman of the board of directors for Power Center Community Development Corporation. The independent non-profit launched Power Center Academy, a charter school that celebrated the May 2015 high school graduation of its inaugural class of 6th graders. He earned a Doctor of Divinity from Drew University, a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelors in Broadcast Communication from Western Kentucky University. He and Rhonda Spencer are the proud parents of four sons, Calvin, Omari, Jordan and Jaden.

Your giving through Disciples Mission Fund supports this ministry

Continuing Education



Rev. Yolanda M. Norton

Assistant Professor of Old Testament

H. Eugene Farlough Chair of Black Church Studies

PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University

Preston Taylor Institute

Tuesday, March 10th and Wednesday, March 11th- 9:00am- 10:00am

Rev. Yolanda M. Norton is the Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and H. Eugene Farlough Chair of Black Church Studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Professor Norton is a womanist scholar who has published for *Working Preacher*, *The Interpretation Journal*, *I Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader*, *Global Perspectives in the Old Testament*, and Liturgical Press' new feminist commentary on the Psalms (Books 2-3).

Prior to her position at SFTS, Rev. Norton was a Visiting Instructor at Moravian Theological Seminary and adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary. In addition to courses on the book of Ruth, Beyoncé and the Hebrew Bible, and Methods of Exegesis courses, she has interests in experiential and contextual learning. She has led a number of trips to Israel/Palestine for various seminaries, focusing on social and political issues alongside experiencing the social material world of ancient Israel through archaeology.

She is ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergy who has deep commitments to the church, having served in various ministerial capacities in the Washington, D.C. area and Nashville, TN. She also preaches and teaches across the country in a range of diverse ecclesial contexts. She is the creator/curator of the Beyoncé Mass, and has been featured in *Essence*, *Ebony*, *the New York Times*, and a host of other print and media platforms for her creative worship design and innovative preaching.

2020 Black Minister's Retreat
Congratulations and thank you! YOU have helped start

1000



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Workshop Leaders



Rev. Chesla T. Nickelson

Program Director, Disciples Women and Merger Staff
Indianapolis, IN

Reimagining and Re-membering Christian Education and Spiritual Development

God gave us sexuality and it is good. We were created as whole beings; mind, and soul in the image of God. This workshop will discuss the possibilities of integrating Comprehensive Sexuality Education as an essential aspect of Christian Education and Spiritual Development.



Rev. Larrin Robertson

Senior Pastor, Word for Life Church Ministries
Fort Washington, MD

What is Your Preaching Model/Method?

“I followed the voice you gave to me but now I’ve got to find my own,” sang Beyoncé in the movie, “Dream Girls.” Every preacher needs to find her/his preaching model, method or voice. The danger for many preachers is that we might be following the model, method or voice that someone gave to us. Many have not taking the time to identify their model, method or voice. This workshop is designed to help each participant to declare like Beyoncé, I got to find my own.

Additionally, the Rev. Larrin Robertson, Ph.D. Candidate (African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric) Christian Theological Seminary will offer tools and aids on how to be a more effective preacher once you have found your model, your method, your voice.



Rev. Kristen P. Bentley

Project Director, Conversations on Stewardship & Finances
Lexington Theological Seminary
Lexington, KY

Bi-vocational Ministry Workshop

While there is biblical and theological support for bi-vocational ministry, research at Lexington Theological Seminary indicates that bi-vocational ministers face challenges and often sense their ministry is understood as a “lesser than” ministry which is often called “full-time.” At Lexington Theological Seminary, there is a recognition of the need in many congregations for ministers who hold another job and we have conducted research to understand their experiences.

This workshop focuses on what we are learning through the research project regarding bi-vocational ministry at Lexington Theological Seminary. It would highlight findings of a web survey of Disciples ministers in Kentucky (40% of respondents were bi-vocational) and themes emerging from interviews conducted with 13 solo bi-vocational pastors and 20 lay leaders of congregations with bi-vocational pastors. The workshop would also draw attention to three interpretive narratives regarding bi-vocational ministry, that it is a “**sign of the times,**” the “**way we’ve always done ministry,**” or the “**cutting edge of the future.**”



Rev. Lee B. Ivey III, MDiv, MA,
CMHC
Resident Therapist, Christian
Theological Seminary
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Shannon Dycus
Dean of Students at Eastern Mennonite
University
Harrisonburg, VA



Selah Circles: Being Whole While Doing Ministry

Through small group conversations filled with authenticity and grace, this workshop invites clergy and leaders to be reflective of their own spirit, experience, and relationship with God. With guided spiritual and therapeutic prompts, Rev. Shannon Dycus and Rev. Lee Ivey will create space for listening deeply, imagining healing, and moving toward a modality of self-care that might enable a healthier human and minister.



National **Benevolent** Association
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

We are grateful to be with you at the 2020 Black Ministers Retreat!

We have more than 30 hours of webinar resources such as Creating Safe Boundaries for Congregations Serving Those with Mental Health Issues!

Learn more at nbacares.org



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PRACTICE

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Assistant Professor in Black
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& MORAL MARCH on WASHINGTON**
poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020



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disciplesjustice.net

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djan.net/support.htm



SAVE the DATE

March 8-11, 2021

47th Annual Black Ministers Retreat

Location TBA
Columbia, SC

Join us in 2021 for more fun, fellowship, memorable preaching,
and education relevant to your life and ministry.

www.discipleshomemissions.org/black-ministers-retreat



Thank you to our volunteers & partners in ministry

Embassy Suites by Hilton, Nashville Airport

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Disciples Mission Fund

Office of the General Minister and President,
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Lexington Theological Seminary

Greenwood Cemetery

National Benevolent Association

National Convocation of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Week of Compassion

Fellowship for Black Clergywomen

Global Ministries

Disciples Church Extension Fund/ New Church
Ministry

Disciples Justice Action Network

Black Disciples Endowment Fund

Black Ministers Retreat 2020 Design Team



Rev. Dr. William L. Lee

Director, Black Ministers Retreat

540-314-3265 or rev.wlee@gmail.com



Marissa Ivey Chiles

Ministry Associate

Disciples Home Missions

317-713-2641 or Mivey@dhm.disciples.org



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