

*Disciples Women Connected as One: Disciples Women offered mission and service opportunities in the exhibit hall at GA2017. Women of the US and Canada were invited to contribute items to 'blessing bag' health kits for immigrants and refugees locally and working with Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries. 290 completed health kits have been shipped to Texas with an additional 2 moving boxes of large size products to deliver locally. As always the response from Disciples Women when invited into mission opportunities was outstanding. Additionally, 'blessing blankets' were provided for the children being served by these ministries. Some of these quilts provided the opportunity to "tie a knot and say a prayer" to complete.*

*Visitors were invited to write a prayer on ribbons to 'break the chains' that were then tied into chain links. These prayers were to combat human trafficking and to break the chains of fear for vulnerable immigrant families.*

*Disciples Women, and a few men, gathered as one on Monday evening after worship for an ice cream aftersession. Laughing, singing, and a little dancing were part of the celebration of being together. Hundreds of pictures were taken at the photo booth with groups gathering by regions, events, missions, and learning opportunities. This reunion time, sponsored by regional women's ministries, provided the chance for women to reconnect.*

*514 women attended the Disciples Women's luncheon on Wednesday to celebrate women in leadership including historical leaders like Rev. Lori Tapia, the first woman national Hispanic pastor; Rev Terri Hord-Owens, the first African American GMP; and a special celebration of Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, the first woman GMP and leader of a mainline denomination. The Herstory tree that is the symbol of the interconnectedness of women was introduced as a reminder that we are joined as one across time,*

*geography, and situation and together we make each other stronger. Nancy Cordova-Molina shared songs about immigrants and human trafficking. Sharon's ministry was celebrated with a special thanksgiving for her twelve years as GMP. Sharon shared her thoughts on her ministry and women in leadership. Together, Disciples Women in the United States and Canada honored Sharon with love and appreciation.*

*The volunteers who support DWM make it all possible...special thanks to all who shared of themselves.*