



Rev. Sheila P. Spencer – Merger Staff

Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation

Greetings to the National Convocation Board:

This report shares some of the resources, connections, work and travel that has been connected to the African American Disciples community.

Resources include: Coordinating resources for Advent and Lent, contracted writer for Week of the Laity, Juneteenth, Kwanzaa and African American History Resources. Promotion of African American Disciples Who Make a Difference. Updating resources on Elders and leadership.

Black Leadership Project Grant: Encourage congregations and community to apply for the Black Disciples Endowment Fund. Grants awarded this year included funding for community day projects, mentoring programs for youth and young adult, leadership training. This grant funds experiences that have direct connections and impact on African American – Disciples community. This year there were over 35 applicants.

2019 Recipients include

- Seniors Project - Program to nurture new leaders as while providing assistance to elderly community in South Carolina.
- Inaugural Mixed Methods Preaching Conference - In partnership with African American Preaching Program.
- IMBUED - Leadership Development and Faith Formation training experience hosted by Wildewood Christian Church and open to African American Disciples congregations in Oklahoma.
- Selah Circles - Offering Spiritual Direction and conversation work with African Americans. American lay and Clergy Disciples

Travel/Correspondence/Connections:.

Birmingham, Alabama - Samuel Proctor Clergy and Lay Leadership Summit that addressed areas of concern that affect the African American Community – Met with Disciples Ministers

Indianapolis, IN – Preached at Light of the World Christian Church

Oklahoma City, OK – IMBUED Leadership Experience -This will be a experience hosted by Wildewood Christian Church and will include participants for African American Churches in the Oklahoma Region. Leadership training will be taking place Fri- Sat. I will be preaching on Sunday.

Birmingham, Alabama - Samuel Proctor Clergy and Lay Leadership Summit that addressed areas of concern that affect the African American Community – Met with Disciples Ministers

Los Angeles – Connected with members from PSWR African American Churches (Faith Christian Church, Abundant Life, 105th Street, McCarty Memorial and United)

Rabat, Morocco – Conducted workshop on Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Self Care to African pastors/leaders at Seminary in Morocco. Invited to preach the following Sunday at local church in Morocco.

General Assembly – Worked with Education/Workshop Experience

- Elders Workshop – Shared resources that were used during Elders Workshop offered by LIT

Indianapolis, In – Mixed Methods Preaching Conference

Newport News, VA – Christian Unity Gathering – Christian Education/Faith Formation Convening Table Grateful to be asked to do the closing prayer at The Emancipation Oak in Hampton,VA. It is over 400 years old and bore witness to what is believed to be the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in the South. Being in that place literally connects me with my ancestors



Phone/Consultations include:

- Los Angeles - – Faith Christian Church – Consultations on Leadership Projects for Grant Proposals.
- Oklahoma City, OK - Wildewood Christian Church – Consultation on idea for leadership experience and training opportunity resources.
- Tulsa, OK – Consultation with author– Educational resources for Advent proposals – consultation with educational resources.
- Lexington, KY – Consultation– discussing literacy program and afterschool program.
- Indianapolis, IN – Consultation with Tonya Reynolds, discussing mentoring and resources for young women.
- Chicago, IL – Met with Mentee Minister Na’Keya Haslett to discuss seminary options. Connected with Rev Dr Stephanie Crowder to connect her with Minister Haslett.

2020 Experience: Currently I am serving on the Education Experience Team with representatives from NAPAD and Obra Hispana. The team includes myself, Rev Hector Hernandez and Rev. Tom Yang. Workshop applications are online and close on December 6th.

Workshops will be offered on Thursday and Friday.

Thursday 2:00 – 3:20 and 3:40 – 5:00

Friday 2:00 – 3:30

There will be two workshop options for Thursday.

- The first option will be workshop sessions that will have Part 1 and Part 2, that will be last for a total of three hours. In this format, the first part will feature topic by the presenters.

The Second Part will feature a panel with representatives of NAPAD, Obra Hispana and National Convocation that will contextualize the topic discussing practical strategies and examples of the topic. This time will conclude with at least 15 min. for Q&A.

- The second option will be the opportunity to attend two different workshops for an hour and a half. If there are any questions related to workshops, please send the questions to ItsReal@disciples.org

The goal will be to have all of the workshops available at the beginning of January. There will be a Pre-Event that will be planned and hosted by Young Adult representatives from Convocation, Obra Hispana and NAPAD.

This year will also be an unforgettable year because I was ordained. My father, Rev. Perry Spencer, Sr preached my ordination.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,
Rev. Sheila P. Spencer