

National Convocation
Executive Meeting
March 20-22, 2019
Merger Staff Report
Rev. Chesla T. Nickelson, Disciples Women Program Director

1. How many black churches, pastors, laity have you reached since August of 2018?
 - a. Churches - 4
 - b. Pastors – approximately 80*
 - c. Laity – 65*

**These numbers are an approximation based on who I have had intentional and individual contact or conversations with during this time frame.*

2. What impact has your ministry had on the Black Church (National Convocation) since August of 2018?
 - a. One of the biggest impacts that I have seen is relationships developed as a result of the Leadership Apprentice Program. A number of women have grown and begun to understand they are an important part of a larger Disciples faith community than they previously realized. These women are now more engaged in the different expressions of the church, think about their gifts more broadly, have an expanded view of God and how they can work together with God, church and community to live into their calls.
 - b. As a result of exposure and opportunity through *Just Women*, more Black Disciples women have been published and read.
 - c. I continue the tradition of my position, helping to create and to strengthen relationships among individual African American Disciples and between African American Disciples and the ministries of the whole church, particularly introducing and encouraging the use of all the church's resources such as scholarships and grants.

3. What are your goals for impacting the Black Church for the remainder of 2019?
 - a. Before the end of 2019, I would like to do at least two workshops on Sexuality and Faith with black churches or groups of black disciples.
 - b. I would like to participate in the upcoming fellowship and convention meetings this summer.
 - c. I would like to increase the number of Black Disciples who are aware of and who take advantage of all the Disciples related resources.

4. In what ways can the Board assist you?
 - a. I would love to work with the African American constituents of Disciples more often. It would be helpful if the board promoted merger staff more and invited us to participate in or speak at your various congregations, church groups or regional meetings and events.