



November 17, 2020

This past August we held orientation/onboarding of new officers and board members. There was a sense of excitement and energy even in the midst of a life-altering pandemic. We are fortunate to once again have a slate of officers with a variety of gifts, skills, professional, and ministerial expertise.

During the onboarding I shared a key element in my overall vision as President, for the National Convocation. A vision that began with the question, “what does the National Convocation have to say about the Black Lives Matter movement?”

This question arises from an understanding of the National Convocation’s mandate to *strengthen leaders for the empowerment of the African American church* as a primary focus of our ministry together. There is no doubt that before we can strengthen leaders, we must be able to identify and articulate need. So, the question becomes, where do African American Disciples congregations and leaders need empowerment and strengthening? And toward what end? One end that comes to mind is to disrupt and dismantle white supremacy culture in the church and larger society. White supremacy culture is the air we breathe. And, it is antithetical to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and a barrier to the flourishing of many African American Disciples congregations.

It is therefore my vision, for the National Convocation to work in collaboration with the new Administrative Secretary/Associate General Minister to identify within our congregations, and among church leaders, how we might empower them to disrupt and dismantle white supremacy culture. Specifically, what do congregational leaders need by way of support and training in order to grow in an understanding of the Black Lives Matter Movement and its implications for the African American Disciples Church in order to disrupt and dismantle the sin of white supremacy.

By God’s grace,  
Rev. Dr. Irie Lynne Session, President  
National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)