

National Convocation Board Meeting
Disciples Women
Merger Staff Report
December 5-7, 2019
Rev. Chesla T. Nickelson

Just Women

The 2020 issue, “Healing and Wholeness” is well on its way to final draft. Please remember to buy and remind your networks to purchase. DWM is considering purchasing extra copies to be sold at the major Disciples Women’s events coming up in 2020 and The 2020 Experience. We are currently discerning how to move forward in the most relevant, effective and cost efficient way with *Just Women*.

On the Road and in the streets

Since our last meeting I have been involved in various retreats, workshops, ordinations, seminars and conferences. I have been present as a representative, teacher, facilitator and speaker. From the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to the Black Women and HIV Awareness event (a Disciples Women Endowment Fund and Black Leadership Project Grant recipient), I have learned a great deal and broadened the network of Disciples Women and Black Disciples collaborators. A few highlights are below and you can refer to the Joint Merger Staff Contact and Activity Report for additional Convocation specific activities.

Sarah Lue Bostick Tour: To celebrate Disciples Women’s 145th Birthday and share the impact of Sarah Lue Bostick, I donned a costume, created an accent and portrayed Sarah Lue Bostic for several gatherings throughout the year.

Black Women and HIV Awareness: Had the opportunity to speak about how the church, specifically the Black Church can be part of the solution to the rise in HIV contraction among Black Women.

Dynamic Difference: I was able to visit two Disciples churches led by Black Disciples that are doing ministry differently. The Gathering in Dallas, TX and Tapestry Church in Oakland, CA have ministries that meet people where they are and help people see their own worth in the realm of God’s love. They are teaching people there as many way to be church and to be Christian as there are people.

Ordinations – It was a joy to affirm and celebrate the ordinations of Larry Morris, III (Pacific Southwest Region), Marilyn Williams (North Carolina Region) and Sheila Spencer (Indiana Region).

Lets Talk About Sex : Along with Toni Bond (Ph.D student at Claremont Theological Seminary) and Daphne Gascot Arias (PhD student and Pastor of Downey Memorial Christian Church), co-facilitated an

Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice intensive workshop at Sister Song's biannual Lets Talk About Sex Conference that focused titled, "Liberating Bodily Autonomy & Sexual Pleasure within Religious Canonical Text."

Leader Apprentice Program

This year I have been working with a woman from Tennessee who initially wanted to do a LAP this year. Now, it is scheduled for February 2020. The contact has been diligent in researching and is now ready to put it all in action.

Wisdom of Women

The video creation has been much more difficult and much more time consuming than I ever thought. We have learned from our mistakes and have contacted with a young professional who is a member of Light of the World to edit and compile the video footage.

Newsletter

#DWConnect is now our quarterly newsletter sent through constant contact. It is also posted on the Disciples Women website and across social media. This allows us to share information and stay connected.

Woman to Woman Worldwide 2020

The 2020 Woman to Woman Worldwide journey will be heading to Southern Asia October 24-November 7, 2020. Applications are open and can be found at www.discipleswomen.org

Sabbatical

I will be on sabbatical March 13 – June 13, 2020. For four weeks I will be attending Spanish Language School in Barcelona, with the help of the Black Leadership Project Grant and the Disciples Women Endowment Fund.. I am still seeking more funds to cover the remainder of the cost and be sure I have enough for incidentals while abroad.