

Rev. Monique Crain Spells
Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation – Merger Staff

Ministry Description

The Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation Ministries is a Merger staff position with Disciples Home Missions and the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC). Promoting the vitality of Black Disciples, the Director is responsible for the development and implementation of educational ministries which nurture and support the Christian Education and Faith Formation ministries of congregations and regions.

Impact

Over the last year, our office has been actively resourcing congregations and regions with tools to bring understanding, ease, and effectiveness into our changed landscape of ministry. In 2022, those tools were the following:

- Week of Laity Resource: Unforeseen Glory, A Journey with Simon of Cyrene
- Moral Meditations from Birmingham Jail with MLK Jr.
- Black History Month Resource: Recalling Our Roots
- Lenten Devotional: Who Do You Say that I Am?
- Deskside Guides: Time Management in Teaching, Romans 12 Hospitality Map, 'Bee' Disciples in the World, and Tabs on the Spirit
- Juneteenth VBS Resource: Forward Toward Freedom
- Spiritual Formation and Fatigue Workshop/Downloadable Presentation
- "Communal Faith Formation for Today": A Virtual Panel of Practitioner & Scholars
- \$25k in Black Leadership Project Grants/Time to Hear: A Wisdom Series
- Kwanzaa and Week of Laity Resources to be released next week

Collaboration

It has been a joy to partner with writers across five regions (IL-WI, IN, TN, VA, and the Upper Midwest), seminary faculty (Chicago Theological Seminary, Christian Theological Seminary, Vanderbilt Divinity School, and Lexington Theological Seminary), National Convocation, and Global Ministries' staff (East Asian Office) in developing resources for our church.

Opportunities

In traveling to regional assemblies, I had the opportunity to share more about our ministries and teach from the narrative "Drink of One Spirit." This traveling workshop facilitated centering God so intentionally that we may speak truths, honor differences, and reach our communities at the point of their needs. I will facilitate "Drink of One Spirit" over two days at the Ohio Region Clergy Retreat next month.

Upcoming

In November, I began the first of a handful of interviews with our sages. Over a few hours, I interviewed Rev. Brenda Cardwell and Dr. Delores Carpenter about their lives in ministry. The plan is to interview at least three more members of our NCCC village and by April, release the series of stories to the church. "A Time to Hear: Wisdom Among Us" is a deliberate effort to restore our ancestral practice of recording history and learning from it.