



December 2018

To the President and Executive Board of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

2018 YEAR END REVIEW

It has been an exciting year for the Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen. Our focus has been fun and inspired fellowship throughout this year.

In the spring, we participated in the Black Ministers Retreat. We hosted a Pop-Up reception for the purpose of welcoming our sister and brother clergy to the retreat in Virginia. We were glad to greet and embrace travelers from around the country who came to the retreat for education and inspiration.

This summer, we were excited to convene at the Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Birmingham, AL. On Saturday morning, we hosted the first clergy women's breakfast. It was a sold-out event and very well attended. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Yolanda Norton, preacher and Hebrew Bible scholar out of California. She was made popular in social media when she led in the organizing of the Beyonce' Mass. We also had other clergy women to offer gifts of prayer, Spoken Word, and Rev. April Johnson along with Rev. Whitney Ijanaten facilitated a conversation modeling for us how to get to know others over a cup of tea. The breakfast was hearty, the laughs were many, the connections were deepened, and we all left encouraged. It was an absolutely incredible experience to witness sisters of the Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen in leadership, in preaching, and in teaching throughout the National Convocation.

At the National Convocation, we also elected officers for the 2018-2020 term:

President – Rev. Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew [MO]

Vice President – Rev. Cherisna Jean-Marie [WV]

Secretary – Rev. Whitney Ijanaten [CA]

Treasurer – Rev. Kelli X [TN]

We plan to close this year with a month of Advent prayers led by the fellowship officers via Conference Calls on Saturday mornings.

As we look forward to 2019, we anticipate another great year for the fellowship. We hope to continue to strengthen our communication and advocacy on behalf of clergywomen, continue our ongoing conversations to publish in partnership with Chalice Press, and we are already in the midst of planning our gathering at the 2019 Black Ministers Retreat as well as a gathering at the 2019 General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa.

The leadership of the Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen is excited and we continue anticipate the ways in which we can fully live into the vision that God has given to us.

VISION

The Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen is a sisterhood for networking, advocacy, prayer, and fellowship. Every activity, event, and resource will be guided by these principles. To this end, we have committed to setting our agenda to reflect these priorities.

We believe that, with your help, promotion, prayers, collaboration, and the leading of the Spirit, we can and we will do all and be all that GOD is calling for us to do and to be!

Humbly Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Delesslyn A. Kennebrew, J.D., M.Div.,
President, Fellowship of Black Disciple Clergywomen