



December 2019

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

2019 YEAR END REVIEW

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

In the spring, we hosted the opening event of the Black Ministers Retreat. In keeping with the theme, *BE BOLD,* we hosted *A Bold Conversation* with a panel of intergenerational clergywomen. The panelists included: Rev. Dr. Renita Weems, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Rev. Rae Karim, and Rev. Whitney Ijanaten. The panel was facilitated by Rev. Dr. Delesslyn Kennebrew who initiated and received questions from the audience. The panelists shared their unique perspectives on what it means to be a bold clergywoman, called of God and leading in today's churches and communities. They spoke of the challenges and the pitfalls, the breakthroughs and the continuous need for mentorship. They reminded all of us that we still need to BE BOLD in the ways we live out God's call on our lives. We closed the moment in worship and prayer led by Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings. This event was well attended and very well received. We were glad to host this bold conversation as a kickoff to the Black Ministers Retreat.

This summer, many clergywomen were in attendance at the General Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa. Though we were unable to convene a formal gathering, we were excited to see black clergywomen leading in different ways throughout the General Assembly from preaching to workshop facilitators to hosting booths of various ministries, and beyond.

We plan to close this year with a month of Advent reflections and prayers led by clergywomen who are serving as Chaplains or Chaplains in training from across the country. These webinars/video chats will be hosted on Saturday mornings, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.

As we look forward to 2020, 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 the opening worship service at the 2020 Black Ministers Retreat in Nashville, TN as well as a breakfast gathering at the 2020 "It's Real!" Joint Convocation in Dallas/Fort Worth, TX.

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