



## Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen Report

The Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen (FBDCW) was established in 2014 at the 23rd Biennial Session of the National Convocation in Columbus, OH. It is a network of African American ordained ministers, non-ordained ministers and seminarians of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our mission is *Commitment to excellence in ministry, connection, encouragement, and mentoring*. The Fellowship Vision is to **Discover** who we are as a collective of black women in ministry, **Mobilize** our network of Disciples sisters across North America, and **Resource** one another with tools of wisdom and care.

The Fellowship's elected officers through March 2022 are listed below:

- Rev. Monique Crain Spells (Fort Worth, TX), *President*
- Belinda King (Fisher, IN), *Vice President*
- Rev. Kelli Beatrice X (Nashville, TN), *Secretary*
- Rev. Paula Pettis-Garrett (Indianapolis, IN), *Treasurer*

We have had a year full of intentional care and conversation about our needs and aspirations. In virtual gatherings ranging from 12-28 participants, the Fellowship has exercised wisdom sharing and celebration as its best practices.

### Summary of 2021 Experiences

- Hour of Power: National Convocation Fifth Sunday (January 31)
- DHM Black Leadership Grant: Sawubona Boxes & An Evening w/Author Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes (December 17, February 11, March 18)
- Collective Capacity Meeting (May 24)
- Fall Meeting: Rev. Marilyn Fiddmont, VP of CCF & Discovery Survey #2 (Oct 28)

It is important we express gratitude for the DHM Black Leadership grant. The funds were used to provide deeply meaningful resources that have already strengthened our ministries. *Too Heavy A Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength* affirmed us and gave voice to the generations of women who came before us. From November to March, we read and reflected on womanhood apart from being *StrongBlackWomen*. An evening with its author, Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes was richly insightful! We received messages and Facebook posts from across the country of clergywomen blessed by the Sawubona care boxes and books. In all, forty women received care boxes and twenty-six women engaged the book discussion with Dr. Walker-Barnes.

### Upcoming Efforts

- The Conductor Awards: A Virtual Celebration of Black Disciples SHE-roism (March)
- Fellowship of Black Disciples Clergywomen Care Fund – March 2022
- Election of Officers – April 2022