

The Report of the National Convocation Advisory Committee
December 2021

Rev. Yvonne Gilmore was called to serve as the Interim Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation to administer the work of the National Convocation and to assist and lead the National Convocation and the Office of the General Minister and President with the interim work of discernment and reimagination beginning on December 1, 2020. The advisory committee has walked alongside her as she facilitates ongoing assessment, strategic planning and evaluation in collaboration and vital service to clarify mission, revise and align administrative and organizational processes, and critically strengthen the National Convocation, the National Christian Missionary Convention, the Black Disciples Endowment Fund, Greenwood Cemetery, Disciples Home Mission, Disciples Women, and the Office of the General Minister and President.

Rev. Gilmore has provided daily oversight, pastoral and spiritual leadership in times of celebration and crisis, energizing presence and wisdom, and offered counsel and advocacy to advance the operational possibilities of the National Convocation and the everyday formation of the whole church. She moved swiftly and successfully to adapt and create meaningful online programs and new places of access and connection for the National Convocation to worshipfully work to discern together during the pandemic and to build fruitful relationships to connect our historic conventions and fellowship groups, many of whom had not been engaged in some time, with the present work of the National Convocation. Consistent with her plan, she has surveyed the whole church and invited partners from every generation and background as well as ecumenical partners to participate in the life of the National Convocation as it shapes the future during this interim period. Her efforts to enhance the operational processes of the National Convocation, and her work in collaboration with the interim president of DHM and the President of Disciples Women to clarify and enhance support for merger staff roles have been comprehensive and decisive. In collaboration with the executives from Obra Hispana and NAPAD, she is working diligently in the service of the next biennial session and the complexities of planning during these challenging times.

We have met with her on a regular basis throughout her deep dive into the history of the National Convocation and the current processes and relationships that shape its work. She submitted a self-evaluation and participated in an executive evaluation with leadership from the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, the National Convocation, Rev. Dr. Irie Session, and the Advisory Committee, Rev. Dr. Don Gillett. Rev. Gilmore has served faithfully with compassion and excellence over the last year, and exceeded our expectations. We commend her transformative leadership and look forward to continuing to support and work with her.

Rev. Dr. Don Gillett, Rev. Dr. William Lee, Jennifer Graves, Paula Holliday
Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, Rev. Antonio Redd, Rev. Dr. Christal Williams,
Dwayne Bell