

# SELAH 2.0



## ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY END OF YEAR REPORT



**AL NW FL  
Preachers & Presenters**

It is with immense joy that I submit this report on the week that I celebrate one year of the announcement that I was being called as the new Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Even though I am 77 days from celebrating one full year in this position, I am proud to report that 2023 has been an energizing year for us.



**Past & Present  
Administrative Secretaries &  
Associate General Ministers**

### *Greetings!*

To the President of the National Convocation Board of Trustees, Rev. Dr. William Crowder, Jr., to the Board of the National Convocation, to all who make up this great Convocation and to our allies and friends:



**Executive Leadership School  
General Ministry Leaders**

I began this ministry with every intention to focus on getting acquainted. I have prioritized showing up to introduce and reintroduce the National Convocation to the historic fellowships, conventions, and assemblies that have been gathering for over 100 years. I will always cherish that my very first invitation to attend a gathering came from Rev. Dr. Dale Braxton and the Alabama – Northwest Florida Convocation.



I have also showed up to support our constituency presenting, leading, and serving at the IC3 Conference where Dr. Cynthia Hale leads the board and Rev. R. Janae Pitts Murdock serves on the board. The disciples' presence was loud and clear through the sermons of Rev. Murdock and Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner, and I facilitated a workshop on ministry innovation at IC3. I also briefly attended the Hampton University Ministers Conference, also led by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, before traveling to visit the students of the Certificate of African American Ministry at Lexington Theological Seminary under the direction of Rev. Dr. Bill Lee.

When I have been in Indianapolis for OGMP staff meetings, I have also preached at Light of the World Christian Church (Pastor R. Janae Pitts Murdock), visited New Revelation Christian Church (Pastor Richard Reynolds), attended a film screening at Amazing Grace Christian Church (Pastor Preston Adams), and had several opportunities to meet with leaders who represent the National Convocation in a variety of ministries in the life of the church. Actually, throughout my travels, if there is a Convocation church in the area, I have been intentional about popping up to worship and show our support.



In July, the National Convocation had a strong and impactful presence at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Louisville, KY. We hosted the most inviting booth in the Exhibit Hall, worshipped in the most exhilarating way during our sold-out Worshipful Renaissance Fellowship Dinner on Sunday evening, and I shared my first General Assembly report that was well received to the only standing ovation during the business session in response to a General Ministry report. In that report, I informed the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of these words:



ROOT CAUSE COLLECTIVE



College of Regional Ministers



I am glad to report that we are positioned to prepare ourselves to take off again! We will be flying at an altitude of excellence, at the speed of momentum and grace, and with the determination of a people who still sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us and who still sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

So, at this time, make sure your seat backs are in their full upright position, your knees are ready to be bent as we seek God for this next direction and that your tables are inviting to all for the holy meal consumption that will give us strength for the flight ahead.”

I continued by sharing the invitation I extend everywhere I travel throughout the National Convocation -

“I have been sharing my heart’s desire for all of us to Walk in the Light. **Walk in the Light through Adoration** by loving God and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

**Walk in the Light through Education** by learning, unlearning, relearning ways of being the church so that we are relevant, sustainable, and impactful.

**Walk in the Light through intentional acts of Liberation** – paying attention to the issues, priorities, and concerns of the black constituency of the Convocation locally and globally.”

**Walk in the Light through Innovation** – discovering new ways to do ministry, empower people, and transform lives.

In addition to showing up around the National Convocation, I have also represented the National Convocation at many different tables around the Church including: Disciples Home Missions Board, College of Regional Ministry, General Commission on Ministry, Reconciliation Ministry Board, General Minister and President Cabinet, Moderator Team, Administrative Committee, and the General Board. It has been a tremendous learning curve, one that I have embraced and given myself the grace to get acclimated to all that is expected as I engage the conversations happening at these tables.



As I look forward to 2024, I will continue to build relationships around the National Convocation and beyond. Disciples Overseas Ministries will be guiding a people to people trip for a few of the National Convocation leaders to Ghana. We want to travel to learn and I want to go to dream of a way we can become more intentional about initiating and nurturing relationships with our siblings in Africa and amongst the diaspora throughout the United States and Canada. I attended the Conference of National Black Churches in Orlando, FL in order to begin to expand our ecumenical relationships with historically black denominations. This organization exists to serve as a social justice collaboration and it has successfully led nationwide campaigns in partnership with the Center for Disease Control distributing millions through its channels to support public health initiatives impacting black people.

Lastly, **WE BELONG TOGETHER!** This is the theme for the 2024 Biennial Session gathering of the National Convocation in Greensboro, NC! I anticipate that we will welcome 1000 people to the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel for worship, fellowship, education, and fun! We will become the premiere church and family event that offers something for all ages!



I conclude this report as I concluded my report to the General Assembly –

“We are (still) preparing for takeoff and when we do, we will embrace the truth that eyes have not seen, ears have not heard and neither has it entered into the heart of any person what the Lord has in store! To God be the Glory!”

Gratefully Submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Delessyn A. Kennebrew, J.D., M.Div.  
Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*Keep In Touch:*



## Dates to Remember:

### MARCH 2023

- 3/1 – The Journey Begins...
- 3/4 – Administrative Committee Online
- 3/7- General Board Planning Session Online
- 3/14-16 – Black Ministers Retreat – Birmingham, AL
- 3/30 – Moderator Team Online
- 3/31 – DHM Staff Search Interview Online

### APRIL

- 4/11- Imagine Interview with GMP Terri Hord Owens
- 4/13-19 – Administrative Committee, General Board, College of Regional Ministers
- 4/25-27 – IC3, Issachar Conference – Workshop Facilitator – Houston, TX

### MAY

- 5/2 – OGMP Cabinet Meeting
- 5/11-12 – OGMP Staff Retreat – Indianapolis, IN
- 5/19 – Disciples Peace Fellowship – Peace Interns Online
- 5/21- Preach at Northway CC – Pastor Virzola Law – Dallas, TX
- 5/21-23 – NBA BIPOC Retreat – Orlando, FL

### JUNE

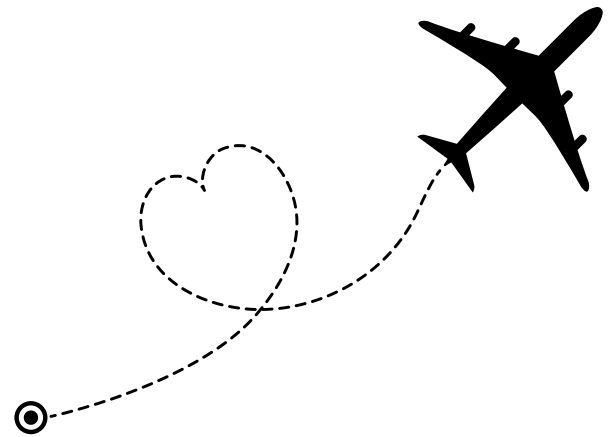
- 6/4-5 – Hampton University Ministers Conference – Hampton, VA
- 6/6-7 – CAAM, Certificate for African American Ministry Intensive Visit – Lexington Theological Seminary – Lexington, KY
- 6/10 – Greenwood Cemetery Board Meeting Online
- 6/15-17 – Visit Hotel for 2024 Biennial Session – Greensboro, NC
- 6/17-19 – Bishop William Barber Retirement Celebration Service – Goldsboro, NC
- 6/23-25 – Preach and Present at the Alabama Northwest Florida Convocation – Letohatchee, AL

### JULY

- 7/2 – Preach at Light of the World CC – Pastor R. Janae Pitts Murdock – Indianapolis, IN
- 7/2-4 – UCC General Synod – Attended Outgoing GMP Reception and Vote for new GMP – Indianapolis, IN
- 7/1-8 – COGIC AIM Convention – Indianapolis, IN
- 7/8 – Pastor Clarence and Priscilla Bolden Pastor's Appreciation Brunch – Indianapolis, IN
- 7/12-14 – Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship, Remarks – Fort Worth, TX
- 7/14-16 – Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention, Banquet Speaker – Paris and Mt. Sterling, KY
- 7/20-22 – Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention, Pre-Assembly Workshop Facilitator – Mosspoint, MS
- 7/27-8/1 – General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Louisville, KY

### AUGUST

- 8/2 – National Convocation Board Meeting – Louisville, KY
- 8/3-4 – Piedmont District Convention, Remarks – Martinsville, VA



## Dates to Remember:

### SEPTEMBER

- 9/6-9 – Moderator Retreat – Portland, OR
- 9/11 – MOKAN Pastors Lunch to Celebrate Retirement of Pastor Warrick Graves – Overland Park, KS
- 9/18-20 – DOC Executive Leadership School – Indianapolis, IN
- 9/22 – Black Disciples Endowment Fund Meeting
- 9/24-26 – OGMP Cabinet Retreat – Oak Brook, IL
- 9/29-30 – South Carolina Regional Assembly, Facilitate Ministers Workshop and Banquet Speaker – Varnville, SC

### OCTOBER

- 10/3 – Preach Revival, Mt Pleasant CCDOC – Greensboro, NC
- 10/8 – Worship Leader at New Vision CCDOC – Kansas City, MO
- 10/12-14 – North Carolina Regional Assembly, Remarks – Barton College – Wilson, NC
- 10/22 – Preach at New Vision CCDOC – Kansas City, MO
- 10/25-27 – New Church Leadership Academy, Closing Commissioning Service Prayer – Kansas City, MO
- 10/27 – Guest Remarks at Obra Hispana Board Meeting – Kansas City, MO
- 10/27-28 – Administrative Committee Meeting
- 10/29 – Ohio Convocation Songfest, Remarks – Xenia, OH

### NOVEMBER

- 11/4 – Racial Justice Summit, Greater Kansas City Region – Kansas City, MO
- 11/5 – Preach at Powershift CCDOC – Kansas City, MO
- 11/10-11 – PSWR African American Convocation, Preacher and Plenary Session Speaker – Los Angeles, CA
- 11/16-19 – NBA Black Women Leadership Experience Retreat, Discernment Small Group Co-Facilitator – Washington, D.C.
- 11/28-29 – Tri-Lateral Partnership (CCDOC, UCC, United Church of Canada) Meeting – Cleveland, OH

### DECEMBER

- 12/4-6 – College of Regional Ministers Retreat, Church Narrative Project Storyteller – Biloxi, MS
- 12/7-8 – DHM Board Meeting Online
- 12/8 – Pastor Warrick Graves Retirement Celebration, Remarks – Overland Park, KS
- 12/10-11 – Greenwood Cemetery Board Meeting – Nashville, TN
- 12/12-14 – Conference of National Black Churches – Orlando, FL
- 12-13 – BDEF Grant Application Review Meeting
- 12/15 – NCCC Board Meeting

### MONTHLY/ONGOING

- NCCC Executive Team Meeting
- NCCC Advisory Council Meeting
- College of Regional Ministers
- African American DOC Leaders Prayer Call
- General Commission on Ministry Meeting – TPFOM and Support Subcommittees
- Chalice Media Group – Christian Board of Publication – Secretary
- DHM Black Leadership Grants Committee
- \*\*Does NOT include One on One meetings and other essential functions

