

Disciples Women Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Angèle Saunders Johnson, Executive Director

**Report to National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Board December 2021**

Due to the vacant Disciples Women (DW) Program Director (merger staff) position, I am submitting the following report to National Convocation:

I began serving as the Executive Director of Disciples Women Ministries (DWM) on August 16th and have been able both assess the current state of DWM as well as meet with various heads of ministries across the denomination. Initial assessment of DWM operations revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic along with staff resignations caused various disruptions in the life of the ministry. However, my on-boarding and the use technology mitigated this issue by affording DWM opportunities to reengage operationally through virtual presence at various events and connect with various leaders across the denomination.

To that end, I have been able to connect with Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, Interim Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation. I assured her that DWM will continue to be available to tangibly support the efforts of National Convocation and its women. Furthermore, she and I will be working to evaluate the necessary skillsets needed to successfully fill the DW Program Director position so that the needs of both National Convocation and DWM are met. It is my estimation that search for this position can begin by the second quarter of 2022.

As I continue to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of DWM while also strategizing around how to grow the ministry stronger, I have come to understand that DWM needs to be reimagined to attract the next generation of Disciples Women. While we honor the past for the foundation laid by our predecessors, we also look forward to being transformed into an impactful ministry that speaks to the needs of women coming forth both now and in the future. Though programmatic development and cultural shifting, it is my aim to ensure that the voices of all Disciples Women are reflected in the work of this of this ministry.

I look forward to partnering with the National Convocation and its administrative leaders in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Angèle Saunders Johnson

Executive Director, Disciples Women Ministries