Selah: Forum for Issues in the Black Church, Volume 1, 1986

John Richard Foulkes Sr.

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Hi!

My name is John Richard Foulkes. I have just been called to the position of Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I am both excited and awed by the opportunity for ministry that this new calling brings me. Let me share just a few thoughts on how I intend to address this challenge.

First, I need to share a few things about myself. I didn't know that my first name was John until I graduated from elementary school and was not called by my first name until I entered professional life. It was Richard who was nurtured in a loving family learning the values that undergird my present identity; values that I will not compromise.

John prepared himself and practiced that identity in several areas of professional life. The practice added to and polished the values but didn't change them. John Richard is a combination of both the values and the practice. I am committed to my call to pastoral ministry and servant leadership. The pastoral ministry applies to the whole church as I function as the Associate General Minister and to the Black church as I function as the Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation.

As Associate General Minister, I will serve the whole church as a member of the General Minister and President's (John O. Humbert's) team. I will serve as corporate secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention, Disciples of Christ, Inc., a member of the General Cabinet, co-chairperson of the Task Force on Black and Hispanic Concerns, chairperson of the General Committee on Reconciliation, Affirmative Action Office for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and other ministries as representative of the General Minister and President.

As Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation, I will serve the Black church which can be seen as an enormous congregation. The members of that congregation are all of Black America with specific focus on those Black Americans who are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). That congregation has:

- A board, the National Convocation Board of Trustees
- A cabinet, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees
- Committees, defined organizations in the Black church
- Elders, those who have historically carried the burden
Let's Talk

We need to talk to each other on a regular basis about issues that concern us. The mass media will let us know what is happening around us. We need to know how these issues effect us and what we should do as a result of it.

SELAH will be a monthly publication from the office of the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I will serve as editor for SELAH. It will contain information and comments on issues in the Black church from all of the partners in the journey. If you have something to share, comment on an issue important to the Black church or insight into the Black church's journey, please send your statement to my office. I will edit and publish those statements that are essential to the Black church's empowerment.

John R. Foulkes
Associate General Minister
and Administrative Secretary
P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis
Indiana 46206

What's Selah?

The Psalms have always been one of the favorite books of the Bible. Readers have found within their verses profound statements that have equipped them for life's journey.

As the Psalms are read, the word "Selah" often interrupts the flow of the Psalms. That pause caused by the "Selah" forces the reader to do a double take on what was being read. "Selah" has done its job. "Selah" is a Hebrew word used in music to show where the cymbals should be played. Imagine the Psalms being sung when all of a sudden the clash of a cymbal interrupts the even flow of the music. The clash would startle the listener and place a giant exclamation mark at that point in the music.

Our Christian journey can be compared to a Psalms. Sometimes smooth and melodious, sometimes not so smooth. SELAH is intended to be an interruption to that journey's flow forming our issues of concern or celebration that will enhance that journey.

Disciples Set South Africa Agenda

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is responding to the political crises in South Africa with a prayer, education and action agenda for the churches during 1986.

The 4200 Disciples congregations in the United States and Canada will be asked to join other Protestant and Catholics in a June 15 Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace and Justice in South Africa.

A letter describing the observance will be mailed to all congregations along with a proposed litany for the day which may be ordered free in quantity.

At the same time congregations will be offered an Information Packet, providing materials for in-depth study of the apartheid regime and its relationship with sovereign southern African nation states.
Meanwhile, hundreds of Disciples will join in the Spring-Summer legislative campaign to strengthen the economic sanctions against South Africa already in place as a result of President Reagan's executive order.

Disciples also will express their concern over proposed legislation that would provide arms to a rebel Angolan faction backed by South Africa.

Another ongoing effort of the Disciples and other Protestant and Catholic churches is the 15 year old campaign to urge American corporations to publicly work to end apartheid or immediately withdraw from South Africa.

Coordinated by the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, the campaign will ask church members to send post cards to IBM, Burroughs and Control Data. ICCR claims that the three computer companies have supported the apartheid system and also have enabled South Africa to develop nuclear weapons. Printed post cards are available for church members wishing to participate in the campaign.

The June 15 Day of Prayer, legislative action and the corporate post card campaign are a part of the stepped up effort of the churches to aid the majority black population. The new sense of urgency emerged in early December 1985 when world Christian leaders met with South African church leaders in Harare, Zimbabwe. On January 14, 1986 American delegates to the Harare meeting reported their findings to the U.S. Christian Community at a meeting held at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C. Information about any of the Disciples South Africa programs can be obtained by writing: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Department of Africa, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 USA.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE NINTH BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION
AUGUST 5-8, 1986

Please complete the following section and return with your registration form. (Make note of your workshop choices).

Name__________________________
Address_________________________

I. Continuous Workshops (6 hours).
Please indicate your first and second choices.

  ___ Empowering the People to Lead
      (Deloris Carpenter, Anthony Carpenter and Loma Mae Chalfant).
  ___ Evangelism in the Black Context
      (Alvin Jackson, Bill Sims and Magdalene Shelton)
  ___ Church Administration
      (John Compton)
  ___ Eldership and the Diaconate
      (Oscar Haynes, Effie Burford and Peter Morgan)
  ___ Christian Education
      (Ruth Hobbs, Timothy James and Ed Parrish III)
  ___ Understanding the Church's Mission
      (John Foulkes, Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes and William Nottingham)
  ___ Peace with Justice and the Black Church
      (Deborah Thompson, Robert Steffer and Julia Brown)
  ___ Strengthen the Black Family
      (Louise Evans)
  ___ How to Start a Service Program in Your Church
      (Araminta Smith)

II. Personal Growth Workshops
(2 hours)
(Do not select any of these if you checked one above.)
These are offered as an alternative to the continuous workshops listed above. Please choose three (3). You will be assigned which day to attend the workshops you've chosen during check-in in St. Louis.

- Who are the Disciples
  (Paul Sims)
- Strengthening Prayer Life Through the Bible as a Resource
  (Cynthia Hale)
- The Black Church in the Year 2000
  (Julia Brogdon and Raymond E. Brown)
- Effective Leadership of Clergy in the Congregation
  (LaTaunya Bynum, Ozark Range and Howard Goodrich)
- Politics and The Black Church
  (Gerald Cunningham)
- Women In The Church
  (Janice Newborn, Ann Facen and Wayne Steward)
- Personal Stewardship
  (Lorenzo Evans)
- Human Sexuality For Youth: Male/Female Relationships
  (Jeanette White and Sam Hylton)
- Young Christians in The 80's
  (Ruby Henry)
- Role of Youth in Equipping The Church for Action
  (Titus James)

We've Got An Offer You Can't Refuse

All of the events of the 9th Biennial Session will be at the Clarion Hotel in downtown St. Louis. The Clarion Hotel is rated as a "superior first-class convention hotel." We have an unbelievable rate on rooms—single from $63 to $78. We have 300 rooms reserved at $49!! We will send you a reservation form when we receive your registration form.
12th Annual Black Ministers' Retreat

One hundred forty Black ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met in Memphis, Tennessee, at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, March 4-6 to struggle with the issues relating to “Decisions on Pastoral Tenure” - If God has called you to a ministry, how do you handle the stress in order to stay? The ministers wrestled with this critical issue in small group discussions and were challenged by the findings of the 1985 Division of Homeland Ministries, Division of Higher Education, and Jarvis Christian College research on the Black Disciples church and inspired by Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. (Chicago, IL), Raymond L. Brown (Cincinnati, OH), Deloris A. Turner (Indianapolis, IN), and Issac J. Gourdine, Jr. (Summerville, NC).

The Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL, delivered two powerful messages, “Renewed Strength” and the “Power of Pain.” “You have come to the ministers’ retreat to pull away and let your bucket drop deep in the well for spiritual renewal,” Wright told the group. Explaining that ministers are a “strange breed,” he said that most pastors cannot share with others their doubts or problems but feel they must keep up a front. The sad thing is that most of the time they are absolutely correct in that assumption, he said. He recounted his empathy for a minister friend who recently confided in him that he was spiritually and physically exhausted. He admonished the group that his friend and they alike were falling into the trap of taking care of everybody and everything else and cheating themselves of an important resource that would give them the self-renewal of the eagle. The eagle has no way of self-renewing strength, explained Wright. The secret of his ability to soar is in the jet stream. “When we spend time with the Lord, we get that renewal of strength. We are entering into the jet stream. The wind is the holy spirit. The eagle in the jet stream is almost being still and letting God carry it where he wants. We need to do that. Just be still and stop flapping and fighting,” he said.

Wright also alluded to the conflict that can occur between a pastor and congregation, and he told the group that there is a power that comes from pain. “There is a power that comes from participating in pain that only God gives,” he said. Sometimes the pain can come from the troubles being caused by those close around you, such as your family, board members, elders and deacons, said Wright. “But” is God’s devine conjunction, according to Wright. When you see it, it means to slow down because God is on the scene working, he said. In the 23rd Psalms there is a vision in the beginning verse and victory in the last verse, but there is a valley between, he said. If a minister gives up in the valley, he will miss the victory at the end, Wright explained.

Another speaker, the Rev. Raymond L. Brown, pastor of Fifth Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, talked about hope. He

Continued on next page
addressed a special point to the women ministers who met in a pre-retreat session. Brown said he doesn't see how the men could let a hope like that of full participation of women ministers pass by because "God knows we can use all of the help we can get."

There are troubles all around us, the Rev. Deloris A. Turner, Indiana associate regional minister, Indianapolis, told the group. There is work to be done and there is trouble when the harvest is plenty and the workers are not able to work. "God would not call us into the ministry when there are no jobs. God does not play games," she said.

Ministers must trust in the Lord when following his calling at a congregation, said the Rev. Issac J. Gourdine, Jr., Summerville, SC, moderator of the South Carolina Missionary Convention.

1985 STUDY OF THE BLACK CHURCH

During the retreat, a special presentation was given by Dr. Irving Allen, Sr., Houston, Texas, on the profile of the black ministers, the black congregations and facilities research project. The research came in response to an issue raised in the 1985 Columbus, Ohio, retreat on the lack of blacks entering the ministry. The research was sponsored by the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministry and Higher Education in cooperation with Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas.

The typical black Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister is a married man over 48 years old with two or more dependents and a salary package of less than $15,000, according to a report profiling the black ministers, congregations and facilities.

Other findings from the research project show that the typical full-time ordained black minister has additional non-ministerial employment from which he earns less than $15,000 annually, has been in the ministry for 21 years or more and has been at his present congregation for either less than three years or more than 20 years.

At the time of the survey in 1985, 25 percent of the ministers were within 10 years of retirement. More than 25 percent were at the retirement age or beyond.

Most black Disciples congregations do not provide a parsonage for the minister. The typical worship facility for the congregation is a multi-purpose building 60 to 85 years old, according to the report.

Fifty-nine percent of the congregations are located in the inner-city and 68 percent of them originated through local efforts. Sixty-eight percent send reports to the Year Book and Directory annually and 61 percent participate in general church programs.

The report made eight recommendations at the conclusion of the report, including: arrange a general consultation to review previously-developed strategies cited in the study and develop new alternatives; initiate a process to review the Decalogue for Kingdom Progress, an earlier listing of 10 priorities outlined by a Committee on Program and Structure; adoption of a 1966 training and recruitment program designed by the Rev. Kenneth E. Henry, Decatur, GA, professor at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; commission two or more black evangelists to work in the denomination's regions; conduct listening conferences to provide better communication and suggestions for regional and general planning; assess formally the problems of black women in the ministry; develop a public relations campaign to improve the image of the minister and ministry as a vocation; and

Continued on next page
Workshops For The Ninth Biennial Session of The National Convocation
August 5-8, 1986

I. Continuous Workshops (6 hours).
Please indicate your first and second choices.

Empowering The People To Lead Evangelism in the Black Context
Church Administration
Eldership and the Diaconate
Christian Education
Understanding the Church's Mission
Peace with Justice and the Black Church
Strengthen the Black Family
How to Start a Service Program in Your Church

II. Personal Growth Workshops (2 hours).
These are offered as an alternative to the continuous workshops listed above.
Please choose three (3). You will be assigned which day to attend the workshops you've chosen during check-in in St. Louis.

Who Are the Disciples?
Strengthening Prayer Life Through The Bible As a Resource
The Black Church in the Year 2000
Effective Leadership in Clergy in the Congregation
Politics and the Black Church
Women in the Church
Personal Stewardship
Human Sexuality for Youth: Male/Female Relationships
Young Christians in the 80's
Role of Youth in Equipping the Church for Action

Please complete the following section and return with your registration form.
(Make note of your workshop choices.)

Name

Address
# REGISTRATION

**NINTH BIENNIAL SESSION**

**NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

**ST. LOUIS, MO AUGUST 5-8, 1986**

*(Please use separate form for each person including children)*

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Activities for pre-schoolers will be provided for a fee. 
No. of Pre-school you are bringing ___________

**REGISTRATION CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ATTACHED FOR:**

- Program Registration Fee $ ______
- Star Supporter Fund $ ______
- UPDATE Newsletter $ ______
- Special Support Gift $ ______
- Donation for Benevolent Fund for Ministers (via Pension Fund) $ ______

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** $ ______

*NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15, 1986*

*Return with check or money order to:*

National Convocation, Box 1986, Indpls., IN 46206
plan other means for practical and specialized training, such as a school of evangelism, department of evangelism and church development and an institute for evangelistic training of laypersons or clergy.

June 15, a Day of Prayer For South Africa

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is responding to the political crises in South Africa with a prayer, education and action agenda for the churches during 1986.

The 4200 Disciples congregations in the United States and Canada will be asked to join other Protestant and Catholics in a June 15 Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace and Justice in South Africa.

The June 15 Day of Prayer, legislative action and the corporate post card campaign are a part of the stepped up effort of the churches to aid the majority black population. The new sense of urgency emerged in early December 1985 when world Christian leaders met with South African church leaders in Harare, Zimbabwe. On January 14, 1986, American delegates to the Harare meeting reported their findings to the U.S. Christian Community at a meeting held at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

Information about any of the Disciples South Africa programs can be obtained by writing: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Department of Africa; P.O. Box 1986; Indianapolis, IN 46206 USA.

Executive Search

A search began March 18 for a new president for the financial office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The search committee, chaired by Richard Hendricks, Sunnyvale, CA, began its work when the Rev. Arthur M. Detamore, Indianapolis, announced his December 31 retirement as president of the Disciples' Church Finance Council.

The committee will develop a list of qualifications for the new executive for the unit which is charged with raising money to fund the world work of the church through Basic Mission Finance, special offerings, Reconciliation and Week of Compassion and with carrying out stewardship education.

"At the moment, the only criterion is the nominees or applicants must be members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)," said Hendricks. "The council is an equal employment opportunity organization."

The committee is soliciting suggested personal attributes and skills required for the position as well as the rationale for each, Hendricks added.

Deadline for receiving nominations or applications is June 30, with nominations to be accompanied by written permission for submitting their names. The committee expects to submit a candidate's name to the council board when it meets November 17-18.

All information must be mailed to the Rev. John Weston, CFC Personnel Committee Secretary; c/o First Christian Church; 6165 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22044.

We've Got An Offer You Can't Refuse!

All events of the Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation will be held at the Clarion Hotel in downtown St. Louis. The Clarion Hotel is rated as a "superior first-class convention hotel." We have an unbelievable rate on rooms—single from $63 to $78. We have 300 rooms reserved at $49!! You will receive your room reservation form after sending in your registration.
Meal Events - Ninth Biennial Session

Ministers' Fellowship Breakfast--$9.00
(Thursday, August 7, 1986, 7:00 a.m.)

CWF and Ministers' Wives Luncheon--$12.00
(Thursday, August 7, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)

Jarvis Christian College Luncheon--$12.50
(Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)

Youth Luncheon--$5.00
(Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)

All Convocation Banquet--$16.00
(Friday, August 8, 1986, 6:30 p.m.)

Easter Offering

Did your congregation send an Easter offering to Church Finance Council?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is calling its people to new beginnings and new ministries. The call is in the form of a financial thrust to raise $25 million in Basic Mission Finance (BMF) giving by the end of 1988. The four Special Days - Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas - have accepted a $5 million share of the BMF goal.

Your donation is essential to help the church continue its on-going ministries and to support the new challenges of our day.

Dare to be Disciples - make your gift a generous one!
The United States should be spending more on social and educational matters instead of military defense, according to civil rights activist Yolanda King, Atlanta, GA. The daughter of the late Martin Luther King, Jr. recently spoke at the Christian Youth Fellowship Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana about issues they must deal with as young people.

She told the young people that the U.S. has placed its priorities in the wrong order. King said that while this country spends billions of dollars on defense, "we still don't feel safe and in the meantime our society suffers." If the Reagan administration has its way, she said, by the end of 1986 the Pentagon will be spending nearly one billion dollars a day which translates into $41 million an hour or $700,000 a minute on defense.

King said that because Americans spend so much time plotting how to destroy life instead of improving it, terrorists are going all over the world to kill Americans and that Americans are killing each other in their neighborhoods as well. "Because of our emphasis on war, we are allowing students to graduate from colleges in this country without being able to read, write or think clearly," said King. The emphasis on defense occurs in both Republican and Democratic administrations, she said. When President Jimmy Carter was in office roughly $22 billion was spent on education and $158.7 billion was spent on defense.

In the richest nation in the world, King said the gap between the poor and rich is growing steadily. In the last four years the number of people living below the poverty level in the U.S. increased by six million. Her father's last campaign was to bring together the poor to demand the right to work and earn a decent salary and to make the poor a priority of this government, she said.

Studies show that one billion dollars spent on education would create 62,000 jobs for people or 48,000 jobs in the health care industry. The same amount spent on missiles and defense would create 14,000 jobs. The money spent on the B-1 bomber program will create 125,000 jobs compared to one million public service jobs, paying a minimum of $20,000 a year. One-half million dollars would be left to administer the program, according to King. "America's arms build up is causing incredible, long-term damage to our economy and seriously weakening our social fabric. We are losing jobs, health care and education. All are suffering from America's misplaced militarism," said King.

King said the non-violent methods of her father still are needed. In the world community, she said the violence in South Africa is the "last groans of dying system." King is active in demonstrations and boycotts against South Africa in efforts to make a peaceful change in that country. She recently was arrested for protesting outside a supermarket carrying South Africa goods.
Bombing of Libya Condemned

The heads of two major North American churches, one based in Indianapolis, have condemned the bombing of Libya by the United States April 14, calling that action "morally questionable and fundamentally imprudent." In a statement released April 16, the Rev. John O. Humbert, Indianapolis, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Rev. Avery D. Post, New York City, president of the United Church of Christ, said: "The Reagan administration's decision to launch a military assault on Libya represents a response to terrorism that we find both morally questionable and fundamentally imprudent. It involves the United States in a cycle of violence that will undoubtedly entail the shedding of more blood. It assumes that the only effective response to terror is more terror.

As Christians, that is a proposition we cannot accept. If the administration felt that it had a strong case against Libya as a propagator of terrorism, it should have presented that case before the World Court and the United Nations. By appropriating to itself the role of prosecutor, judge and executioner, the United States has abdicated the high ground of morality and, to the distress of many of our allies, added our own link to the seemingly endless chain of unrequited violence that has plagued the Middle East. We ought to be addressing the underlining regional issues that give terrorists increased visibility and in some quarters undeserved respectability. Regrettably, the U.S. government thus far has lacked the courage to make the difficult diplomatic decision that might lead to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"As Christians, we bear a large measure of responsibility for our government's preference for military solutions to negotiated ones, whether in the Middle East or Central America. For that we should repent, and our repentence should lead to a renewed commitment to the option for life as opposed to politics of death." The Disciples and United Church of Christ share a joint Middle East office in their overseas ministries. The two churches also are engaged in joint mission, theological work and worship as a step toward union.

Racism On The Rise

The shift in the social direction of America over the past 20 years has resulted in the rise of extreme right-wing groups which are practicing genocidal racism, according to the Rev. Mac Charles Jones, Kansas City. Jones, a board member of the Center for Democratic Renewal, formerly the National Anti-Klan Network, spoke about the struggle against racially-motivated violence. The first step to combat this trend is to recognize the abrupt shift taken by the United States to the right. "It's as if it (the U.S.) was lifted and placed to the right. It was not a subtle shift but a dramatic, earthquake shift," said Jones. One of the prime examples of the shift is that former Sen. Barry Goldwater now is considered a moderate and former vice-president Walter Mondale is considered a liberal. Mondale does not approach the stance of liberals Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern while Goldwater won elections on the basis of being an ultra-conservative, he said.

The struggle in the U.S. to maintain just communities for all people and yet maintain white male supremacy is imbedded in the constitution, said Jones. "It has inclusive language with exclusive undertones, so they built this country with ideals at war," said Jones. The climate created in the country today cannot be blamed on the Reagan administration, said Jones. The country has been moving toward the right since the days of Nixon, he added. "Now, folks are not talking about institutional racism, they are talking about elimination," said Jones. American election speeches by right-wing conservatives now characterized by codes for racism such as "busing," "affirmative action" and the "solution for urban cities," he said.

Survivalists groups, such as the Neo-Nazis and Aryan Nation, rise because the U.S. has never dealt with institutional racism. A second reason for the growth of these groups is the economic crises, according to Jones. These groups have formed their
Funding For Southern Africa Of WCC's Program To Combat Racism

The overseas arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will decide in June whether it will fund a special designated segment for Southern Africa of the World Council of Churches' Program to Combat Racism. A theological and ethical rationale for funding the special Southern Africa projects will be presented to the Disciples' Division of Overseas ministries board when it meets June 19-21 in Indianapolis, IN. The rationale will be developed by Africa executive the Rev. Dan C. Hoffman of Indianapolis and board members yet-to-be named.

The proposal to fund the program will be shared with other interested units of the church for their suggestions and response. The funding question was raised by Hoffman in the board's March 12-15 meeting in Indianapolis. The proposal comes on the heels of appeals from church leaders around the world to support financially "South African movements working for the liberation of their country."

To date, North American Disciples have not contributed to the special designated fund for Southern Africa. In 1973, they contributed $10,000 to help start the Program to Combat Racism. The highly-controversial program does not fund revolution but money from the special designated fund has gone to revolutionary groups in Southern Africa to care for refugees, provide medicines, education for children, and other social service projects.

Racism from Page 2

own church group, the Christian Identity Church, which links them all together. Jones warned that these extremist groups should not be confused with right-wing advocates, such as the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Falwell and others are about reform and want to return to the "good old days of blacks with blacks and whites with whites." They are conservative in action but not revolutionary, he said.

"These other groups are revolutionary and even Reagan is their enemy," said Jones. "Their main precept is that God experimented until he made the perfect Aryan race and that all non-whites are mistakes which must be eliminated," he said. "You cannot deal with the revolutionary right who are out to overthrow the government. They have stolen millions of dollars from the bank to fund their movements. They are computerized and nationally hooked up. They are armed. I do not know how many armories they have broken into that have gone unreported," said Jones. "To combat this extremist move, the community must become educated so people can recognize it when it appears, said Jones. It also is not enough to fight against these groups but constructive alternatives must be given to the people," he said.

Congress Applauded

The chief executive of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) March 24 applauded Congress for turning down President Reagan's request for $100 million in military aid for Nicaraguan rebels. The Rev. John O. Humbert, Indianapolis, Disciples' general minister and president, said approval of $100 million in aid for the counter-revolutionary forces in Nicaragua would have encouraged the civil war in that Central American country but would not address the real crisis there—that of poverty. Humbert suggested that the $100 million would be better spent on projects alleviating the poverty of the people.

"Our church's role is not to encourage or support war," he said. Instead, he said, North American Disciples must be Good Samaritans with "compassion for our badly-beaten Central American brothers and sisters, binding up their wounds, and seeing to their shelter and care," he said. Humbert cited Disciples' General Assembly support in 1983 for negotiated settlement of the complex issue and sought strengthened representative government which honors human rights, human dignity and self-determination.
Church Action For Safe And Just Communities Seminar Held

The churches can be part of the solution to crime in the community, said an Indianapolis, IN, judge who addressed the Church Action for Safe and Just Communities seminar meeting here April 18-20. Judge Webster L. Brewer and Maureen Prevost, an Indianapolis counselor and social worker, fielded questions concerning crime committed by blacks against blacks at the program sponsored by the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The church can offer more programs to youth to build self-esteem and bolster their learning experience. "I am appalled that the average church is dark 90 percent of the week," Brewer told the group of consultants in criminal justice. With most children coming from households with mothers working, he suggested that the hours between 3 and 5 p.m. could be put to use by the churches to tutor children and teach them about their heritage. "If a child does not learn to read by third grade, it is hard to catch up. By seventh grade, he may become a truant," said Brewer. The churches also could do more in ministry to prisoners and their families, he said. Prevost said that blacks have begun to believe their own bad press and something must be done to raise black self-esteem. "We need one another and cannot let what is happening divide us. We cannot let the systems such as welfare put a wedge between us," she said. They both stressed that caring in the family is the first step to preventing youth from turning to crime. Also community involvement is important in the development of black youth. Emma Motton, Carruthersville, noted that a lack of community support is evident in today's society. Black persons will call the police about black children for minor offenses instead of calling their parents, she added.

Brewer stimulated a heated discussion when he asked if black mothers are teaching their sons the right ideals in dealing with women. The Rev. Samuel R. Griffin, Saginaw, MI, said that when a young man gets in the streets with his peers, all of his mother's teachings go out the window. Those teachings come back when life catches up to him, he said. "I am a firm believer that we, as a people, would have been wiped out completely if not for black women," he said. The Rev. Graylan S. Ellis-Hagler, Roxbury, MA, said there is a "self-destructive script of machoism" that is taught to young black men. L.C. Dorsey, Washington, DC, said many success stories are not heard. Black mothers are blamed for problems, but many are raising children alone and doing a good job, she said. Judge Brewer said that the basic problem leading black crime against blacks is alienation and the solution is self-love.

CWF Quadrennial

Some 5,000 women will meet at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, June 23-27, 1986, to witness and worship. The Eighth Christian Women's Fellowship Quadrennial Assembly will center on the Theme "Because we bear the Name...". Each member of CWF is invited to become a part of this inspirational gathering. Be sure you have made your reservation.
Jarvis To Receive Funds For Covenant Retreat

The Disciples' Division of Higher Education set aside $53,675 for two projects related to black ministry and history and $5,700 for seven campus ministry projects ranging from a special learning-ministry program to seminars in theology for black students. Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, will receive $30,000 for a "covenant retreat" for black ministers and lay leaders of the church. The retreat for 100 participants, scheduled July 7-11, will include workshops and seminars on the mission of the church, homiletics (preaching), congregational organization, church music and family life.

Association of Disciples Musicians

Marthetta McMickle, a member of the Park Manor Christian Church in Chicago, is the representative to the Association of Disciples Musicians. Mrs. McMickle has been asking Black musicians to participate in the meetings but our participation has been declining instead of increasing.

Black Church music is unique and a gift to the whole church. Let's take advantage of all the opportunities we have to let our gifts be known.

The National Workshop of the Association of Disciples Musicians will meet this year at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, July 27 to August 1.

We've Got An Offer You Can't Refuse

All of the events of the 9th Biennial Session will be at the Clarion Hotel in downtown St. Louis. The Clarion Hotel is rated as a "superior first-class convention hotel." We have an unbelievable rate on rooms—single from $63 to $78. We have 300 rooms reserved at $49! We will send you a reservation form when we receive your registration form.

Pentecost Special Day Offering

"Called to Live in the Spirit" The Church has long been recognized as the vessel that carries the faithful through all life's conditions. The Pentecost Special Day offering highlights the church's involvement in establishing new congregations, overseas and campus ministries and prayers for Christian unity. All are worthy of your support!

Convocation Represented At Jamaica Synod

The Rev. Timothy M. James, pastor of the Fifth Christian Church, Cleveland, Ohio, and member of the board of directors of the Division of Overseas Ministries, represented the National Convocation of the Christian Church at the 106th Synod of the Disciples of Christ in Jamaica. Rev. James will be sharing in the near future reflections on papers presented at the Synod.
# Block Schedule of the Convocation

Identifying Program Components  
(Ninth Biennial Session)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 8/5</th>
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<td>7-8 am</td>
<td>Registration Begins</td>
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<td>Board &amp; Workshop Luncheon</td>
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<td>CWF/MW Luncheon</td>
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<td>Constituency Groups</td>
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<td>All Convocation Reception</td>
<td>Ministers' Wives Reception</td>
<td>Young Adults Reception</td>
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<td>Youth Pool Party</td>
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TOGETHER IN LOVE  Gail S. Murphy

VERSE

Some of us are called to be preachers, Some of us are called to teach. But what

CHORUS:

Ever we do, lead we do it for you; when we all join together in love.

When we all join together in unity — when we all join together in harmony. We will grow in His grace as we run this Christian Race. When we

all join together in love.  © 1986
Our Convocation in Alabama And Northwest Florida

The Alabama Christian Missionary Convention has become the Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama and Northwest Florida. As a convocation, they are moving towards the responsibilities of nurture and care of congregations within the regional structure of the church.

An associate regional minister/staff position as liaison for the regional convocation will be filled shortly. The position is presently a quarter-time position with salary being supported jointly by the region and the convocation. The responsibilities of the position will be to: 1) report on a regular basis to the regional board and the regional convocation board; 2) identify existing service programs of the church for possible use by the convocation; 3) assist in developing services and activities to meet special needs of the black congregations; 4) serve as a resource to the convocation, board and committees; 5) assist black congregations in their request for harmonious concepts, thoughts and ideas in relation to the regional and general manifestation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); 6) assist clergy in their growth as leaders and in securing positions of service; 7) assist black congregations in securing ministerial leadership; 8) to form other related duties to enhance the working relationship of black convocations, the regional and general manifestation of the church.

Although the responsibilities of the position far exceed the time that will be available on a quarter-time basis, the creating and filling of the position will do much to bring wholeness to the entire church. The Convocation region of Alabama and Northwest Florida deserves our prayers and support as they pursue this needed form of ministry.

Amendment Proposed For Articles of Operation

The Convocation has been governed by two documents: the Articles of Operation and the Operating Guidelines. These two documents will be merged and presented to the Convocation in St. Louis for adoption as the Articles of Operation. This action will not ask us to do anything new. We will just be putting in place two parts that often were separated.

There has been confusion over the selection process for the Administrative Secretary. The process described in the following amendment has been approved by the General Minister and President and the Executive Committee of the National Convocation Board of Trustees and will be presented to the Convocation for adoption.

Article V, No. 6 The administrative secretary shall be a member of the executive staff of the General Office of the Christian Church and shall perform those duties which are assigned or normally pertain to such an office. The administrative secretary shall serve on all committees, boards and commissions of the Convocation, and bear national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with states, areas or regions to the end that regional structures, programs, and services are effective to Black congregations in the various states and areas. The administrative secretary shall relate to program services through the appropriate regional or general church unit. The administrative secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation, act as corporation secretary, and maintain custody of the seal of the corporation.

Proposed Amendment to Article V, No. 6

The Administrative Secretary shall be a member of the executive staff of the Office of the General Minister and President and shall perform those duties which are assigned or normally pertain to such an office.

The Administrative Secretary shall serve on all committees, boards and commissions of the Convocation, and bear national administrative responsibility for developing con-
Amendment from Page 8

sultations with regions and other structural configurations so that those structures, programs and services are effective for Black congregations.

The Administrative Secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation, act as Corporation Secretary, and maintain custody of the seal of the corporation.

The Administrative Secretary shall be responsible for developing consultative procedures designed to provide adequate and effective structures, programs and services for Black congregations in the various general administrative units and regions of the church.

The Administrative Secretary shall be nominated by mutual agreement of the General Minister and President and an Advisory Committee from the Convocation’s Board of Trustees to the Administrative Committee of the General Board for their approval. The Advisory Committee of not more than seven shall be selected by the President of the National Convocation and confirmed by the Board of Trustees (in regular session or by mail ballot). The General Minister and President shall call together the Advisory Committee soon after its confirmation to develop a profile of desired characteristics for the Administrative Secretary.

After the development of the profile, the General Minister and President shall receive names of potential nominees. Within ninety days after the profile has been developed, the General Minister and President will have identified candidates who have the desired characteristics and would be acceptable to the General Minister and President.

The General Minister and President and the Advisory Committee will meet for the purpose of rank ordering the persons the General Minister and President has identified as qualified and acceptable. The General Minister and President shall interview the highest ranked candidate. Should that candidate demonstrate identified skills in the interview and accept the nomination, the General Minister and President shall notify the members of the Advisory Committee and submit the candidate as the nominee to the Administrative Committee of the General Board for election. Should the highest ranked candidate, through interview or choice, prove unacceptable, the second highest ranked candidate shall be interviewed. If the second highest ranked candidate prove unacceptable, the General Minister and President may continue down the priority list or invite the Advisory Committee to begin the process again.

Officers To Be Nominated

The following persons have been nominated to serve on the National Convocation Board of Trustees: Lenita Bunch (Ohio) for President, 1988-1990; Robert Brown (Arkansas) for Vice President, 1988-1990; Norman Reed (Tennessee) for Treasurer, 1988-1990; Deborah Thompson (Colorado), Algie Rousseau (California), Ellis Jordan (Illinois), and Carmen Myers (Indiana), for 1988-1992.

Issues Identified By Black Clergywomen For Discussion At The Convocation

1. Placement of Black women in local congregations.
2. Collegiality and affirmation between Black women in ministry and Black men; i.e., how do we support one another. How can clergywomen be involved in the background of the National Convocation.
3. How do we address the deep-rooted theological issues concerning women in ministry.
4. Field placement for women in seminary.
5. How best to sensitize congregations, clergywomen, clergymen and regional/area ministers.
Day of Prayer To End Unjust Rule of Apartheid

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Never before in the history of our country have so many millions of Christians in South Africa called upon so many millions of Christians throughout the world to join with them in a day of prayer to plead to God that the present unjust rule of apartheid be brought to an end, that apartheid and racism in all its forms in all countries of the world be removed and destroyed than on this day, June 16, 1986, a decade after Soweto, June 16, 1976. On behalf of the millions of oppressed people of our land we of the South Africa Council of Churches call upon all Christians and adherents of all faiths which equally reject apartheid as a policy which is evil, inhuman and destructive to humankind as a whole, to gather with us on this day in churches and cathedrals, in places of worship and work, in streets and public squares, in homes and offices and factories as people of God, young and old, to pray fervently that God may destroy this evil system and that a just, non-racial, democratic and participatory society may emerge.

We call upon you to bring to God in prayer all those who have died in their courageous resistance to apartheid, all those who have been wounded, detained, tortured, banned or driven into exile in their valiant and determined opposition to this vile system. We equally call upon you to include in your supplication the oppressive rulers and all those who through decades of apartheid rule have enjoyed the fruits of oppression and exploitation that they may openly repent of their attitudes and actions, including those of compliance and sinful compromise, and that they may find the courage to side with the oppressed and the exploited and actively support the step towards a future where the whole country will be liberated and re-united, where ethnic divisions will be rejected and resisted, where the human dignity, rights and responsibilities of all people will be honoured and where the church will truly become a servant church, the body of Christ ministering to the people of God.

May this day of prayer in faith become for all of us a day of hope and of celebration of God's triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness! And may violence cease and peace with justice come to our land.

Your Brother in Christ,  
C.F. Beyers Naude  
General Secretary  
South African Council of Churches

Star Supporter Program

As you know the National Convocation will be meeting in St. Louis, August 5-8, 1986. Each male of the local congregations is asked to give a minimum of ten dollars to undergird the program. This money goes to help train ministers to serve the local congregations. It is possible that your present minister was helped by the program. You will in all possibility be hearing from the Reverend Booker T. Dickason reminding you to bring your report to St. Louis.

Best wishes and see you in St. Louis.  
Lorenzo Evans
Clarion (Headquarter's Hotel)  
Room Rates  

**HURRY TO REGISTER**  
**TO RECEIVE YOUR**  
**ROOM RESERVATION FORM**

$49 Single occupancy, daily  
$49 Double occupancy, daily  
$59 Triple occupancy, daily  
$69 Quad occupancy, daily

Convocation Meal Events

Young Adults' Luncheon—$10.00 (Wednesday, August 6, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)  
Ministers' Fellowship Breakfast—$9.00 (Thursday, August 7, 1986, 7:00 a.m.)  
CWF and Ministers' Wives Luncheon—$12.00 (Thursday, August 7, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)  
Jarvis Christian College Luncheon—$12.50 (Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)  
Youth Luncheon—$5.00 (Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)  
All Convocation Banquet—$16.00 (Friday, August 8, 1986, 6:30 p.m.)

Workshops For The  
Ninth Biennial Session of  
The National Convocation  
August 5-8, 1986

Please complete the following section and return with your registration form. (Make note of your workshop choices).

Name___________________________  
Address___________________________

I. Continuous Workshops (6 hours).  
Please indicate your first and second choices.  
___Empowering the People to Lead  
(Deloris Carpenter, Anthony Carpenter and Loma Mae Chalfant)  
___Evangelism in the Black Context  
(Alvin Jackson, Bill Sims and Magdalene Shelton)  
___Church Administration  
(John Compton)

___Eldership and the Diaconate  
(Oscar Haynes, Effie Burford and Peter Morgan)  
___Christian Education  
(Ruth Hobbs, Timothy James and Ed Parrish III)  
___Understanding the Church's Mission  
(John Foulkes, Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes and William Nottingham)  
___Peace with Justice and the Black Church  
(Deborah Thompson, Robert Steffer and Julia Brown)  
___Strengthen the Black Family  
(Louise Evans)  
___How to Start a Service Program in Your Church  
(Araminta Smith)  

II. Personal Growth Workshops  
(2 hours)

(Do not select any of these if you checked off ones in I [3 choices]. You will be assigned which day to attend the workshops you've chosen during check-in in St Louis.)

___Who are the Disciples  
___Strengthening Prayer Life Through the Bible as a Resource  
(Cynthia Hale)  
___The Black Church in the Year 2000  
(Julia Brogdon and Raymond E. Brown)  
___Effective Leadership of Clergy in the Congregation  
(LaTauny Bynum, Ozark Range and Howard Goodrich)  
___Politics and The Black Church  
(Gerald Cunningham)  
___Women In The Church  
(Janice Newborn, Ann Facen and Wayne Steward)  
___Personal Stewardship  
(Lorenzo Evans)  
___Human Sexuality For Youth: Male/Female RELationships  
(Jeanette White and Sam Hylton)  
___Young Christians in The 80's  
(Ruby Henry)  
___Role of Youth in Equipping The Church for Action  
(Titus James)
## REGISTRATION

**NINTH BIENNIAL SESSION**
**NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
(_DISCIPLES OF CHRIST_) ST. LOUIS, MO AUGUST 5-8, 1988

(Please use separate form for each person including children)

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**CIRCLE FEE FOR PROPER AGE BRACKET**

- 13-19 yrs: $12.00
- 20-54 yrs: $35.00
- 55 yrs. and over: $25.00

Activities for pre-schoolers will be provided for a fee.

No. of Pre-school you are bringing: ____________

Return with check or money order to:
National Convocation, Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206

REGISTRATION CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IS ATTACHED FOR:

- Program Registration Fee ____________
- Star Supporter Fund ____________
- UPDATE Newsletter ____________
- Special Support Gift ____________
- Donation for Benevolent Fund for Ministers (via Pension Fund) ____________

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:________________**

NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15, 1986

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**Selah**

*Published Monthly*

The National Convocation of
The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

**Editor:** John R. Foulkes

Taken from the Psalms "Selah" is a Hebrew word used in music to show where the cymbals should be played. Our Christian journey can be compared to a Psalms. Sometimes smooth and melodious, sometimes not so smooth.

**SELAH** is intended to be an interruption to that journey's flow forming our issues of concern or celebration that will enhance that journey.

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**Non-profit Organization**

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Indianapolis, Ind. Permit No. 413
The first Black officer in the 100-year history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida was installed at First Christian Church in Selma, AL during the recent regional assembly. The Rev. Rufus Lewis Jr., Birmingham, AL, will serve a two-year term as first vice-moderator of the region comprising 69 congregations with a membership of 9,310.

Lewis is pastor of Sellers Memorial Christian Church in Hayneville and a United States Postal Service Equal Employment Opportunities investigator. He has been active in the region and the denomination, serving on the church's General Board and its Administrative Committee.

He told of a newspaper columnist who wrote that she felt something was missing from her church services. It felt like there had been a good town hall meeting but not church, said Jackson.

"Isn't that the way of so many of our churches," said Jackson. They make you feel good but not good enough to do something, he said.

The most important step toward effective evangelizing is to reclaim the Bible, "the source of our faith," said Jackson.

The Bible is timely and timeless and there is something indestructible about it, he said. While many books have come and gone the Bible still remains one of the most vigorous, refreshing pieces written, said Jackson.

"It has been lost in walls of neglect, indifference and complacency — lost as we come up with themes for sermons and only picked up as an afterthought," said Jackson.

Disciples cannot find their identity until they find the book because "It goes beyond Campbell, Stone and Cane Ridge," he said.

"Ours must be a ministry of re-creation, making the words live today," Jackson told the 1,000 gathered for workshops on church growth and evangelism methods.

Continued on next page
Jackson from pg. 1

Jackson said people often ask him what he did to get his church to grow from a membership of 350 when he took the pastorate there in 1979 to 1,800 today. He told the audience that God uses three things in a growing church. They are the proclamation of the good news, a fellowship setting and Christian service.

Note: The Rev. Alvin O. Jackson is president-elect of the National Convocation.

To: Ministers of The National Convocation
From: Archie J. Warren, President, National Ministers Fellowship

Brethren:
The Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation is not far away. I am appealing to you to be present in St. Louis in record numbers. I hope to see at least 500 ministers at the Convocation because there are some good things in store.

William Lee (pastor of Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, VA) will be our speaker for the Wednesday evening worship service. William Sims (pastor of Wildewood Christian Church, Oklahoma City, OK) is going to be the speaker for the Ministers Fellowship Breakfast. The tickets for the breakfast, which will be a buffet, are $9.00. You may obtain your tickets from the Convocation office or at the ticket booth during the St. Louis Convocation.

In our workshop, Tuesday, August 5, we will continue our discussion on pastoral tenure.

Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ
Second Annual Ministers' Retreat

Ministers and bishops of the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ gathered at the Back Swamp Church of Christ in Williamston, North Carolina, May 20-22 for their Second Annual Ministers' Retreat. The theme of the retreat was "Jesus Prays for His Church." Workshops addressed the following critical issues in the pastoral care of congregations: qualification of ministers and deacons; doctrine of the Church of Christ; oneness in administration, finance and ethics; the administration of the church; responsibility of the church and pastor; church etiquette and ethics; abortion; homosexuality; the right to vote; and finances. The workshop leaders were thought-provoking and the discussion was lively. All participants reported significant learnings from the event.

Famine In Africa

Public awareness of famine in Africa is lower than a year ago, but urgent needs for relief measures continue, according to director of the relief-rehabilitation-development fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Rev. Larry D. Tankersley, Indianapolis, told the Disciples' Week of Compassion Committee in its May 18-19 meeting here that seven African nations face critical needs.

Of the 91 million people in Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Sudan, 18 million remain affected by the emergency situation created by famine. Of these, 2.2 million are displaced persons, said Tankersley in his first address as the administrative director for the forty-year-old fund.
Sears and Minority Banks

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has withdrawn a shareholder’s resolution against Sears, citing the company’s “renewed concern and effort” in helping minority and women entrepreneurs.

Wade D. Rubick, Indianapolis, IN, general counsel for the denomination, told the annual shareholders’ meeting recently that the action is based in part on the company’s increased line of credit in minority banks.

A consortium of 48 minority banks established in April, a $25 million syndicated revolving line of credit for Sears, an increase of $5 million. “This is a significant accomplishment,” Rubick told the shareholders, because it “gives confidence to minority banks and provides them with a new opportunity to serve the financial needs of American business and industry.”

Rubick also noted that Sears’ “Tower Ventures” program has aided “dozens of minority businesses.” He said he regretted that the program is not larger but was hopeful that Sears would add to its investment dollars in the future.

Sears also “supports and encourages” minority businesses in other ways, some of which are not in the public domain, Rubick said. He urged that the information be reported so shareholders might know what the company is doing to “further the American dream for enterprising minority men and women.”

Rubick also applauded the statement of William Bass, Sears merchandise group chairman, who urged “individuals with buying responsibilities to improve their efforts to locate, evaluate, develop and utilize minority and women-owned enterprises.”

Rubick said the company’s “signs of commitment” to minority businesses are “in keeping with the best traditions of our society as well as our free economic system.”

The Disciples’ United Christian Missionary Society is among the church’s bodies holding shares in Sears.

Let’s Talk

We need to talk to each other on a regular basis about issues that concern us. The mass media will let us know what is happening around us. We need to know how these issues effect us and what we should do as a result of it.

SELAH is a monthly publication from the office of the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I am the editor for SELAH. It will contain information and comments on issues in the Black church from all of the partners in the journey. If you have something to share, comment on an issue important to the Black church or insight into the Black church’s journey, please send your statement to my office. I will edit and publish those statements that are essential to the Black church’s empowerment.

John R. Foulkes, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary

June 15, A Day of Prayer For South Africa

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is responding to the political crises in South Africa with a prayer, education and action agenda for the churches during 1986.

The 4200 Disciples congregations in the United States and Canada will be asked to join other Protestant and Catholics in a June 15 Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace and Justice in South Africa.

The June 15 Day of Prayer, legislative

Continued next page
Day of Prayer from page 3

action and the corporate post card campaign are a part of the stepped up effort of the churches to aid the majority Black population. The new sense of urgency emerged in early December 1985 when world Christian leaders in Harare, Zimbabwe. On January 14, 1986, American delegates to the Harare meeting reported their findings to the U.S. Christian community at a meeting held at the National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

Information about any of the Disciples' South Africa programs can be obtained by writing: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Department of Africa; P.O. Box 1986; Indianapolis, IN 46206 USA.

Minorities In Ecumenical Movements

The North American ecumenical movement and the role of minorities within it commanded the attention of ecumenical arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) here in April 24-26.

Members of the Disciples' Council on Christian Unity board heard their colleagues say a major stumbling block for Hispanic and Black congregations is open membership — accepting Christians baptism by other than immersion.

Long-time ecumenist the Rev. Walter D. Bingham, Louisville, KY, said "most Black Disciples identify baptism with immersion. The painful thing about the ecumenical movement is that I don't see much hope for fellow Black Disciples being involved in it and it revolves around this question."

Black and Hispanic Disciples may be involved in ecumenical organizations, although they have trouble with the baptism question, agreed Bingham, a Black pastor who has served on numerous Disciples' delegations to ecumenical organizations, and the Rev. Juan Rodriguez, East Chicago, IN, pastor of a new Hispanic congregation.

Hispanics will work ecumenically around justice issues, but will resist unity conversations with the Roman Catholic Church, observed Rodriguez, referring to a report on an international dialogue between Disciples and the Catholics.

"Most Hispanic Disciples left the Roman Catholic Church in reaction against it," he added.

The Rev. William J. Nottingham, Indianapolis, president of the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries and former Latin America executive for the church, said Hispanic congregations "sooner or later" will have to face the same issues as the white congregations: open membership, baptism by other than immersion and conversations with the Roman Catholic Church.

Challenges in Lesotho

Five months after a government coup, the small African country of Lesotho is faced with both external and internal challenges, according to two executives of the Christian Council of Lesotho who recently visited the international offices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

With the ouster of Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan in January and the return of King Moshoeshoe II as head of the country, amnesty has been granted to exiles who fled the old regime. This has created an influx of refugees which the church now has to help find homes, food and jobs, according to the Revs. Michael Worsnip and D.J. Senkhane.

Continued on next page
Lesotho continued

Worsnip, an Anglican priest, is general secretary of the council and Senkhane, a Methodist pastor, chairs its executive committee.

They said the government had no system to deal with those returning and expected the churches to help them.

In addition to Lesotho people returning to the country, refugees from South Africa also are coming into the country. Many of the refugees do not register themselves which makes it difficult to help them, said Worsnip.

Although Lesotho is an independent country, South Africa exerts much influence over its economy and politics. The present government could not exist, if South Africa did not want it in power, according to Worsnip. "We are totally surrounded, dependent and vulnerable. Our own politics cannot become real politics until Pretoria changes," he said.

Economically, many from Lesotho work in the mines of South Africa. The council has helped workers returning from the mines and those waiting to be recruited to work in the mines.

The future of the country is largely dependent on what happens to its neighbor, South Africa, according to Sankhane.

"What are we going to do with a country burning all around us? South Africa is in a civil war. People that are coming to Lesotho now are not coming because they are activists, they are fleeing for their lives," said Senkhane.

Senkhane said that all church people belong to the wider body of Christ and must make a stand against the policy of the South African regime. He urged the United States to call for punitive economic measures against South Africa. Senkhane admitted that it is possible that Lesotho will suffer because of economic actions against South Africa.

Change of Address

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Dr. Emmett J. Dickson (Indianapolis, Indiana) will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of his ordination into Christian ministry during the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention, July 16 - 20, 1986.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?
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VERSE

TOGETHER IN LOVE

Gale S. Murphy

Some of us are called to be preachers, some of us are called to teach. But what

Ex-er we do, let us do it for you; when we all join to-ge-ther in love.

CHORUS:

When we all join to-ge-ther in unity — when we all join to-ge-ther in

har-mo-ny, we will grow in His grace as we run this Christian Race. When we

all join to-ge-ther in love. C 1986
HISPANIC ASSEMBLY

Hispanic and bilingual members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will hold their biennial gathering in Rochester, NY, July 9-11.

Pastors and lay members of 33 congregations will meet under the theme “Como Rios De Agua Viva” (“Like Rivers of Living Water”).

Host congregation for the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship will be Primera Iglesia Cristiana Hispana — First Hispanic Christian Church. The Rev. Eliseo Rodriguez, pastor, is president of the organization.

Purpose of the assembly centers around the fellowship’s ongoing theme, “Somos Unos” (“We Are One”), according to the Rev. Luis E. Ferrer, Indianapolis, IN, director of program services for Hispanic and bilingual congregations, Disciples’ Division of Homeland Ministries.

“The assembly brings together Hispanics from the three conventions (Midwest, Northeast and Southwest) to focus on their own identity and diversity,” said Ferrer.

“The experience allows them to see their place in the broader church, to recognize their gifts and to see clearly their possible contribution to the general church.

“The assembly also offers the opportunity to make more meaningful the Hispanic Disciples’ existence within the church and to give them a more responsible voice through the Hispanic caucus in the denomination’s Black and Hispanic Concerns Committee and in other places,” he said.

DIVESTMENT?

South African investments policy, dis-
sion Fund should continue to try to in-
fluence these corporations in bringing
about change in South Africa and end the
evils of apartheid. Divestment may be the
easy way out, but it may seriously thwart
attempts to bring about change,” he
added.

The board said the decision to “divest or
exclude” stock of targeted companies in
the fund’s portfolios will be made “after
considerable thought and deliberation
and after all avenues to effect change
have been exhausted.”

The board also agreed to continue “direct
communication” with top management of
the companies involved in South Africa, to
vote proxies and to file or co-file share-
holder resolutions “where appropriate.”

Among the other provisions of the revised
policy is encouraging the Pension Fund’s
investment managers to refrain from
purchasing securities from companies
doing business in South Africa.

MULTI-CULTURAL
YOUTH RETREAT

Blacks who remember their history and
their struggle for social and economic
equality — Hispanics who live in the pre-
sent and have been “allowed to play but
not always told the rules” — Anglos who
always assume they have a future and
anticipate it.

These are the people who got together
April 18-20 at a Central Texas camp-
ground for a pilot multi-cultural youth re-
treat for the Christian Church (Disciples
of Christ).

Although congregations of the South-
west Disciples have members of other
cultures, such as Native American and
Asian American, these three were chosen
because they have organized units within
the Southwest region. They were fairly
evenly represented in youth participation
and adult leadership.

The retreat focused on some history of
the three cultures, small group discus-
sion on racism, prejudice and discrimina-
tion and talk about the gifts blacks,
Hispanics and Anglos have to offer each
other. Participants learned each other’s
songs, sampled each other’s food, and
learned to joke with each other about
their own shortcomings.

And they shared communion with that all-
American growing-up beverage, Kool-aid.

Youth Activities At
The St. Louis Convocation
August 5-8, 1986

Tuesday, August 5
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Youth Orientation,
Fun time, Singing, Introductions, Over-
view of week
7:30 p.m. — Opening Session/All Convoca-
tion Reception

Wednesday, August 6
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
4:15 p.m. Mass Choir
7:30 p.m. Worship
9:30 p.m. After Session
“New Roads to Faith”

Thursday, August 7
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
4:15 p.m. Mass Choir
7:30 p.m. Worship
9:30 p.m. After Session - Swimming
Party

Friday, August 8
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
1:30 p.m. Free Time
6:30 p.m. All Convocation Banquet
9:30 p.m. Youth Dance

Continued next page
Youth Workshops

1. “Human Sexuality for Youth: Male/Female Relationships”
   Leaders: Jeanette White and Dr. Sam Hylton

2. “Young Christians in the 80’s”
   Leaders: Ruby Henry, Derry Henry

3. “Role of Youth in Equipping the Church for Action”
   Leader: Rev. Titus James

For further information contact:
Jackie Cheek
512 East Maple Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Suzanne DeMoss Martin
Director: Youth Ministry
Belva Brown Jordan
Director: Racial/Ethnic Educational Ministries
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 353-1491

Clarion (Headquarters Hotel)
Room Rates

HURRY TO REGISTER
TO RECEIVE YOUR
ROOM RESERVATION
FORM

$49 Single occupancy, daily
$49 Double occupancy, daily
$59 Triple occupancy, daily
$69 Quad occupancy, daily

Convocation Meal Events

Young Adults’ Luncheon—$10.00 (Wednesday, August 6, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)
Ministers’ Fellowship Breakfast—$9.00
(Thursday, August 7, 1986, 7:00 a.m.)
CWF and Ministers’ Wives Luncheon—$12.00 (Thursday, August 7, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)
Jarvis Christian College Luncheon—$12.50
(Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)
Youth Luncheon—$5.00 (Friday, August 8, 1986, 12:30 p.m.)
All Convocation Banquet—$16.00 (Friday, August 8, 1986, 6:30 p.m.)

Workshops For The Ninth Biennial Session of The National Convocation August 5-8, 1986

Please complete the following section and return with your registration form. (Make note of your workshop choices).

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________

I. Continuous Workshops (6 hours).
   Please indicate your first and second choices.
   ___ Empowering the People to Lead
      (Deloris Carpenter, Anthony Carpenter and Lorna Mae Chalfant).
   ___ Evangelism in the Black Context
      (Alvin Jackson, Bill Sims and Magdalene Shelton)
   ___ Church Administration
      (John Compton)
Eldership and the Diaconate
(Oscar Haynes, Effie Burford and Peter Morgan)

Christian Education
(Ruth Hobbs, Timothy James and Ed Parrish III)

Understanding the Church's Mission
(John Foulkes, Joyce Montgomery-Foulkes and William Nottingham)

Peace with Justice and the Black Church
(Deborah Thompson, Robert Steffer and Julia Brown)

Strengthen the Black Family
(Louise Evans)

How to Start a Service Program in Your Church
(Araminta Smith)

II. Personal Growth Workshops
(2 hours)

Do not select any of these if you checked off ones in I
(3 choices). You will be assigned which day to attend the workshops you've chosen during check-in in St Louis.

Who are the Disciples

Strengthening Prayer Life Through the Bible as a Resource
(Cynthia Hale)

The Black Church in the Year 2000
(Julia Brogdon and Raymond E. Brown)

Effective Leadership of Clergy in the Congregation
(LaTaunya Bynum, Ozark Range and Howard Goodrich)

Politics and The Black Church
(Gerald Cunningham)

Women In The Church
(Janice Newborn, Ann Facen and Wayne Steward)

Personal Stewardship
(Lorenzo Evans)

Human Sexuality For Youth: Male/Female Relationships
(Jeanette White and Sam Hylton)

Young Christians in The 80’s
(Ruby Henry)

Role of Youth in Equipping The Church for Action
(Titus James)
The opening worship services for the Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation will be at the Centennial Christian Church (St. Louis, MO) on August 5 at 7 p.m. The call to worship will be followed by a processional of choirs, congregational board chairpersons carrying their congregation's banner, Convocation officers and Board of Trustees, general unit and regional representatives, and robed clergy.

- BOARD CHAIRPERSONS, don't forget to bring your congregation's banner to the St. Louis Convocation. They will be used to decorate our meeting hall, making it our space.

- MINISTERS, don't forget to bring your robe. We want the opening session to be as formal as possible.
Opening Night

The opening worship services for the Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation will be at the Centennial Christian Church (St. Louis, MO) on August 5 at 7 p.m. The call to worship will be followed by a procession of choirs, congregational board chairpersons carrying their congregation's banner, Convocation officers and Board of Trustees, general unit and regional representatives, and robed clergy.

BOARD CHAIRPERSONS, don't forget to bring your congregation's banner to the St. Louis Convocation. They will be used to decorate our meeting hall, making it our space.

MINISTERS, don't forget to bring your robe. We want the opening session to be as formal as possible.

Elections

Mae Choice (Dallas, TX), Lucile Compton (Cincinnati, OH), Thomas Murray (Memphis, TN), Jessie Turner (Montgomery, AL), Charles H. Webb, Jr. (Lynwood, CA), James O. Williams, Sr. (Winston-Salem, NC), and Dorothy Witten (Roanoke, VA) are being nominated by the National Convocation's Board of Trustees to serve on the Nominating Committee for a two-year term (1986 to 1988).

The following persons have been nominated to serve on the National Convocation Board of Trustees: Lenita Bunch (Ohio) for President, 1988-90; Robert Brown (Arkansas) for Vice President, 1988-90; Norman Reed (Tennessee) for Treasurer, 1988-90; Brenda Cardwell (Illinois) for Secretary, 1988-90; Deborah Thompson (Colorado), Algie Rousseau (California), Ellis Jordan (Illinois), and Carmen Myers (Indiana), for 1988-92.

Issues Identified By Black Clergywomen For Discussion At The Convocation

1. Placement of Black women in local congregations.
2. Collegiality and affirmation between Black women in ministry and Black men; i.e., how do we support one another. How can clergywomen be involved in the background of the National Convocation.
3. How do we address the deep-rooted theological issues concerning women in ministry.
4. Field placement for women in seminary.
5. How best to sensitize congregations, clergywomen, clergymen and regional/area ministers.
Attention Choir Participants

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to our joint effort of praise in song at the 1986 National Convocation. The Lord is going to do great and marvelous things through us this year.

If you are planning on being a part of our Convocation Mass Choir, you will need to bring the following:

- White tops and black bottoms (Black and white will be our uniform for Wednesday and Thursday evening worship services.)
- Bible, pen and paper
- Your best voice (When we praise the Lord, we must offer Him the best that we have.)

Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Gale Jones Murphy/Music Director for the St. Louis Convocation

Change of Address

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Children's Activities

(Ages 7-12)

Wednesday, August 6
Gateway Arch, Huck Finn Cruise, Union Station, (Lunch at Riverfront McDonalds), $13.25

Thursday, August 7
St. Louis Zoo, Science Center, Historical Society, (Lunch at the Zoo), $10.00

Friday, August 8
Grant's Farm, Magic House, Museum of Transportation, (Lunch at Grant's Farm), $12.50

Total Children's activities: $35.75 (Lunches not included in daily cost)

Youth Activities At The St. Louis Convocation

August 5-8, 1986
Tuesday, August 5
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Youth Orientation, Fun time, Singing, Introductions, Overview of week
7:30 p.m. - Opening Session/All Convocation Reception

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10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
4:15 p.m. Mass Choir
7:30 p.m. Worship
9:30 p.m. After Session "New Roads to Faith"

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10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
4:15 p.m. Mass Choir
7:30 p.m. Worship
9:30 p.m. After Session - Swimming Party

Friday, August 8
1:15 p.m. - 12:15 p.m. Workshops
1:30 p.m. Free Time
6:30 p.m. All Convocation Banquet
9:30 p.m. Youth Dance

Youth Workshops

1. "Human Sexuality for Youth: Male/Female Relationships"
Leaders: Jeanette White & Dr. Sam Hylton

2. "Young Christians in the 80s"
Leaders: Ruby Henry, Derry Henry

3. "Role of Youth in Equipping the Church for Action"
Leader: Rev. Titus James

For further information contact:
Jackie Cheek-512 East Maple Street
Nicholasville, KY 40356
Suzanne DeMoss Martin
Director, Youth Ministry
Belva Brown Jordan-Director, Racial/Ethnic Educational Ministries-P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 353-1491
Workshops For The Ninth Session

Please complete the following section and return with your registration form.

Name________________________________________
Address_______________________________________
City_________________ State______ Zip__________

I. Continuous Workshops (6 hours).
Please indicate your First and Second choices.

___ Empowering The People To Lead
   (Delores Carpenter, Loma Mae Chalfant)
___ Evangelism In The Black Context
   (Thom Albin, Alvin Jackson, Bill Simms,
    Magdalene Shelton)
___ Church Administration
   (John R. Compton)
___ Eldership And The Diaconate
   (Oscar Haynes, Effie Burford, Peter Morgan)
___ Christian Education
   (Ruth Hobbs, Timothy James, Ed Parrish)
___ Understanding The Church's Mission
   (John R. Foulkes, Joyce Montgomery
    Foulkes, William Nottingham)
___ Peace With Justice & The Black Church
   (Deborah Thompson, Robert Steffer)
___ Strengthen The Black Family
   (Louise B. Evans)
___ How To Start A Service Program In Your
   Church—(Araminta Smith)

II. Personal Growth Workshops (2 hours).
These are offered as an alternative to the continuous workshops listed above. Please choose three (3). You will be assigned which day to attend the workshops you've chosen during check-in in St. Louis.

___ Who Are The Disciples?
   (Brenda Cardwell, Harold Johnson)
___ Strengthening Prayer Life Through The
   Bible As a Resource—(Cynthia Hale)
___ The Black Church In The Year 2000
   (Julia Brogdan, Raymond E. Brown)
___ Effective Leadership In Clergy In The
   Congregation—(LaTanya Bynum, Ozark Range,
    Howard Goodrich)
___ Politics and The Black Church
   (Gerald Cunningham, Garnet Day)
___ Women in The Church
   (Janice Newborn, Ann Facen, Wayne Steward)
___ Personal Stewardship
   (Lorenzo Evans)
___ Human Sexuality For Youth: Male/Female
   Relationships
   (Jeanette White, Samuel Hylton, Jr.)
___ Young Christians in The 80's
   (Ruby Henry, Derry Henry)
___ Role of Youth in Equipping The Church for
   Action—(Titus James)

Notice to Workshop Participants:
If you plan to attend the workshop "Who are the Disciples," the workshop leaders (Brenda Cardwell and Harold Johnson) would like for you to bring pictures and other items to share during the workshop.

Clarion (Headquarter's Hotel)
Room Rates

HURRY TO REGISTER
TO RECEIVE YOUR
ROOM RESERVATION
FORM

$49 Single occupancy, daily
$49 Double occupancy, daily
$59 Triple occupancy, daily
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# REGISTRATION

**NINTH BIENNIAL SESSION**

**NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) ST. LOUIS, MO AUGUST 5-8, 1986

(Permission to separate form for each person including children)

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**CIRCLE FEE FOR PROPER AGE BRACKET**

| 13-15 yrs. | $12.00  |
| 16-64 yrs. | $20.00  |
| 65 yrs. and over | $25.00 |

Activities for pre-schoolers will be provided for a fee.

No. of Pre-school you are bringing ______________________

**CIRCLE HOW MANY CONV. ATTENDED**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**REGISTRATION CHECK OR MONEY ORDER IS ATTACHED FOR:**

- Program Registration Fee
- Star Supporter Fund
- UPDATE Newsletter
- Special Support Gift
- Donation for Benevolent Fund for Ministers (via Pension Fund)

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** $__________

NO REFUNDS AFTER JULY 15, 1986

Return with check or money order to: National Convocation, Box 1986, Indpls., IN 46206
Amendment Proposed For Articles of Operation

The Convocation has been governed by two documents: the Articles of Operation and the Operating Guidelines. These two documents will be merged and presented to the Convocation for adoption as the Articles of Operation. This action will not ask us to do anything new. We will just be putting in place two parts that often were separated.

There has been confusion over the selection process for the Administrative Secretary. The process described in the following amendment has been approved by the General Minister and President and the Executive Committee of the National Convocation Board of Trustees and will be presented to the Convocation for adoption.

Article V, No. 6 The administrative secretary shall be a member of the executive staff of the General Office of the Christian Church and shall perform those duties which are assigned or normally pertain to such an office.

The administrative secretary shall serve on all committees, boards and commissions of the Convocation, and bear national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with states, areas or regions to the end that regional structures, programs, and services are effective to Black congregations in the various states and areas.

The administrative secretary shall relate to program services through the appropriate regional or general church unit.

The administrative secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation, act as corporation secretary, and maintain custody of the seal of the corporation.

Proposed Amendment to Article V, No. 6

The Administrative Secretary shall be a member of the executive staff of the Office of the General Minister and President and shall perform those duties which are assigned or normally pertain to such an office.

The Administrative Secretary shall serve on all committees, boards and commissions of the Convocation, and bear national administrative responsibility for developing consultations with regions and other structural configurations so that those structures, programs and services are effective for Black congregations.

The Administrative Secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Christian Missionary Convention Corporation, act as Corporation Secretary, and maintain custody of the seal of the corporation.

The Administrative Secretary shall be responsible for developing consultative procedures designed to provide adequate and effective structures, programs and services for Black congregations in the various general administrative units and regions of the church.

The Administrative Secretary shall be nominated by mutual agreement of the General Minister and President and an Advisory Committee for the Convocation's Board of Trustees to the Administrative Committee of the General Board for their approval. The Advisory Committee of not more than seven shall be selected by the President of the National Convocation and confirmed by the Board of Trustees (in regular session or by mail ballot). The General Minister and President shall call together the Advisory Committee soon after its confirmation to develop a profile of desired characteristics for the Administrative Secretary.

After the development of the profile, the General Minister and President shall receive names of potential nominees. Within ninety days after the profile has been developed, the General Minister and President will have identified candidates who have the desired characteristics and would be acceptable to the General Minister and President.

The General Minister and President and the Advisory Committee will meet for the purpose of rank ordering the persons the General Minister and President has identified as qualified and acceptable. The General Minister and President shall interview the highest ranked candidate. Should that candidate demonstrate identified skills in the interview and accept the nomination, the General Minister and President shall notify the mem

Continued on page 10
Meet Some of Our

Tuesday Evening Speaker
Charles L. Faulkner
president of the National Convocation
and pastor, University Christian Church
Houston, Texas

Bible lecturer
K. David Cole
pastor, Swope Parkway
United Christian Church
Kansas City, Missouri

Wednesday Evening Speaker
William Lee
pastor, Loudon Avenue Christian Church
Roanoke, Virginia

Dean of Empowerment Workshops
Belva Brown Jordan
Director of Racial/Ethnic
Educational Ministries
for the Division of Homeland Ministries' Christian Education Department
Program Personalities

**Thursday Evening Speaker**
Delores Carpenter  
pastor, Michigan Park Christian Church  
Washington, D.C.

**Friday Evening Speaker**
John Richard Foulkes  
Associate General Minister of  
the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
and Administrative Secretary of  
the National Convocation

**Director of Music**
Gale Jones Murphy  
Music Director, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Chairperson of Program Committee**
Della M. January  
Vice President of  
the National Convocation
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 8/5</th>
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<td>All Convocation Reception</td>
<td>Ministers' Wives Reception</td>
<td>Young Adults Reception Youth Pool Party STEEM Aftersession</td>
<td>Youth Dance</td>
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TOGETHER IN LOVE

VERSE

Some of us are called to be preachers. Some of us are called to teach. But what

ev'er we do, let us do it for You; when we all join together in love.

CHORUS:

When we all join together in unity - when we all join together in harmony, we will grow in His grace as we run this Christian race. When we

all join together in love. ©1986

Gale S. Murphy
A Look At
The Covenant

by Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.,
Senior Minister, Centennial Christian Church

A covenant may be defined as a bond entered into voluntarily by two people or parties who pledge themselves to do something for the other. In terms of faith the concept of the covenant between the God of Israel and His people is fundamental to the religion of the Old Testament. This flow is visible as one reads the Pentateuch.

17 When Abram was ninety nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.

3 Then Abram fell on his face and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.

6 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

8 And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, and land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Gen. 17:1-8 R.S.V.

It has been suggested by some that the original bond was simply the payment of sacrificial dues by Israel in return for the help of Jehovah. The symbol of the ark being especially associated with God’s presence.

Later on the prophets, especially Jeremiah, emphasized that the perfect relationship between God and man is based on the inward righteousness of the heart and looked forward to a new and ethical covenant.

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD: But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34 R.S.V.

It is clear that Jesus gave the concept of covenant a new dimension. Jesus showed that his life and death is the perfect covenant between God and man, wherein men instead of offering their own imperfect righteousness in exchange for the mercies of God, receive a supernatural gift of Divine grace whereby their rightheousness may be made perfect.

The covenant therefore is the gift of God and not the result of work, merit or negotiation.

17 And when it was evening he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were at table eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

19 They began to be sorrowful, and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?"

20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread in the same dish with me, for the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born."

22 And as they were eating, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

23 And he took a cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it

24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Mark 14:17-25 R.S.V.

The concept of covenant is based on relationships. In terms of how Jeremiah and Jesus envisioned covenant it is a spiritual, moral and ethical compact rather than a legal and statutory one. For the people of God covenant is characterized not by law but love. The symbol of this relationship is the altar instead of the court room. The covenant is initiated and received without coercion. This new and ethical definition covers not only the relationship between God and His people, but also the relationships between the people of God. It is the bond which calls the people of God together and holds them together.

Continued next page
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has incorporated the concept in its Design. The third paragraph of the Affirmation of Faith declares:

We rejoice in God
maker of heaven and earth,
and in the covenant of love
which binds us to God and one another.

Indeed the concept of covenant is the operating principle within the governing structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as the Design indicates, is organized around the three dimensions or manifestations to use the language at the original document. These manifestations are:

Congregational
Regional
General

Each manifestation or dimension is distinguished by its own integrity, selfgovernment, authority, rights, and responsibilities. This means that each manifestation has equal power in church governance. There is no central site of authority and decisions, judgements, and determinations are made through the Administrative Committee, the General Board and the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The thesis of this article is that the force and effectiveness of the Mission, Witness and Service of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is dependent upon our understanding of and commitment to the covenant principle. I am suggesting that when a person or manifestation enters into this spiritual compact, this covenantal relationship, that person or manifestation is committed to work for the good of the "whole church" and not just for any segment or unit or dimension of it. The guiding principles of the covenantal relationship are not isolation and privilege but community and mutual concern. In any type of church governance which is characterized by free and voluntary choice the concept of covenant must be properly understood and faithfully practiced if the system of governance is to be effective. In connectional and hierarchical systems, power and authority are clearly identified located, and relationships may or may not receive a great value. But in systems which are democratically governed, relationships are critical. In free and open institutions it is important that all manifestations be concerned not about private interest but the general good of the "whole church". Covenantal relationships must reflect mutual respect and trust.

Theologically the Christian religion is rooted in a person’s faith and knowledge of God and fellowship with God. Fellowship with God, in the Christian sense, however, can never be divorced or separated from fellowship with the people of God. “In fellowship religion has its founts” said George Meredith. In covenant the people of God find their noblest expression. We are the “body of Christ” to use Paul's phrase.

Let it be said that the idea of a solitary Christian is an inconsistency within itself. For one thing a solitary Christian, standing alone, betrays his or her own nature. A woman or man is a social being. If you sever the relationship that binds a person to his or her home, business, civic or social life, he or she would not be a person at all but a “speculative obstruction”. That person would be like a tree uprooted from the soil upon which it depends for support and nourishment – the tree would wither and die. Neither individual Christian, nor congregation, region nor general unit can live uprooted from the soil which is the church. If that happens they will wither and die.

An individual Christian or a dimension of the church can be likened to a word. A single word is an important unit. But standing alone it has little meaning. But it is only as the word combined with other words, sentences are combined with other sentences, paragraphs are combined with other chapters — that meaning comes clear and thoughts are conveyed.

The people of God are no exception. Just as no Christian standing alone, isolated from the Christian community can find real meaning, no congregation, region or general unit can find real meaning and fulfill God's purpose if it does not reflect concern for the whole church in its program and spirit. Only as the whole
A Look At The Covenant
Continued

Church shares in the covenantal relationship can progress be made in the Mission, Witness, and Service.

In the light of the biblical understanding of Christianity it can be said there is no solitary Christian. The question therefore is — in the light of the biblical understanding of the principle of the covenant — Is strict autonomy a valid concept? Is our self government mindful of the good of the whole church? Is our concern for tradition overwhelming our openness to the challenge of the future?

This is not to discount our significant progress as a church. Let us be grateful for the fact that God has brought us a “mighty long way” and that we have come “this far by faith”. We can celebrate our historical development as a church. But the celebration need not deter us from being free and open enough to ask questions about the polity of our church and our commitment to the covenant.

Only as it remains free and open can the whole church carry the whole Gospel to the whole world. Only as we are “one” can we move forward.

Samuel J. Stone and Samuel S. Wesley gave witness to the unity of the church when they wrote the words of the hymn:

“The church’s one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord:
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav’n He came and sought her
To be His Holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.”

African Update: From Relief To Development

The best rains in many years has fallen in Africa during 1986. The transformation in drought stricken countries has been spectacular. The harvest in the Sahel was over 50 percent higher than the year before. As a result the food outlook is much brighter.

The crisis, however, is not over. In countries where food supplies are not secure (Ethiopia, Sudan, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, and Campe Verde) relief efforts are still urgently needed. In many other countries seed supplies need to be restocked, surplus must be stored and distributed, animals herds must be protected against disease, improved farming practices must to introduced, trees must be planted, water sources and distribution systems must be developed, and basic agricultural improvements must be made available at the village level.

The crisis has not ended. The world’s fastest rate of population growth, combined with a decade long decline in per capita food production was merely ignited into emergency by the drought. Hunter and serious human need will continue to stalk the African continent for the foreseeable future.

In partnership with Christian colleague agencies, Disciples’ Week of Compassion will continue to work for rehabilitation and development that will result in food production, water resource development and protection of the environment.

Let’s Talk

We need to talk to each other on a regular basis about issues that concern us. The mass media will let us know what is happening around us. We need to know how these issues effect us and what we should do as a result of it.

SELAH is a monthly publication from the office of the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I am the editor for SELAH. It will contain information and comments on issues in the Black church from all of the partners in the journey. If you have something to share, comment on an issue important to the Black church or insight into the Black church’s journey, please send your statement to my office. I will edit and publish those statements that are essential to the Black church’s empowerment.

John R. Foulkes,
Associate General Minister
and Administrative Secretary
Articles of Amendment
from page 4

bers of the Advisory Committee and submit the candidate as the nominee to the Administrative Committee of the General Board for election. Should the highest ranked candidate, through interview or choice, prove unacceptable, the second highest ranked candidate shall be interviewed. If the second highest ranked candidate prove unacceptable, the General Minister and President may continue down the priority list or invite the Advisory Committee to begin the process again.

Old Slave Church Remembered

Twenty minutes northwest of Lexington, just off Leestown Pike, the little town of Midway, KY, lures travelers back into the 19th Century. Shoppers, accustomed to acres of automobiles in city malls, can find their choice of parking space in front of the railroad shops, browse among the handmade crafts in tiny boutiques and have a leisurely cup of tea and fresh carrot cake in a quaint little tea room.

Just up the hill sits Midway College, formerly known as Kentucky Female Orphan School, now a two year college for women, attracting students from all over the world.

A broad field, dotted with sycamores and bisected by a wandering creek, lies to the left of the entrance to the college. In the fall, it is the site of after school football games; in the spring, college students gather there to build a bonfire and form a friendship circle to bid goodbye on the last day of the term.

Old Log House

Only a few people know of the old log house that once sat there on the banks of Lee’s Branch. Those who do believe it to be the site of the nation’s first organized, all Negro Christian Church.

Descendants of that first congregation make up the church body today of the Second Christian Church of Midway.

Rosairene Black, church historian, talked in an interview of the origin of her church and the efforts of her mother, the first member to attempt to reconstruct a written history, to have an historic marker erected on the field.

“The history has to be authenticated,” Mrs. Black explained, “and it’s hard to get the information because most of it wasn’t written down.” Few of the early members, most of them slaves, could read or write.

A dim outline, gleaned from old records and the memories of the church’s oldest members, reveals that the first congregation of the Second Christian Church was organized somewhere between 1830 and 1840.

In the early 1800s, master, slave and freedman all worshipped under one roof, in what is now the all white, First Christian Church of Midway. It was the custom for the slaves to sit in the balcony or stand at the windows of the church; nevertheless, they were considered members of the same congregation.

Slave First Pastor

Alexander Campbell, a slave who took the name of one of the founding fathers of the Christian Church (also known as the Disciples of Christ or the Church of Christ), distinguished himself by preaching before the congregation. The elders of the church helped educate him at Transylvania College and organized the Negroes into a separate congregation, with Campbell as pastor.

The old log house on the campus was their first church.

Campbell added 300 new members to the church. Eventually, the elders bought his freedom; later, he was able to buy his wife Rosa’s freedom for $1,000.

By 1872 the church had grown too small, so the congregation bought a white frame Presbyterian Church on Stephens Street. In 1906 the present church was constructed on the same site.

Today, the two Christian churches are, as Mrs. Black put it, “together but separate—we don’t worship together.”

(Reprinted with permission by The Lexington Leader; Lexington, KY; 12/76)
JULY EVENTS

Third Assembly of the National Hispanic and Bilingual Fellowship
Rochester, New York
July 9-12, 1986

Jarvis Ministers/Lay Retreat
Hawkins, Texas
July 7-10, 1986

Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship
Jarvis Christian College
Hawkins, Texas
July 10-12, 1986

Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention
Berea College
Berea, Kentucky
July 16-19, 1986

Ninth Biennial Convention of the United Black Christians
United Church of Christ
Chicago, Illinois
July 23-26, 1986

Piedmont Tri-State Convention
Martinsville, Virginia
July 24-27, 1986

Reconciliation can help “change the picture” for millions of people who live below the poverty level. Programs offering employment, education, child care and legal assistance help people caught in poverty conditions because of racism.

Together in Mission — a call to Christian stewardship — what a challenge to be able to respond to the world hurts by joining with fellow Disciples in witness and service. Let us meet the challenge and support the corporate ministries of the church through increased giving to Basic Mission Finance.

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?
Harris Joins DHM Staff

A teacher who became a minister will head the voluntary services program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) beginning July 1.

She is the Rev. Charlotte D. Harris, Los Angeles, California, who has been a peace and justice consultant for the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ for the past year.

As director of voluntary services for the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries, Harris, 40, will be responsible for planning and implementing voluntary service programs such as adult work projects, individual voluntary service assignments and work study seminars.

She also will serve as the national resources coordinator for the mother to mother ministry of the church.

"The division is looking forward to her joining the staff and anticipates new and innovative leadership in this significant part of the church's ministry," said the Rev. Rolland G. Pfile, Indianapolis, executive for the Department of Church in Society.

Ordained in 1984 at McCarty Memorial Christian Church, Harris had taught in a bilingual fourth grade at Normandie Elementary School in Los Angeles since 1972.

She has been active in denominational circles, serving on the Disciples' General Board, 1972 to 1979, and on its Administrative Committee, 1977 to 1980.

She also served on the National Council of Churches' Governing Board, 1974; the United Ministries in Higher Education Commission, 1982; and on Operation Breadbasket, 1968 to 1969.

Harris received her bachelor's degree in 1964 and the master's degrees in 1976 from California State University. She received the master of divinity degree from the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley, California, in 1983.

Spring Seminarian Graduates

Brite Divinity School: Alice Goodwin, Belva Brown Jordan, Michael Kolawloe

Christian Theological Seminary: Frank Beard, Julia Brown, Joyce Montgomery Foulkes

Lexington Theological Seminary: Leo Douglas, Samuel Murray, Larry Poyntz, Jack Sullivan

Philips University Divinity School: Darlington Johnson

Congratulations To Dr. Rand

Dr. Earl Rand was honored at the dedication of Marshall's Wall of Distinction on Friday, May 17th. He was one of 125 honorees whose names have taken a permanent place on the Wall. Earl is honored because of his distinguished achievements as an educator in the city, state and nation.

The Wall of Distinction flanks the old Harrison County Court House on the south side of the square.

A banquet honoring the inductees was held Friday night at East Texas Baptist University. Honorees were presented with a Texas rose and a key to the city.

The dedication of this Wall of Distinction began the festivities for Statecoach Days in Marshall, Texas.

University Christian Church Celebrates 26 Years

University Christian Church, Houston, Texas, will be observing its 26th church anniversary, July 16-20, 1986 with special recognition being given to its founders. The theme will be "The Whole Church at Work," Matthew 16:18.

Dr. Emmett J. Dickson of Indianapolis will speak at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 20; and Dr. Titus Haynes, pastor of Jarvis Christian College Church will speak at 10 a.m. for the morning service. The Rev. Charles Faulkner serves as pastor of the University Christian Church since June 1984.
Selah
Published Monthly
The National Convocation of
The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Editor: John R. Foulkes

Taken from the Psalms "Selah" is a Hebrew word used in music to show where the cymbals should be played. Our Christian journey can be compared to a Psalms. Sometimes smooth and melodious, sometimes not so smooth. SELAH is intended to be an interruption to that journey's flow forming our issues of concern or celebration that will enhance that journey.
Equipping The Church For Action

The program committee planted, the Board of Trustees and the administrative secretary watered, but "God gave the growth" (I. Cor. 3:6). All of us are thankful for the growth that took place in all of the places and environments of the Ninth Biennial Session.

Rev. William Edwards, director of special congregational services in the Division of Homeland Ministries, served as the process consultant for the session. Rev. Edwards will be preparing a report from all of your evaluations within the next month that will help future session planners do an even better job. If you forgot to turn in your evaluation, be sure to send it to the Convocation office before the end of the month so that it can be included in Rev. Edward's report.

The following are just a few of the highlights of the Ninth Biennial Session.

The Word Was Preached

As the Convocation looked for ways to be more active in the life of the church, Rev. Charles Faulkner, Convocation president, Houston, TX, opened the session by asking the question, "How can the church survive in times like these?"

He told the audience at Centennial Christian Church for that first session that although doomsayers have predicted the end of the church for years it has still survived. He said that with Christ as its head he was not worried about the church going out of business but he did want to talk about what is going on in the local churches. "I believe that it is time for the church to be equipped for action. It is not time to be playing church," said Faulkner. He admonished them there must be more spirit in the church and to stop "messing around the board meetings."

The tone of each of the remaining three days of the Convocation was set by morning meditation leaders. On Wednesday morning, Rev. Ann Facen, Hannibal, MO, lead a meditation based on I Cor. 12 focusing on the gifts from God to enable us to work together to empower the church. Our differences can be beautiful as love enables our oneness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Clarence Howard, Fort Worth, TX, lead Thursday morning's meditation based on Matt. 16. The meditation focused on who we say that Jesus is and our reliance on God to fully equip the church for action through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Rolland Perry, Xenia, OH, lead Friday morning's meditation based on Eph. 4. The meditation focused on the unity enabled by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Our functioning is not of our own power ... We are equipped by the Holy Spirit."

While the Convocation addressed how it would equip itself for action, the Rev. Raymond E. Brown, Indianapolis, IN, senior vice president of the Board of Church Extension, held a "Town Hall" meeting. He appealed to the audience to not let the Convocation's heritage be lost. It is vital to know the past in order to chart your future, he told them as he presented past national staff and presidents of the Convocation and the National Christian Missionary Convention, the predecessor to the National Convocation.

The Rev. K. David Cole, Kansas City, MO, who delivered the Bible lectures each morning during the Convocation, said in his first lecture, "Maybe the reason why our pews are empty is because we have no story to tell. We must have our own story." He said the good news of the Gospel is that all should be

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Equipping The Church
For Action
Continued

gathered together in Christ Jesus. "This ought to be so much a part of our intricate being that God has this ministry for us. The ministry, mission and purpose of God have to be a part of our lives or everything we do is a farce."

In his second lecture he asked the audience to think of what they mean when they say church. "Unless we mean something infinitely more than the physical structures and institutions, we have missed the grander meaning of the word," he said. Cole explained that the church is not simply a religious social group but the body of Christ. He told a story about children playing at having church and said it's all right for children to play church but a shame for adults to play. There is a tremendous mandate placed on the church as the body of Christ, he added. "Maybe we ought to stop having church and be a church," said Cole.

On Friday morning, he asked how can the church equip itself for action. He said the apostle Paul has already given the characteristics the church must have to do its mission.

The Rev. William Lee, Roanoke, VA, spoke on "Working Out What is Worked In," and he told the Wednesday night audience the apostle Paul tells the church that it must manifest outwardly what God has worked in. "If God is in us, it ought to show every now and then. It is safe to assume tonight that you cannot work out anything if nothing is worked in," he said. Lee said he has discovered that a lot of times the church is trying to get people to do what they cannot do. "If it is not in them, you cannot get it out of them. If God has not gotten in them, nothing is getting out. On the other hand we have a lot of people in our churches with a lot in them but they are not willing to give their all to Jesus. There is a lot to say for potential but it is not worth five cents if it is not actualized," he said.

The Rev. Delores Carpenter, Washington, D.C., on Thursday night told the Convocation that these are perilous times but, if the church is willing, God will use it to work a reconciliation and help save a would-be lost generation. Carpenter said the church can bring into being a social program greater than the Kennedy or Johnson administration if it lets God be the architect.

She said there are certain keys the church must use in its mission. The first key is wanting to be equipped for the work. Then the work must be done in small action steps and someone must watch while the work is being done, she said. "If we do not monitor our gains as we make them, the enemy will see we have moved on and circle back and tear down what we have. President Reagan has demonstrated this by tearing down our gains in the name of budget balance. They are even tearing down walls before we complete them," said Carpenter.

In his first address to the Convocation as associate general minister and administrative secretary, the Rev. John R. Foulkes, Indianapolis, IN, told the Convocation that the Black churches still think of themselves as "mission churches" and tend to operate themselves as such without taking responsibility on themselves for their organization. "The situation we have in the church is the parent still telling the church what to do. We are still looking for someone to tell us who we are when God has already told who we are. God is not interested in this paternalism," he said.

He admonished the Convocation to be more active in the mission of the church and to claim their responsibilities as a part of the whole church and within their own organization.

The Clarion Hotel's convention center turned into a college/seminary campus after the bible lectures each day. Convocation participants moved quickly from the assembly hall to one of the twenty classrooms where a prepared and dedicated faculty lead workshops addressing the major themes of the Black church's life. Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, director of racial/ethnic educational ministries in the Division of Homeland Ministries, served as dean of the workshops. Rev. Jordan will be organizing the essence of each of these workshops into designs that can be used in local congregations.
Business Conducted
During its business session, the Convocation grappled with the procedure used to choose the administrative head of the organization, who doubles as the associate general minister of the denomination. There was concern from the members that there be some safeguards so that the person found to be acceptable by the church's general minister and president also be acceptable to the Convocation. A proposed revision to the selection procedure was returned to the Board of Trustees for more revision.

In other matters, the Convocation heard a summary of a document written by 151 South African theologians, entitled "Challenge to the Church: A Theological Comment on the Crisis in South Africa." The Convocation affirmed the following challenge statement of the document:

"5.1 God Sides with the Oppressed
To say that the Church must now take sides unequivocally and consistently with the poor and the oppressed is to overlook the fact that the majority of Christians in South Africa have already done so. By far the greater part of the Church in South Africa is poor and oppressed. Of course it cannot be taken for granted that everyone who is oppressed has taken up their own cause and is struggling for their own liberation. Nor can it be assumed that all oppressed Christians are fully aware of the fact that their cause is God's cause. Nevertheless it remains true that the Church is already on the side of the oppressed because that is where the majority of its members are to be found. This fact needs to be appropriated and confirmed by the Church as a whole.

At the beginning of this document it was pointed out that the present crisis has highlighted the division in the Church. We are a divided Church precisely because not all the members of our Churches have taken sides against oppression. In other words not all Christians have united themselves with God "who is always on the side of the oppressed" (Ps. 103:6). As far as the present crisis is concerned, there is only one way forward to Church unity and that is for those Christians who find themselves on the side of the oppressor or sitting on the fence to cross over to the other side to be found on the side of the poor and the oppressed.

If this is what the Church must become, if this is what the Church as a whole must have as its project, how then are we to translate it into concrete and effective action?"

"5.2 Participation in the Struggle
Christians, if they are not doing so already, must quite simply participate in the struggle for liberation and for a just society. The campaigns of the people, from consumer boycotts to stayaways, need to be supported and encouraged by the Church. Criticism will sometimes be necessary but encouragement and support will also be necessary. In other words the present crisis challenges the whole Church to move beyond a mere "ambulance ministry" to a ministry of involvement and participation."

"5.3 Transforming Church Activities
The Church has its own specific activities: Sunday services, communion services, baptism, Sunday school, funerals and so forth. It also has its specific way of expressing its faith and its commitment i.e. in the form of confessions of faith. All of these activities must be re-shaped to be more fully consistent with a prophetic faith related to the KAIROS that God is offering us today. The evil forces we speak of in baptism must be named. We know what these evil forces are in South Africa today. The unity and sharing we profess in our communion services or Masses must be named. It is the solidarity of the people inviting all to join in the struggle for God's peace in South Africa. The repentance we preach must be named. It is repentance for our share of the guilt for the suffering and oppression in our country.

Much of what we do in our Church services has lost its relevance to the poor and the oppressed. Our services and sacraments have been appropriated to serve the need of the individual for comfort and security. Now these same Church activities must be reappropriated to serve the real religious needs of all the people and to further the liberating mission of God and the Church in the world."
"5.4 Special Campaigns
Over and above its regular activities the Church would need to have special programmes, projects and campaigns because of the special needs of the struggle for the liberation in South Africa today. But there is a very important caution here. The Church must avoid becoming a "Third Force", a force between the oppressor and the oppressed. The Church's programmes and campaigns must not duplicate what the people's organizations are already doing and, even more seriously, the Church must not confuse the issue by having programmes that run counter to the struggles of those political organizations that truly represent the grievances and demands of the people. Consultation, coordination and cooperation will be needed. We all have the same goals even when we differ about the final significance of what we are struggling for."

"5.5 Civil Disobedience
Once it is established that the present regime has no moral legitimacy and is in fact a tyrannical regime certain things follow for the Church and its activities. In the first place the Church cannot collaborate with tyranny. It cannot or should not do anything that appears to give legitimacy to a morally illegitimate regime. Secondly, the Church should not only pray for a change of government, it should also mobilize its members in every parish to begin to think and work and plan for a change of government in South Africa. We must begin to look ahead and begin working now with the firm hope and faith for a better future. And finally the moral illegitimacy of the apartheid regime means that the Church will have to be involved at times in civil disobedience. A Church that takes its responsibilities seriously in these circumstances will sometimes have to confront and to disobey the State in order to obey to God."

"5.6 Moral Guidance
The people look to the Church, especially in the midst of our present crisis, for moral guidance. In order to provide this the Church must first make its stand absolutely clear and never tire of explaining and dialoguing about it. It must then help people to understand their rights and their duties. There must be to misunderstanding about the moral duty of all who are oppressed to resist oppression and to struggle for liberation and justice. The Church will also find that at times it does need to curb excesses and to appeal to the consciences of those who act thoughtlessly and wildly.

But the Church of Jesus Christ is not called to be a bastion of caution and moderation. The Church should challenge, inspire and motivate people. It has a message of the cross that inspires us to make sacrifices for justice and liberation. It has a message of hope that challenges us to wake up and to act with hope and confidence. The Church must preach this message not only in words and sermons and statements but also through its actions, programmes, campaigns and divine services."

Also related to South Africa, the Convocation recognized the recent decision by the Division of Overseas Ministries' board of directors to contribute $1,000 to the Program to Combat Racism special fund for Southern Africa. A letter drafted by the Black ministers organization was accepted by the Convocation board to be sent to DOM on behalf of the Convocation affirming the overseas ministries action on the racism grant.

The Rev. James Demus, Chicago, IL, told the Convocation that it was "important to put the money where your mouth is," and asked for a special offering to be given to the Division of Overseas Ministries as an affirmation of the Convocation's support of the PCR decision. That offering taken later in the evening was $2,143.

Concern over investments of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with companies linked to South Africa has led to a special task force of Black Disciples to investigate the fund's investment policies. The Board of Trustees of the Disciples' National Convocation appointed the task force in response to a resolution from the Ministers' Fellowship of the National Convocation referred to the board by the Convocation which met here in early August.
The resolution, also asked the Convocation board to call upon constituency groups and the larger church to withhold contributions to the Pension fund until that unit has divested from companies doing business with South Africa directly or indirectly.

The task force also will study the implications and effects of withholding contributions for persons retiring and alternative solutions, according to the Rev. John R. Foulkes, Disciples' associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation.

Appointed to the task force by the Rev. Alvin O. Jackson, Memphis, TN, Convocation president, are the Rev. Booker T. Dickason, Washington, D.C., chairman; Linda C. McC Knight, St. Louis, MO; The Rev. Robert W. Dickerson, Cleveland, OH; and the Rev. Effie Burford, Indianapolis, IN.

The task force will make a report to the Convocation board at its December meeting.

The Rev. Lester Palmer, Indianapolis, Pension Fund president, said the unit will wait for the recommendations of the task force before any new action is taken. The Pension Fund had dealt with the question of divestiture in its May board of directors meeting. The board decided at that time to continue its policy of not purchasing any new stock in companies doing business with South Africa and continue direct communication with the top management of companies it holds stock in about the church's position on apartheid.

Palmer said the Pension Fund has a minimal amount of investments in companies doing business in South Africa. Approximately two percent of its investments are in Burroughs, IBM and General Motors, which Palmer said are among the 12 companies listed by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility as doing substantial business in South Africa. The Pension Fund also will continue to report on its investments to the Disciples' Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee, said Palmer.

Presented by the Revs. Deborah R. Thompson, Denver, CO, and Graylan S. Ellis-Hagler, Roxbury, MA, the resolution said it was not enough for the Pension Fund to voice concern over apartheid and maintain investments in order to participate in stockholders meetings. "This position of staying invested in companies and funds doing business with South Africa is tantamount to Reagan's policy of constructive engagement," said the resolution. The principles of corporate responsibility serve as a "smokescreen" for businesses to continue doing business with South Africa, according to the resolution.

South African leaders such as Archbishop elect Desmond Tutu and the Allan Boesak have called for divestment from South African countries and sanctions against South Africa, approximately 95 percent of the Black work force in South Africa is not affected directly by western divestment issues.

The resolution said "the church has the authority and power to minister to 'least of these,' and the Black people of South Africa have been struggling for liberation for the past 334 years, and are 'the least of these.'" Alternative and socially responsible investment funds exist which have as great a return as investment portfolios with South African links, according to the resolution.

The Convocation Gave
One of the most critical issues facing the local congregation is how it develops and maintains a vital ministry in its local community and at the same time fulfill the gospel mandate to minister to the world. The Convocation addressed that issue by gathering its offerings for outreach ministries.

On Tuesday night the offering was gathered for Reconciliation. The Disciples News Service reported that the Black members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) made a significant offering to the Disciples' race and poverty fund during its meeting August 5-8. The National Convocation took an offering for the Reconciliation fund for the first time during a Convocation session. The offering of $2,290 was the largest offering ever given during a Convocation meeting, according to Dr. Ernest Newborn, Reconciliation administrative director, Indianapolis, IN. He made a special appeal to the Convocation to make an offering to the fund. "The Reconciliation ministry is especially vital to Black Disciples. The record shows that more than 50 Black congregations have received in excess
of $200,000 in grants for this outreach ministry,” he said. The Reconciliation fund is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

On Wednesday night the offering was gathered for Black ministerial relief administered by the Pension Fund of the Christian Church. An offering of $947 was gathered.

On Thursday the Convocation also gathered the offering to support the Programme to Combat Racism through the Division of Overseas Ministries referred to earlier.

On Friday the Ministers’ Wives and Christian Men’s Fellowships’ offering for the Star Supporter Fund, a scholarship fund for the Black Disciples preparing for ministry in seminaries, was gathered. The Christian Men’s Fellowship gathered $3,174. The Ministers’ Wives gathered $8,211.

The Convocation in its Ninth Biennial Session gathered a total of $17,740 for outreach ministries.

The Convocation Honored
The Rev. Emmett J. Dickson, Indianapolis, IN, a retired executive of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was honored by the Disciples Black churches. Dickson was presented the “Liberation Award” at the conclusion of the Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation. He was honored for giving “50 years of service of liberation in atmospheres that were often oppressive.” A special plaque was presented to Dickson by the Rev. John R. Foulkes, Disciples associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation, during the organization’s closing banquet.

Dickson has served the church through the years in various areas. He served 25 years as executive secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention, the predecessor of the National Convocation. He also served as director of field service for the Department of Evangelism and Membership of the Division of Homeland Ministries. He has been chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Lincoln Institute, Lincoln Ridge, KY, and Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX.

The pastor of the fastest growing congregation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been elected president of the Disciples’ Black church organization. The Rev. Alvin O’Neal Jackson, pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, TN, was installed as president of the Disciples’ National Convocation during its Ninth Biennial Session. Jackson has been pastor of Mississippi Boulevard since 1979 and has seen the church membership grow from 350 to over 1,700.

Also elected to serve as officers were vice president, the Rev. Effie Burford, Indianapolis, IN, a high school Spanish teacher; treasurer, the Rev. Booker T. Dickason, Washington, DC, pastor of 12th Street Christian Church; and secretary, Giley E. Griffin, Dallas, TX, school librarian.

The officers will serve until the conclusion of the next biennial session of the National Convocation in August 1988 in Memphis, TN.

The Ninth Biennial Session Will Be Remembered
Tapes of the Bible lectures, worship services, and banquet are available for $3.00 each through the National Convocation office. Write the office at P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 to order the following tapes:

Bible Lecture #1 — K. David Cole
Bible Lecture #2 — K. David Cole
Bible Lecture #3 — K. David Cole

Continued next page
Opening Session — Charles Faulkner
Wednesday Night Worship — William L. Lee
Thursday Night Worship — Delores Carpenter
All Convocation Banquet — John R. Foulkes

A digest of all the Ninth Biennial Session ministries will be published later this year. We will notify you of the date of publication and cost.

Stick pins and medallion/charms of the Convocation logo are available for $3.00. Write the Convocation office to place your order.

Additional copies of the program books are also available. They cost the Convocation $7.00 each to print, however, we will sell copies for $3.00. Write the office to place your order.

Contributors to the National Convocation CWF
North Bolton Christian Church; Jackson, TX; $25
Fair Street Christian Church; Springfield, OH; $20
Faith United Christian Church; Canton, OH; $25
Williamsburg Christian Church; Brooklyn, NY; $25
Clark St. Christian Church; Greenville, TX; $25
Disciples of Christ; Holly Hill, SC; $25
Galilee Christian Church; Holly Hill, SC; $25
Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church; Brooklyn, NY; $25
Community Christian Church; Fort Worth, TX; $25
Bentley St. Christian Church; Knoxville, TN; $25
Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church; Memphis, TN; $25
Briner Christian Church; Holly Hill, SC; $25
Alameda St. Christian Church; Nashville, TN; $25
Michigan Park Christian Church; Washington, DC; $25
East Sixth St. Christian Church; Oklahoma City, OK; $30
Fifth Christian Church; Cincinnati, OH; $25
Mt. Olive-East Christian Church; Martinsville, VA; $25
Park Manor Christian Church; Chicago, IL; $25
High St. Christian Church; Mt. Sterling, KY; $25
Twelfth St. Christian Church; Washington, DC; $25
North Hts. Christian Church; Wichita, KS; $25

The Church Obligation To South Africa
(Submitted by Samuel Murray, pastor, Fairview Christian Church, Berea, KY)
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history for placing great emphasis upon educational training and Christian freedom. Has the Church applied these values to the ongoing crisis in South Africa? Are we being educated by the Church to understand the speak out concerning this issue of apartheid? Does our cherished concept of Christian freedom obligate us to act in support of our religious beliefs? Apartheid, in its varied disguises, challenges the moral credibility of the Church as we prepare to enter a new decade. The Church must answer the call to unmask and dismantle this colossal malefactor called apartheid. Are we prepared and equipped to perform our obligation?

Apartheid is a word which is new to many, and misunderstood by most. The term apartheid is ill suited for street colloquial, and unfitting for Church dialect. Yet, daily, the Church encounters an ever increasing bombardment of this strange term and sinister concept. Thus we are left facing a question which is beginning to intensify in the minds of millions of Church members: “What does apartheid have to do with me?”

With only a few exceptions, church affiliation with apartheid falls under two categories: (1) those churches that fail to understand apartheid, and (2) those churches that fail to care about apartheid. Usually church affiliation with any issue is linked directly to the attitude and understanding of the minister. Ministers who fail to understand apartheid are impotent in addressing the issue. Ministers who fail to care about apartheid don’t want to address the issue. Because of such reasons the Church appears nearly totally insensitized to a people who are being raped, robbed, mutilated, and murdered daily. When violence such as this is being unleashed against God’s children, what obligation does the Church have? For Christians this should be a very sobering question. We are the members who make up the body of Christ. Do we know what our obligation is to the issue of apartheid in South Africa?
In order to answer the question concerning our obligation to South Africa, it may be helpful to ask first several questions about our obligation to the Church. Does our Church obligation call us to be informed members, knowing and understanding how our neighbors are being treated? Does our Church obligation necessitate that we speak, and be willing to act in response to government systems that perpetuate human violence and oppression? For Christians who hold faithful their commitment, and who understand the true meaning of the Gospel, the response is obvious. For those whose minds are yet befuddled about how they should answer these questions, Jesus Christ supplies you with the proper response in "The Parable of the Good Samaritan"; read it and then rejoin us.

Apartheid is a very cruel and vicious method of governing people. It calls for far worse treatment that what the thieves did to the man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. After the man had his material possessions taken, then beaten, at least he was left alone. Not so in the case of apartheid. This system divides people according to racial homogeneity. One group then assumes power over the other, and establishes a practice of stealing every margin of wealth and dignity that the powerless group might ever hope to gain. This process becomes perpetual and never ending. Apartheid never finishes robbing and mutilating its victims, so long as they are forced to abide by policies of racial discrimination.

What then is the Church's obligation to a place and people where such a system is allowed to operate? What is the Church's obligation to South Africa, a place where 27 million Blacks are ruled and controlled by 4.5 million whites? South Africa is a place where Blacks have no right to vote, no right to live with their families in the towns where they work, and no right to own property even in their own native homeland. Because we are the Church, constituting the living body of Christ, we must be willing to say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." The Church has been commissioned a Holy agent of Jesus Christ, functioning as his body, endowed and empowered to do God's will.

We have an obligation to know about conditions which are contrary to God's teachings; we are obligated to speak the truth of God's word wherever we find it being violated, and we are obligated to act in a manner which will demonstrate our faithful commitment to the revelation of God's will.

Apartheid is an evil injustice which victimizes the white South African even more so than it does the Black South African. If you find difficulty in accepting this statement, experiment with placing one of your friends under your own personal bondage. Soon you will discover who truly suffers in such relationships.

The Church created the environment that allows apartheid to manifest itself and flourish. It was the Christian missionary who traveled abroad and convinced the so called savaged African that it was the way of Christ to become docile and submissive, humbled and gentle. Just as we invested billions in dollars, and millions in lives to spread the teachings of Jesus to non-westerners, we must likewise not spare a single effort or resource to call our own cultures into account when we stumble beyond the limit that has been clearly set before us. "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

Peace Sunday 1986

Christ's people must witness and work through social and political action to help bring about peace according to the head of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In a letter for Peace Sunday 1986, the Rev. John O. Humbert, Disciples' general minister and president, says the December 7 observance "focuses our minds on the fact that in Christ we are called to be peacemakers."

Personal attention to peacemaking could begin in home, Humbert says. He reminds readers of the responsibility of parenting for peace and justice by quoting Isaiah: "a little child shall lead them."

Saying that personal piety is not enough, he adds "the power of demonic forces bringing our world to the edge of self destruction demands that we mobilize for social and
political action. The Christian hope for peace and the experience of the world's lack of peace demand a concrete approach making use of every political possibility."

He cautions that the political approach to peace with justice must be grounded in biblical witness or it will only be political pragmatism.

The letter is one of the resources available in the Peace Sunday packet compiled by the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries. This is the fourth year for the packet which includes preaching, liturgical, film, activity, book, and meditation resources. The packet is available through the division's department of church in society for $2.50.

American Asian Assembly

American Asian Disciples of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) met here in their fourth biennial convocation to explore issues and hopes for the church from an American Asian perspective.

Racism, prejudice and the lack of supportive networks have contributed to an increasing trend of alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide among the American Asian population, declared Royal Morales, Los Angeles.

Kei Kokubun, Los Angeles said that the frequent stereotype of the "model minority" which does not need social services has caused much hardship among American Asians.

The rising anti-Asian sentiment in the United States has generated increasing racially-motivated violence against Asians, said the Rev. Wallace Ryan Kuroiwa, Youngstown, Ohio.

The variety of cultural heritages of the American Asian Disciples was evident in the various languages used in worship and the different food served at each meal by the host congregations. The Wilshire Christian Church prepared a Korean meal served by women in traditional dress. The Filipino Christian Church entertained with Muslim dancers from the Southern Philippines, while the West Adams Church served sushi, traditionally a Japanese dish.

JoAnne Kagiwada, Indianapolis, Ind., director of international affairs in the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries, called for affirmation of American Asians as God's people.

The Rev. Eunice Lewton, Yakima, Wash., shared her concerns for the Disciples Native Americans, notably the Yakima, and their need to be a part of a community such as the AAD.

Rita Brock, Columbia, Mo., who led the bible studies said the woman who had the issue of blood illustrated the realities of life in which we have no choices such as ethnicity, features, sex, and biological make up. Yet like the woman, everyone can find acceptability through Christ who heals and brings wholeness.

The new officers elected during the July 28-August 2 meeting are convener, the Rev. Wallace R. Kuroiwa, Youngstown; vice-convener and West Coast representative, Dan Calderon, Los Angeles; secretary and East Coast representative, Maureen Osuga, Cortland, Ohio; Mid-America representative, the Rev. Soongook Choi, Chicago; and AAD Newsletter Editor, the Rev. Janet Casey-Al- len, Indianapolis.

Reconciliation can help

"change the picture" for millions of people who live below the poverty level. Programs offering employment, education, child care and legal assistance help people caught in poverty conditions because of racism.
Fifth Christian Church auxiliary heads, Pastor Rev. Timothy James and Rev. Tom Madden recite the litany before burning the church's mortgage.

Fifth Christian Church Burns Mortgage For 22nd Anniversary

Fifth Christian Church, 14109 Benwood, Rev. Timothy James, Pastor, Louis Harrison, Moderator, ended their 22nd Anniversary Celebration with the retirement of their mortgage for the church and parsonage. The retirement effort included substantial congregation donations and fund raisers.

In approximately one year and one month over $30,000 was raised. The drive began with the 21st Anniversary celebration. Fifth's members committed to pay pledges of varying amounts in addition to their 21st Anniversary commitments.

The Mortgage Busters, anniversary committee, Ruby Terry, chairperson, first activity included the Mortgage Busters Break Out. This was a fun night to encourage pledge payments and new pledges. From February of this year through April, special consecration services were held prior to worship to spiritually strengthen the church's members towards achieving the goal.

Visiting churches during the celebration included First Christian Church, Willoughby, OH, Rev. Ron Williams, pastor; Third Christian Church, Warren, OH, Rev. Lionel Walker, pastor, and the Glenville Church of God, Cleveland, OH, Rev. Charlie Goodman, pastor. In addition, Fifth Christian's Ushers through their Friend's Day, Adult Choir's Anniversary, Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) and other anniversary committee fund raising activities contributed to this celebration.

The Mortgage Burning Service was held in April 13. Rev. Timothy James and Rev. Tom Madden, associate regional minister of the Ohio Christian Church, burned the mortgage with representatives of all the church auxiliaries witnessing. Guest speakers were Olivia Martin, Western Reserve Historical Society and Monica Banks, Channel 43.

"The Lord blessed our efforts, for the young church that we are, it (the mortgage burning) affirmed our motto. Success shall be ours through prayer, caring and sharing," said Rev. Timothy James.

A New Form of Church

The Christian church is facing a major cultural shift in history that may produce a new form of church, a leading world ecumenist said in Indianapolis June 20. That new form, like those of the past, will confuse "the substance of the Christian faith with cultural values and will be suspicious of succeeding forms."

That view of the church was shared with the boards of the overseas arms of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ which met here June 20-21.

The Rev. T.J. Liggett, Indianapolis, Ind., moderator of the 1.1 million member Disciples of Christ and president of Christian Theological Seminary, told the two boards that signs point to a cultural shift in which a "radically-new order may emerge in the 21st century."

The keynote speaker for the boards of the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries and the United Church Board for World Ministries said "a new economic world order is a hope," with a new information and communication order proposed.

Already, through modern communications, Christians are exposed to the rest of the world. "All that we do constitutes a world wit-
ness,” said Liggett. “We need to take that seriously as North American Christians.”

A former mission executive and Latin America missionary for the Disciples, Liggett told the directors that it is time North American Christians realize the “changing tide of history” has turned and is flowing away from European domination.

San Salvador

Three ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) traveled to this war torn country to stand in solidarity with a death threatened Lutheran minister, as he was elevated to the post of bishop. The Revs. Don Manworren, Disciples’ deputy general minister and president; William J. Nottingham, president of the Division of Overseas Ministries and David A. Vargas, Latin America and Caribbean executive secretary, all of Indianapolis, Ind., attended the consecration of Bishop Medardo Gsomez, pastor of La Resureccison Lutheran Church.

More than 3,000 persons participated in the event held at the “Fe y Esperanza” (Faith and Hope) Camp for displaced people located approximately 16 kilometers from here, including more than 100 international church representatives. Vargas read a letter of congratulations and solidarity from the United Church of Christ signed by the Revs. Avery Post, president; Scott Libbey, executive vice-president and Patricia Rumer, executive secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, all of New York, N.Y.

The Disciples have supported Gsomez with staff and funds, particularly in the displaced persons work. Gsomez expressed his deep appreciation for the solidarity and support of the Disciples. He said: “Not only do the Disciples preach about ecumenism, but they also live the ecumenism.”

Bishop Gsomez told them, “When four years ago, I was arrested and disappeared for three days, my captors decided to release me indicating that I was going to live simply because there was too much international pressure and I had too many international friends. I thank you for that pressure and your support, because it is why I am alive today.”

His problems have not stopped. In June, he was accused by a former staff member of the non-government Human Rights Commission of being a supporter of the revolutionary groups in El Salvador. As a result of this accusation his life is in danger again, according to Vargas.

An illustration of that danger came at the end of the ceremony when an unidentified car picked up one of the residents who was standing at the entrance of the camp where the celebration was held. His whereabouts were not known for several hours until the Chief of Police of El Salvador confirmed that he had been arrested by the National Police.

John O. Humbert
General Minister and President

John O. Humbert was elected the third General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the 1985 General Assembly. One of Dr. Humbert’s goals is to strengthen the quality of congregational life.

National Memorial Service at National City

Dr. John O. Humbert, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) joined 21 other leaders of denominations and ecumenical groups in leading a congregation of nearly 1,000 at a national memorial service held at National City Christian Church in downtown Washington, DC, protesting apartheid and marking the tenth anniversary of the Soweto massacre.

A bomb scare failed to disrupt the service which had filled the famous sanctuary of the Disciples’ historic landmark cathedral. NCCC

Continued on next page
National Memorial Service
at National City
Continued

Senior Minister William C. Howland, Jr., who had welcomed the gathering, calmly announced early in the service that it was being moved to the broad steps at the front of the church facing Thomas Circle, just five blocks from the White House. The move had been planned, but for later in the service, for a concluding candelighting ceremony.

"We are gathered here tonight as people of faith to draw strength from one another and from the Lord whom we serve in order to enlist the leaders of our government in saying no to apartheid through comprehensive mandatory economic sanctions as a means to bring about justice and peace in South Africa," said the Rev. Arie R. Brouwer, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, in the call to worship. The service was planned by the Churches' Emergency Committee on Southern Africa, a group which was formed at an historic meeting held January 13 at NCCC.

In a letter to Dr. Howland after the service, Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ and — with Lorenzo Shephard, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention — co-chair of the CECSA, wrote: "With this service and with others that have occurred at the National City Christian Church, it does seem to me that many of us in church leadership circles are beginning to see Thomas Circle as a key gathering place."

Dr. Post praised National City for "the decision to host and to house such a large and complicated occasion with a focus on a controversial issue."

The bomb scare arose when the NCCC deacons noticed some abandoned luggage on a rear pew during the service. Following the evacuation to the front steps, police examined the articles and found only personal belongings. The officers endorsed the decision to empty the sanctuary and praised the orderly manner in which the move was made.
Reconciliation Can Help
"change the picture" for millions of people who live below the poverty level. Programs offering employment, education, child care and legal assistance help people caught in poverty conditions because of racism.

Sept. 28—Oct. 5, 1986

Twentieth Anniversary
In 1983, the General Reconciliation Committee appointed a task force to carry out an "evaluation and review of Reconciliation's purposes, goals and funding procedures..."
The task force conducted research with Disciples' constituency (interviews and surveys with general and regional staff, pastors, lay persons and seminary faculty, with prominent attentions to racial/ethnic leaders, lay and clergy).
A written study and commentary of Reconciliation work, 1968 to 1984 was also produced. The task force report with recommendations was accepted by the General Reconciliation Committee in November 1985.

The Disciples Reconciliation Program emerged out of the Civil Rights revolution of the late 1960's and has represented the church's response to racism and poverty in American society.

Given the continuation of racism, poverty and related systemic evils, Reconciliation has become a permanent Disciples' witness having long since eclipsed its original "emergency" status.

In 1985, more than 50 million Americans were living below or near the official "poverty" level, and a high percentage of all racial minority citizens are included.

Increasingly women and children are victimized by the system. The church's calling for a continuation and renewal of the Reconciliation ministry is apparent and urgent.

Botha Again Intervenes To Override Namibia's Legal System
South African president, P.W. Botha, has intervened to prevent the validity of the South African Terrorism Act being tested in a Namibian court. The law, one of the cornerstones of South Africa's illegal occupation of the former United Nations trust territory, provides for the indefinite detention of prisoners who have no access to lawyers or family and invariably suffer brutal..."
Botha Intervenes

Continued

interrogation at the hands of the security police.

This is the second time in recent weeks that President Botha has stifled the Namibian legal system. In July he stopped a trial in which four white soldiers were charged with killing a Black Ovambo, on the grounds that the hearing would not be in the national interest.

The latest intervention occurred as a major trial was due to begin in the Windhoek supreme court. Eight men, among them alleged insurgents from the SWAPO liberation movement, were charged under the Terrorism Act. But lawyers for the accused claimed that key provisions of the act conflicted with the "Bill of Fundamental Rights", which specifically enshrines the right to a fair trial. The "Bill of Rights" was introduced in June 1985 at the launching of the South African created interim government in Windhoek. It was intended to win support for what most Namibians saw as a puppet regime.

But then, as lawyers and opponents of the regime sought to invoke the various freedoms supposedly guaranteed in the "Bill of Rights", it became an embarrassment to the embattled government.

On Friday, 5 September, President Botha issued an amending proclamation declaring that "no court of law shall be competent to inquire into or pronounce upon the validity of any act of the South African parliament". He did so at the request of the interim government.

The Botha amendment does not affect proclamations made by the administrator general, the South African appointed official similar to a British colonial governor. But most of the harsh security legislation (the Internal Security Act, the Defense Act, the Riotous Assemblies Act, as well as the Terrorism Act) emanate from the South African parliament.

There are, however, a number of pending court actions where proclamations of the administrator general relating to security laws and the continuing segregation under South African style apartheid are being contested in the light of the "Bill of Rights". But the state president's interference in the Namibian judicial process has dealt a huge blow to the cause of human rights, at the same time undermining the fragile authority of his interim government.

Richmond Nelson Elected President of the Caribbean Conference of Churches

The greatest dangers to the church come from those within the fold, according to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister who was elected president of the Caribbean Conference of Churches, recently.

The Rev. Richmond Nelson, Lawrence Tavern, Jamaica, delivered his first address to the conference during the closing worship service of its fourth general assembly.

"We face a danger and real threat from outside the fellowship from those who seek to subvert our unity and effectiveness in the world. But the greatest danger lies within the fold," said Nelson.

He added that the threat comes to the assembly just as it comes to churches across the Caribbean region.

"It is a serious threat to the wholeness and effectiveness of the body as a whole from those who come to church or gather in assemblies and talk a lot, pray and sing a lot, even pass pious resolutions about this and that, but sit down and do nothing to make the witness of the church effective in the world," he said.

Comparing household chores done on the farm before going to the "real work" in the field, he told the assembly delegates as they departed that the Caribbean region is in their field in which to do the real work.

(Printed by Namibia Communications Centre, London)
He also said the assembly was sending a clear message to the people of Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean that "in spite of our problems and differences, we are resolved to work together. The Caribbean Conference of Churches is here to stay."

Nelson was elected to a five year term as one of three presidents for the conference. Also elected were Myrtle Leetz Centje, a Roman Catholic from Curacao, and the Rev. Drexel Gomez, an Anglican priest from Barbados.

Mini Convocations for 1987
Plans are being made to develop and implement mini convocations in areas of Black population in preparation for the 1988 Convocation in Memphis. Please be prayerful about these mini convocations which will be announced at a later date in more detail.

Change of Address
Always give both old and new addresses when requesting change for mailing. If possible, enclose the address label from your latest newsletter. Send your changes to Board of Church Extension for SELAH Mailing List; P.O. Box 7030; Indianapolis, IN 46207.

The Ninth Biennial Session
Will Be Remembered
Tapes of the Bible lectures, worship services and banquet are available for $3.00 each through the National Convocation office. Write the office at P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 to order the following tapes:

- Bible Lecture #1 - K. David Cole
- Bible Lecture #2 - K. David Cole
- Bible Lecture #3 - K. David Cole
- Opening Session — Charles Faulkner
- Wednesday Night Worship - William L. Lee
- Thursday Night Worship - Delores Carpenter
- All Convocation Banquet - John R. Foulkes

A digest of all the Ninth Biennial Session ministries will be published later this year. We will notify you of the date of publication and cost.

Stick pins and medallion/charms of the Convocation logo are available for $3.00. Write the Convocation office to place your order.

Additional copies of the program books are also available. They cost the Convocation $7.00 each to print, however, we will sell copies for $3.00. Write the office to place your order.

Lost And Found
The articles listed below were found at the Convocation in St. Louis:

1. Lady's white sweater with pink embroidered flowers and two front pockets.
2. Lady's grey and peach vertical striped blazer.
3. Man's dark sun glasses "Solo Shields"

If either of these articles belong to you, please contact the National Convocation office.

Minutes of Business Session
of the Ninth Biennial Session

National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
August 7, 1986—Clarion Hotel—St. Louis

The Ninth Biennial Session's business session was called to order by Charles Faulkner, president; and it was determined that a quorum was present. Emmett J. Dickson was appointed parliamentarian.

Item 8601 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL SESSION

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the Eighth Biennial Session's business session minutes.

Continued on next page
Item 8602 REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION TO THE GENERAL BOARD
It was moved, seconded and passed to approve and receive the December 31, 1985 and 1984 National Convocation's balance sheet, letter and notes by Blue & Co. (auditors).

It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the report of the Committee on Black and Hispanic Concerns.

It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the Reconciliation report.

Item 8603 ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive and affirm the actions taken by the National Convocation Board of Trustees: December 1984 and December 1985, and the Executive Committee: March 1985 and April 1986.

It was moved, seconded and passed to receive and affirm the actions taken by the National Christian Missionary Convention Board of Trustees: December 1985, and the Executive Committee: April 1986.

Item 8604 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
It was moved, seconded and passed that the report of the president (Charles Faulkner) be received.

Item 8605 REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
It was moved, seconded and passed to accept with appreciation and gratitude the reports of the interim associate general ministers and administrative secretaries, Thomas J. Griffin and Raymond E. Brown, and the report of the elected and affirmed associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation, John R. Foulkes.

Item 8606 REPORT OF THE TREASURER
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the National Christian Missionary Convention, Inc. and Subsidiary consolidated balance sheets, December 31, 1985 and 1984 by Blue & Co. (auditors).

Item 8607 TIME AND PLACE REPORT
It was moved, seconded and passed that the Tenth Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be held in Memphis, Tennessee for 1988 and that the Board of Trustees be empowered to implement the same; and the Eleventh Biennial Session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) be held in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area and that the Board of Trustees be empowered to implement the same.

Item 8608 ADOPTION OF AMENDED MERGER DOCUMENTS
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive for information the amended merger documents.

Item 8609 ADOPTION OF MERGED ARTICLES OF OPERATION
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive for information the editorial changes of the merged Articles of Operation of the National Convocation.

Item 8610 ADOPTION OF PROPOSED ARTICLE V, ITEM NO. 6
The proposed amendment to Article V, no. 6 stirred much discussion about the way it was written, and the president requested that persons write out their concerns and turn them in to the Board of Trustees.

Continued on next page
Item 8611 BLACK CLERGY WOMEN ISSUES
It was moved, seconded and passed that the Ninth Biennial Session receives the issues identified by the Black clergy women, affirms the issue as being critical to the life of the church, supports Black clergy women in the solution of the problems identified, commends the struggle of the issues to the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and commits themselves to the erradications of the problems.

Item 8612 BLACK ASSEMBLY REPORT
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the report of the Black Assembly. The Convocation was commended for taking a second look at the Black Assembly.

Item 8613 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the report of the Nominating Committee.

Item 8614 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES
It was moved, seconded and passed to elect the Class of 1992:
Deborah Thompson (Denver, CO)
Carmen Myers (Indianapolis, IN)
James Smedley* (Greensboro, NC)
Ellis Jordan (Chicago, IL)

*James Smedley was nominated and elected to replace Algie Rousseau (Los Angeles, CA) who was originally nominated.

(It was moved, seconded and passed to extend the business session from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

It was moved, seconded and passed to elect the officers for 1988 - 1990:
Lenita Jacqueline Bunch
Columbus, Ohio (President)
Robert L. Brown
Little Rock, Arkansas (Vice President)
Brenda Marie Cardwell
Peoria, Illinois (Secretary)
Norman Reed
Nashville, Tennessee (Treasurer)

Item 8615 ELECTION OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
It was moved, seconded and passed to elect the following persons to the Nominating Committee, 1986 - 1988:
Mae Choice, Dallas, TX
Lucile Compton, Cincinnati, OH
Thomas Murray, Memphis, TN
Jessie Turner, Montgomery, AL
Dorothy Witten, Roanoke, VA
Charles H. Webb, Jr., Los Angeles, CA
James O. Williams, Sr., Winston-Salem, NC

Item 8616 KAIROS DOCUMENT
A paper entitled “Challenge to the Church/A Theological Comment on the Political Crisis in South Africa” THE KAIROS DOCUMENT written by 151 South African theologians was introduced to the Convocation by the Board of Trustees.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the Convocation affirm the Kairos document’s Action.

(It was moved, seconded and passed to extend more time beyond 5 p.m. for the business session.)

Item 8617 MINISTERS’ FELLOWSHIP OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCATION
A resolution on South Africa was presented by a member of the Ministers’ Fellowship, which called for the Pension Fund of the Christian Church to pull its investments out...
of companies that do business with South Africa. The Resolution was referred to the National Convocation Board of Trustees for action.

It was moved, seconded and passed that the letter presented by the Ministers' Fellowship addressed to the president of the Division of Overseas Ministries be received and referred to the Board of Trustees for action.

James Demus, on behalf of the Ministers' Fellowship, called upon the National Convocation at its Biennial Session take up a special offering tonight (August 7, 1986) during worship for the Division of Overseas Ministries for the special South African fund as token of appreciation. It was moved, seconded and passed to take up the offering.

The newly elected officers for the Ministers' Fellowship are:

Robert W. Dickerson  
Cleveland, OH (President)

Effie Burford  
Indianapolis, IN (Vice President)

Derry Henry  
Dallas, TX (Secretary)

Timothy James  
Cleveland, OH (Treasurer)

It was moved, seconded and passed that the report of the National Ministers' Fellowship be received.

(Continued on next page)
It moved, seconded and passed to receive the report of the Christian Men's Fellowship.

Item 8621 YOUNG ADULTS
The young adults feel the need for an organization and would like to meet to discuss with the necessary parties hopes and goals of the future, identify concerns. There is lack of young adult participation in local and general levels, and they are requesting that the appropriate body form a task force to help them establish an organization to build an constituency group so they can function as other fellowships.

It was moved, seconded and passed to receive the report of the young adults.

(It was moved, seconded and passed to extend the time for 10 minutes.)

It was moved, seconded and passed that all manners of business not completed and all resolutions and issues for affirmation and implementation be referred to the National Convocation Board of Trustees.

EQUIPPING
THE CHURCH
FOR
ACTION

C.R.A.C. Calls for Divestment
An "orderly divestiture" of stock from companies doing business with South Africa is the recommendation that will go to the Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its January meeting.

The Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee, which met in Indianapolis Sep-
tember 26 - 27, will send a resolution to the Administrative Committee calling upon all general units, regions and congregations of the church to begin the process of orderly divestment from 12 particular companies that have been identified by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, New York, as being less responsive to requests to end business relations in South Africa.

Those corporations are: Burroughs; Chevron; Citicorp; Control Data; Fluor; Ford; General Motors; IBM; Mobil; Newmont Mining; Royal Dutch Shell; and Texaco.

If the resolution is adopted, it will require all divestment to be completed by December 1987 and reported to the Corporate Responsibility Advisory Committee for its report to the Administrative Committee on January 15, 1988, according to Jean Woolfolk, Little Rock, Ark, advisory committee chairperson.

The Disciples had joined 50 other religious organizations and denominations in 1985 in announcing a "focus list" of companies which were identified as key investors in South Africa and were being asked to end business relations with South Africa. The companies also were asked to publicly approach the South African government and ask for certain conditions to be met for their remaining in South Africa.

All of the companies now listed for divestment, except Royal Dutch Shell, were on the original list. The only company on the focus list not included in this call for divestment is General Electric.

Woolfolk said that some Disciples units have already begun their own process of divestment of South African holdings. She noted that a representative from the National Benevolent Association was a guest at the meeting and that unit has already begun divestment. Other guests included representatives from the Disciples Pension Fund and National Convocation, which have been involved in discussions on divestment.
Thanksgiving Offering 1986

What better time of the year to give thanks to those who sacrificed, at the expense of a secure future, that we might know the love of God through Jesus Christ.

A portion of your giving to the Thanksgiving offering assures a better life in retirement for approximately 1,700 ministers and widows of ministers. We can say thanks by sacrificing a little in order to help in their time of need.

Your Thanksgiving offering, through Basic Mission Finance, helps support two congregations, two Friendship houses, and centers for clothing and food distribution. These ministries enable native Americans to receive a share of God's fullness.

Giving at Thanksgiving may make us “feel good,” but only fully giving out of deep thanksgiving can make us godly.

Your greater gift to the Thanksgiving offering will help equip more than 1,000 students in our seven seminaries in North America to lead the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into the 21st century.
On October 12, 1986, Thomas J. Griffin, Sr., was born into eternity. Dr. Griffin's home-going celebration was at the Faith United Christian Church, Indianapolis, October 18, 1986. Significant leaders from the church throughout the nation were present for this celebration which included Dr. Griffin's life of leadership as pastor of the East Sixth Street Christian Church in Oklahoma City, OK; executive secretary of the Christian Church's Christian Action and Community Service of the United Christian Missionary Society, pastor/developer of the University Christian Church in Houston, TX; director of Reconciliation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); pastor of McCarty Memorial Christian Church in Los Angeles, CA; pastor of Jarvis Christian College Church in Hawkins, TX and also religion instructor at Jarvis; pastor/developer of Faith United Christian Church in Indianapolis, IN; and interim associate general minister and administrative secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Paul A. Sims, Jr., associate regional minister of the Christian Church in the Southwest, in his eulogy of Dr. Griffin identified three scriptures around which he sensed Dr. Griffin's life revolved: Job 14:1, John 14:1-6, and Revelations 20. Dr. Sims argued that a prince has fallen, one who was unaltering in his trust in Christ Jesus. The eulogy was concluded by Dr. Sims showing a sign he and Dr. Griffin used in stressful meetings to identify their departure from the meetings. It is the familiar sign used by Blacks as they exit during worship services. The sign is holding up an index finger asking to be excused but they must leave. Dr. Sims made reference to this sign, stating that Dr. Griffin has asked us to excuse him but he had to leave.

Dr. Griffin will be physically remembered in the life of the Convocation as business meetings of the National Convocation are called into session and directed by use of the gavel he donated as a gift to the Convocation at its Ninth Biennial Session in St. Louis this year. The gavel has inscribed on its pad "Let all things be done decently and in order," 1 Cor. 14:40.

A scholarship fund is presently being established and will be called the Thomas J. Griffin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Details will be available in a later issue.
General Motors And IBM Pull Out of South Africa

Two major American firms investing in South Africa have recently decided to pull out. They are General Motors and IBM.

General Motors' corporation chairman, Roger Smith, is quoted as saying "General Motors South African Ltd. has been losing money for several years in a very difficult South African business climate and, with the current structure, we could not see our operations turning around in the near future. The ongoing economic recession in that country, along with this lack of progress, has made operating in the South African environment increasingly difficult." Smith said the proposed sale was also the result in the South African government's slowness in eliminating apartheid.

Graylan In Russia

The Soviet people have high hopes that something fruitful will come from the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, according to a local minister who has just completed a two week peace tour of the Soviet Union.

The Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, co pastor of Church of the United Community in Roxbury, MA, a congregation dually aligned with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, was in the Soviet Union when the Iceland meeting was announced. He was part of a peace delegation sponsored by Bridges for Peace, Norwich, VT.

The purpose of the trip was to dialogue with the Soviet people, government and church officials on peace issues to foster a better understanding between the two countries, he said. The group visited 16 cities during the trip and were hosted by the Russian Orthodox Church.

Ellis-Hagler said he gained a greater understanding about the Soviet people, their desire for peace and how their actions are dictated by their memories of World War II. "Something that hit me about the way the Soviets look at the world is they lost 20 million people in World War II to the Nazis. We laid a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was one of the most moving moments of the trip. I was carrying the wreath and the women walked behind me talking. The interpreter told me they were talking about who they lost in the war. Everyone was crying. It caught up to me," he said. Later the crowd started chanting and he was told they were saying "peace."

In Leningrad, they were shown the mounds which are the graves of the 650,000 people who were starved to death when the Nazis surrounded the city for months.

"The Soviets believe they are defending themselves and the U.S. is aggressing against them. You may not believe this but their paranoia comes from their experiences," said Ellis-Hagler.

He added the Soviets feel they are justified to be in Poland because invasions of their country have come through Poland. "My impression is they feel the need for these buffer states," said Ellis-Hagler, explaining that even Napoleon invaded the country by way of Poland.

There are some divided opinions among the Soviets on Afghanistan, he said. One official referred to it as their Vietnam while one official advised Ellis-Hagler that they should only speak on things they could agree upon.

While they are hopeful about the Iceland meeting, the people are wary of President Reagan, he said. "They hope Reagan will not do any stonewalling and not listen to their proposals," he said.

The group was in the Soviet Union during the Nicholas Daniloff controversy. Ellis-Hagler said the whole matter was highly talked about by the people. "All of the Soviets, including the priest hosting us, said Daniloff was a spy. They were all highly informed and actively talking about it."

The group met with communist party officials in Stavropol and Patigorsk. Ellis-Hagler said he talked to them about the role of the church in the U.S., its importance to issues of justice and how it could play a big role in the Soviet life. Although it is illegal, he also preached on the street in Patigorsk.
about the church and its role in freedom from oppression of the black people in the U.S.

As the only black person in the group, Ellis-Hagler said he was able to add a different perspective about life in the U.S. He said he will recommend to the American Friends Service Committee, which chose him as a representative to this delegation, that more people of color be included in future delegations.

Haiti Revisited

By David Vargas and William Nottingham (executive for the Department of Latin America and the Caribbean and the president of the Division of Overseas Ministries, respectively)

When somebody in Haiti tears a tree trunk out of the ground, it is called dechoucage. The closest thing we have to it is "uprooting." This is the way that the January and February revolution in Haiti is remembered there. It includes the public manifestations of the people in every city and town, the destroying of businesses belonging to the Duvalier family, the overthrow of the infamous Ton-Tons Macoutes, and the flight from Haiti by the "President for Life" Jean Claude. That was on February 7. Since then, people are waiting for changes that have never come. On April 26, there was a memorial march for a massacre on that day in 1963, and the police and army fired on the people, killing 6 or 7 and wounding many. Since June 10, after making some changes in the ruling five committee, now three, General Namphy has hardly been seen on television or heard on the radio. When we were there on September 24-25, people were fearful that there would be a new uprising about the time school is to open in two or three weeks. Probably that will not happen, but it shows how terribly disappointed everybody is.

For one thing, the economy is worse now than it was at the beginning of the year. Not for everybody, because the rich are getting richer, and although they showed some modesty after February 7, by fall they were daring to flaunt their power once again. When General Namphy and his entourage of luxury Jeeps travels across the country, it is in the same manner as "Baby Doc." They travel at breakneck speed through the countryside and villages, and they throw out the equivalent of one dollar bills to the masses along the way. This is not the kind of economic and social development the people are demanding.

In the second place, the top ringleaders have left the country or been arrested, but the people in charge of offices and government services have remained the same. In fact, many of the Macoutes have come out of hiding, reappear as police men or soldiers, and much of the same disregard for responsible and compassionate government prevails. Things are moving so slowly that all the authorities are losing their credibility.

The main difference is that people are no longer looking over their shoulders when they talk to you. They are not speaking in whispers or disguising their words with a cigarette dangling from their lips. The newspapers, radio and television are outspoken. Leadership of the churches is in the hands of people who call for more generous servings of democracy. Community organization becomes possible where it was called "subversive" before. People are participating in leadership and new political organizations in a new way. CWS related Service Chretien is restoring its offices and warehouse, which were sacked and wrecked because of suspicions of collaboration, and an efficient team of three long term employees has replaced the former authoritarian director.

However, many priests and pastors say that there are more problems today than before. The provisional government has limited power for change, so that there is criticism both when it does and when it does not. The Duvalier people are everywhere, including the level of mayors and prefects and government officials. (In January, Jean Claude boasted that he was as strong as a monkey's tail. The people now say that the tail is gone, but the monkey is still there!) Those who are new have too little means to help the people. In fact, the provisional government, as in so many places, is military rule under the watchful eye of the U.S. Government, as
people interpreted the visit of Secretary George Shultz some weeks ago. People feel they have been cheated. As one priest has said, it took months for the people to realize that nothing had changed and that problems of political and social development have to begin with basic needs and services and the very structure of society. They say “The Philippines gets millions of dollars; Haiti gets tons of wheat.”

One happy note were the repeated remarks of church leaders who said that we can not just say to the poor that God loves them. We have to do something to encourage them to help change the conditions in which they live. There is no separation of the “spiritual” and the “social” for evangelical friends here. There is an energetic literacy program, Alpha Mission, in Roman Catholic base communities and a civic education program in Creole prepared by the Methodists, leading to elections in 1988. Service programs are grouped in an ecumenical organization that seeks to represent unity rather than the tragic divisions of the population.

Disciples of Christ in Puerto Rico are involved with the daily life of families in the barren northwest whose families are down to “zero” and for whom the church is both a form of solidarity and hope. We are helping there and elsewhere through the Division of Overseas Ministries and the Week of Compassion, and through our prayers to God for justice, peace and the love of Christ.

The Convocation Supported STEEM Decision For Ministry Through STEEM

One of the Thursday night offerings of the Ninth Biennial Session of the National Convocation was for the STEEM program. The Convocation’s offering of $975.05 sent to support the program described in the following Disciples’ news release:

A variety of experiences in the ministry was given to eight young adults who participated in the 1986 Short Term Employment Experience in Ministry (STEEM) program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As a result of their experiences, six of the eight have expressed a desire to enter the ministry, according to the Rev. Lawrence S. Steinmetz, St. Louis, vice president of the Division of Higher Education and director of the STEEM program.

“When six of the interns returned for the debriefing session in August, it was evident that each had grown in significant ways since June. They had a noted new self assurance, a deepened spiritual awareness of God acting in their lives and a renewed vocational commitment born in response to the specific needs of people with whom they had lived,” said Steinmetz.

This summer was the 16th year for the STEEM program which is administered by DHE. It is designed to recruit ethnic minority students for ministries of the church by giving them direct work experiences in various ministries during the summer months. The students work for 10-weeks in a variety of settings across the United States.

The interns this year were: Donald Breland, 22, Bamberg, South Carolina, a member of Three Mile Christian Church, Bamberg, and a student at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, who worked as an intern with Community Children’s Ministry, National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.

Richard F. Briones, 28, Las Cruces, New Mexico, a member of Mesilla Valley Christian Church, Las Cruces, and a student at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, who worked for 13 weeks with the Western Ozark Lakes Ministry, Warsaw, Mo.

Forest E. Brooks, 26, Cincinnati, Ohio, a member of Fair Street Christian Church, Springfield, Ohio, and a student at Jarvis Christian College, who worked for seven weeks with the Southeast Gateway Area in Mid-America, St. Louis.

James Curtis Brooks, 20, Cincinnati, Ohio, a member of Fair Street Christian Church, Springfield, Ohio, and a student at Jarvis Christian College planning to transfer to Wiley College, Marshall, Texas, this fall, who worked with the Longview (Texas) Christian Retirement Center.

Jimmie Steve Chambers, 21, Richmond Heights, Mo, a member of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, a student at Jarvis Christian College, who worked with Fox-
wood Springs Living Center, Raymore, Mo.
Balogun Cobb, 19, Holly Hill, South Carolina, a member of Galilee Christian Church, Holly Hill, and a student at Jarvis Christian College, who also worked at Foxwood Springs Living Center, Raymore.
Ricardo Huiza, 19, Hollywood, Calif., a member of Camile Christian Church, Santa Ana, Calif., a student at Chapman College, Orange, Calif., who worked with the office of research in the General Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Ind.
Dennis Charles Spivey, 22, Ruston, La., a member of Jarvis Christian College Church, Hawkins, Texas, and a student at Jarvis Christian College, who worked with the People are Beautiful Program, Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland, Ore.

Black Prospects Needed
The office of the National Convocation regularly receives requests from general units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seeking persons to serve on their boards and as employees within those units. There is a need for the development of a prospect file of names of Black Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members who have gifts that would be helpful to the church in their service on the various boards or as employees in those units.
Will you please assist this office in providing recommendations to the general units by identifying and sending to us information on gifted persons within the congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who would be interested in serving the church.

Centennial Christian Church And NBA Secure $3.2 Million HUD Loan
Centennial Christian Church and the National Benevolent Association (both located in St. Louis, MO) have been awarded a loan of $3.2 million by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The money is for 77 housing units for the elderly. The announcement was made by U.S. Sen. John C. Danforth, R Mo.
The department provides long term direct loans to eligible non profit sponsors to build or rent housing for the old or handicapped. At least 20 percent of the units must be set aside for poor people.
Centennial Christian Church (Rev. Samuel Hylton, Jr., pastor), whose 400 member congregation is the local sponsor of the proposal, has served the Fountain Park area of St Louis for 45 years. The church is at 4950 Fountain Avenue. The National Benevolent Association is the social and health services unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It has sponsored 26 programs with HUD in the last decade and manages 23 such projects throughout the United States.

Fifteenth Anniversary Celebrated
First Christian Church in Rockford, IL, celebrated its 15th anniversary on October 17. This congregation began in stress and has developed significant leadership. It is presently moving towards full association with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). (Rev. D. W. Heath is pastor.)

Retreat At Willow Street Christian Church
The departments of stewardship and evangelism of the Willow Street Christian Church in Hannibal, MO, hosted and shared in a weekend retreat with its members at the church. The retreat began Friday, October 17 and concluded on the 19th with a special service during the Sunday morning worship service. Dr. Lorenzo Evans and Mr. A. C. Stone served as resource leaders from the general staff in Indianapolis. (Rev. W. Ann Facen serves as pastor.)
The theme for the retreat was “Blessed in Order to Bless,” taken from their emphasis on stewardship this year through the SEED (Stewardship Emphasis for Every Disciple)
Program. The participants were further educated in good stewardship practices of all that God has created and has charged us as caretakers and the proper use of one's time, talents, and financial resources. The SEED Program was a 12 month promotion.

This unified course of study was helpful to all the church's departments and the church school's various grade levels. It has been a source of strength in the life of the congregation.

Eagle Scout
Jacques Eric Gates is a member of Walker Memorial Christian Church, Memphis, TN. He is president of the CYF. The members of the church congratulates this young man on his achievement in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. It reflects the highest standards of leadership, personal discipline, initiative, and dedicated service. (Rev. G. A. Evans serves as pastor.)

The National Convocation also congratulates Jacques.

Lost And Found
The articles listed below were found at the Convocation in St. Louis:
1. Lady's white sweater with pink embroidered flowers and two front pockets.
2. Lady's grey and peach vertical striped blazer.
3. Man's dark sun glasses "Solo Shields"
If any of these articles belong to you, please contact the National Convocation office.

Black Disciples Trivia
(by Brenda M. Cardwell, Associate Minister, Howett St. Christian Church, Peoria, Illinois)
1. Group organized in 1917
2. Black scholarship fund
3. Author of "Two Races, One Fellowship"
4. Early Black Disciples newspaper
5. First Black moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
6. First president of the National Christian Missionary Convention
7. First Black vice moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
10. Vice moderator of the International Convention and president of International Christian Women's Fellowship
11. Director of evangelism of the National Christian Missionary Convention
12. First woman president of the National Convocation

Answers are below.
a) Charles H. Webb, Sr.
b) Carnella Barnes
c) Walter D. Bingham
d) Cynthia L. Hale
e) Preston Taylor
f) Star Supporter
g) National Convocation
h) Sybel Thomas
i) R. L. Jordan
j) R. H. Peoples
k) National Christian Missionary Convention
l) Christian Plea

Change of Address
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Thanksgiving Offering 1986

What better time of the year to give thanks to those who sacrificed, at the expense of a secure future, that we might know the love of God through Jesus Christ.

A portion of your giving to the Thanksgiving offering assures a better life in retirement for approximately 1,700 ministers and widows of ministers. We can say thanks by sacrificing a little in order to help in their time of need.

Your Thanksgiving offering, through Basic Mission Finance, helps support two congregations, two Friendship houses, and centers for clothing and food distribution. These ministries enable native Americans to receive a share of God’s fullness.

Giving at Thanksgiving may make us feel good, but only fully giving out of deep thanksgiving can make us godly.

Your greater gift to the Thanksgiving offering will help equip more than 1,000 students in our seven seminarians in North America to lead the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into the 21st century.

Ninth Biennial Session Will Be Remembered

Tapes of the Bible lectures, worship services and banquet are available for $3.00 each through the National Convocation office. Write the office at P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206 to order the following tapes:

- Bible Lecture #1 - K. David Cole
- Bible Lecture #2 - K. David Cole
- Bible Lecture #3 - K. David Cole
- Opening Session - Charles Faulkner
- Wednesday Night Worship - William L. Lee
- Thursday Night Worship - Delores Carpenter
- All Convocation Banquet - John R. Foulkes

A digest of all the Ninth Biennial Session ministries will be published later this year. We will notify you of the date of publication and cost.

Stick pins and medallion/charms of the Convocation logo are available for $3.00. Additional copies of the program books are also available. They cost the Convocation $7.00 each to print, however, we will sell copies for $3.00.

Write the office to place your order for any of the above items.

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH FOR ACTION
The 1986 Christmas offering highlights ministries to abused and neglected children, those with physical and mental handicaps, older adults, those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and the chaplaincy.

The Christmas offering is part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) effort to reach $25 million in Basic Mission Finance by the end of 1988.

God is calling us to new levels of commitment as stewards of the gospel. Giving to the Special Day offerings—Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas—will require a 15% increase in each of the next three years to reach a goal of $5½ million.

The church needs you to provide additional funding for the many unmet ministries at home and around the world.
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Center Point Christian Church Celebrates 107th Anniversary and Annual Homecoming

Center Point Christian Church, located approximately five miles southeast of Greenville, Texas, observed its 107th anniversary and annual homecoming, October 26, 1986. Special recognition was given to the history and organization of the church.

The theme was “A New Beginning” Philippians 3:13. Rev. C. H. Howard, pastor of Community Christian Church in Fort Worth, delivered the message placing great emphasis on the theme.

The occasion was a joyful one with our elected pastor, Rev. W. L. Fountain, who placed his membership as the invitation was extended. He stated and we quote, “I cannot be a part of anything until I become a member.” His lovely wife transferred her membership earlier.

Rev. and Mrs. Fountain were members of the Community Christian Church in Fort Worth where Rev. Fountain was the associate minister. Mrs. Fountain was an usher in the church and the churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

At the present, Rev. Fountain is teaching a Bible class each Wednesday at 7 p.m., which is motivating, stimulating and informative.

The Lord is blessing our efforts, and we hope to continue through prayer, his sharing God’s word, and his leadership.

(This article was sent in by Louise A. Daniels, Greenville, TX)
Will Our Young People Participate?

“How can we get the young people to participate,” is a question that is of utmost concern in many Black churches. Young people, of course means children, pre-teens, youth and young adults.

The Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recognized this as a major concern of all Disciples churches and began a concentrated effort to speak to this issue at the beginning of this decade. In 1980, DHM added a consultant in children’s ministry and in 1981 and 1982 held consultations on “Children in the Church”. At the same time many other denominations were also studying this issue. By 1982, young adults in the church, or the lack of them, surfaced as another issue and again DHM added a director of young adult ministries. Disciples, including Black Disciples, participated in an ecumenical Young Adult Ministries Leadership Training Event, Crossroads ’82.

The facts that became apparent as a result of these efforts indicated that unbaptised children in the church generally do not feel that they are members of the church family; youth drop out of the church at an early age and young adults are not represented in church membership proportionately to their numbers in the total population. Young adults, age twenty-one to thirty, comprise the largest segment of the general population and the smallest group of adults in the church.

How then can the church be faithful to even “the least of these”? For we know that as the young people go, so goes the church. It does not matter whether we think young people are the church TODAY or the church of the FUTURE. The question remains, how can we get young people to participate in church life?

This Is What We Found:
Over the years, the church through omission or commission has adopted two policies concerning young people.

One policy is to provide children their own structures away from adults, such as children’s church and expanded sessions. The other policy is a hands off policy - take no responsibility for teaching Christian tradition or values, assume these will be picked up by young persons.

In taking such a position, is the church an advocate for Christ or children?

Before setting up children’s church, Sunday school or extended sessions which run concurrently with the worship service, we should ask ourselves, “what is the purpose”? If our honest answer is either that “the time is more convenient” or that “the worship service is quiet and orderly uninterrupted”, then we are meeting adult concerns and not providing an opportunity for children to participate in worship and learn from adults as they worship.

What children learn when they are separated from the worshipping community is that adults are not accepting of persons who are different; that adults do not wish to share or teach their faith by being with growing children; and that there is a place for children and a place for adults. Consequently sometimes, the twain never meets. Many children never move from children’s church to adult church, but move right out of the church.

What Needs To Be Done:
First, we know that learning is facilitated by doing. Children and youth learn by doing; children learn to worship by worshipping? Worship is action: singing, praising, praying, hearing the word and reading the scriptures.

Secondly, children learn from models. Children need adult models as a standard by which they can measure their Christian development. Adults need to be examples.

Thirdly, children need preparation for church membership and baptism as a first step on their faith journey. They need to know that the Christian life is a journey.

Finally, children need to be nurtured in the faith. We know children need constant nurture and guidance in order to become productive, mature persons. In order to become whole persons in the faith, young people also need the constant care and guidance from the church family. The church which fails to guide, support, nurture and protect all children is guilty of neglect and abuse. We need to give more of ourselves if we expect young people to participate in the church. Then and only then will we be faithful to “even the least of these”.

2.
Specifically To The Black Church:
The Black church needs to reclaim its role as the most important institution in the life of Black people. The church needs to take a stand on what is right and wrong. A church that is concerned for the total well being of young people can speak out against wrong. The church's concern for young people will be evidenced in its ministry to them, for example, child care programs, after school programs for children and youth; opportunities for intergenerational learning and fun; opportunities for service and stewardship and participation by young persons on boards, committees, etc.

When the Black church reclams its place in Black family life, we will save the children. Parents today need education and support.

The Tom Benjamin Church Alive Conference
Truly An Ecumenical Event!

Disciples of Christ, Methodists, Baptists, Church of God, and non-denominational clergy and lay persons came from California, Florida, New York, Colorado, Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana to experience the ministry of Light of the World Christian Church and to learn power principles for excellence in ministry.

According to Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., senior pastor and founder of the Tom Benjamin Church Alive Conference, "It is when pastors and lay persons share the vision of 'church alive' ministry that they are able to 'see the invisible and do the impossible'”.

Beginning Wednesday evening, November 5; the 50 delegates experienced the closing revival service preached by Dr. Benjamin F. Reid, pastor of First Church of God of Los Angeles, California. Conference sessions were held Thursday, November 6 through Saturday, November 8. Dr. Benjamin shared insights based on seventeen years of excellence in pastoral leadership. His lectures included "A Theology of Excellence", "Pastoral Leadership", and "Worship and Praise". Other workshops were led by members of the staff: Pastoral Care was led by Rev. James Smith, associate pastor, and Reginald Holmes, student minister intern.

Music was led by Charles Clency, minister of music. Christian Education and Programs was led by Diane Griffin, Director of Christian Education and Programs. P. Diane Jackson, Church Administrator, led the workshop on Administration, and Dr. Herman Norman and Van McQueen of Cargill and Associates led a workshop on Capital Stewardship Development. Mrs. Beverly J. Benjamin led a workshop for clergy spouses. The Conference closed on Sunday, November 9 with the delegates participating in the televised Sunday morning worship service of Light of the World Christian Church.

According to one lay delegate, “...because of this conference, I will make a wonderful change in my personal commitment to the ministry of our entire church.” Delegates are now making plans to attend the next TBCA Conference. One minister of music from California is planning to bring his entire choir. Another pastor from Ohio is planning to bring a busload of lay persons.

The next Tom Benjamin Church Alive Conference will be held July 5-12, 1987. For further information, contact Diane Griffin, Conference Coordinator, Light of the World Christian Church, 5640 E 38th St, Indianapolis, IN 46218.
Fifth Anniversary

The Black congregations of Oklahoma hold a fifth Sunday fellowship rotating between the churches. This started on November 29, 1981. They will complete five years of this fellowship November 30, 1986. This fifth year celebration will be held at Osage Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Okmulgee, OK. Rev. Samuel Gurah of Ghana is the pastor.

(This article was sent in by Lola B. Greer, Oklahoma City, OK)

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HAVE YOU SENT YOUR NEWS ARTICLES TO THE CONVOCATION OFFICE TO SHARE IN SELAH?

We, The Black Americans

Who are we...

We are the Black people of the United States, the nation's second largest racial group. The 1980 census counted 26.5 million of us, an increase of nearly 4 million from the 1970 census. Our population grew by 17 percent between 1970 and 1980, bringing our proportion of the U.S. population to nearly 12 percent:

- We are largely an urban people; most of us live in cities and in large metropolitan areas...
- We are going to school in greater numbers than ever before...
- We are holding better jobs...
- Our voting age population has increased to 16 million...
- We are living longer...
- And more of us are becoming home-owners...

To be continued in the next issue of SELAH

(U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census)