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Update on the Black Church, 1981

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Spring
1981

Up-Date ON THE BLACK CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

Ministers' Wives Set \$10,000 Scholarship Goal



Zola M. Walker, Group President

The Ministers' Wives Fellowship of the National Convocation has set a goal of \$10,000 for scholarships in 1982.

The group of some 400 black ministers' wives as one of their major projects, raises funds to assist young men and women in their training for the ministry.

In 1978 with only 49 wives reporting, they presented the National Convocation \$6,285 for the Star Supporter Fund. In 1980, with only 22 wives taking part, \$4,077 was raised.

Zola M. Walker, new president of the group, challenged members to increase their efforts and urged previously inactive wives to take part.

"If only 100 wives gave or raised \$100 each, we could easily reach our



DR. S. S. MYERS, SR.

"THE BRIDGE BUILDER"

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goal," said Mrs. Walker. "Most of us could put aside one dollar a week for 100 weeks (two years) which would give us the \$100 needed."

Separating the real from the ideal, Mrs. Walker went on to ask each minister's wife to "engage in as many fund-raising activities as possible, keeping in

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Quartucci - Kendrick - Redd Essay Winners, King Memorial Contest

See Story on Page 2



Carol Jo Quartucci

First Prize

**"Church Must Risk
Position, Prestige"**



John Kendrick

Second Prize

**"Time For Church To
Intercede In Struggle"**



Sophia Redd

Third Prize

**"Church Must See
Beyond Color"**

Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contestants Feel Church Must Help Make "Dream" Reality

The winner of a Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest dreams of a future when all will have food to eat, equal opportunity in employment and education and racism will be non-existent.

Carol Jo Quartucci, Orange, Calif., drew on the late civil rights leader's widely-quoted speech, "I Have a Dream", for her entry in the contest for high school students of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Quartucci, a member of First Christian Church of Orange, wrote that the

\$490 billion spent annually on arms could be better spent.

"Since only 29 per cent of our 1981 tax dollars will be spent on human resources—education, manpower, social services, health and social security—it appears that the people in our government are saying that fighting people is more important than saving them," she wrote.

Quartucci said she has great hopes that Christians, committed to respond to Christ's instruction to "love your neighbor as yourself," will help her dreams

come true.

Second-place winner in the contest, John Kendrick, Jackson, Miss., called for the church to become a "community of believers witnessing by loving service" to all, to make "world brotherhood a reality" and to work toward social reforms.

Kendrick, a member of United Christian Church of Jackson, said the church needs to ask forgiveness for its failure to oppose human rights violations.

He also called on Christians to "exhibit their faith, to show their work and to pray for the cause of human equality and dignity."

Third-place winner Sophia Redd, Martinsville, Va., in her essay, likened Dr. King to Moses, noting that both brought their people out of bondage.

A member of Mount Olive East Christian Church, Redd observed that the church needs to teach its members that all are created equal in God's eyes and that at judgment day, God "will not be looking at the color of your skin but at your soul."

She suggested that schools give scholarships in the name of Dr. King, teach non-violence, offer courses in black history and teach the importance of human rights.

Theme of the contest was "The Current Struggle for Human Rights: What the Church Should Be Doing." The contest for 15-18 year olds honored Dr. King who was killed April 4, 1968.

Winners were announced January 15, the birthday of Dr. King who would have been 52 years old. Quartucci received a \$200 prize for her entry; Kendrick, \$100; and Redd, \$50.

The contest was sponsored by the Disciples' department of church in society.

16 From Jarvis Make "Who's Who"

The 1981 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" lists the names of 16 students from Jarvis Christian College who have been selected as being among the country's most outstanding campus leaders.

Students are included in the annual directory based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extra-curricular activities and future potential.

Named are seniors Audretta Bruce, Montgomery, Ala.; Harriet Roberts, Houston, Texas; Ellery Q. Grear, Vanceboro, N.C.; Aron Campbell, Houston, Texas; John Summers, Cincinnati, Ohio; Angela Reagans, Longview, Texas; Alma Trinidad, Leisure, Fla.; Gary Woods, Remington, Va.

Also seniors Susan Munson, Fort Worth, Texas; Cynthia Oliver, St. Louis, Mo.; Sandra Snell, Mobile, Ala.; Clarence McQueen, Detroit, Mich.; Winfred Shepherd, Detroit, Mich.; Robert Mitchell, Chicago, Ill.; and juniors Rada Blevins, Tyler, Texas; and Naomi Cuffey, Jamesville, N.C.

Disciples To Repeat King Essay Contest

Promotion has already begun for a second Martin Luther King Memorial Essay Contest sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

1981 contest entries will be placed in two divisions - senior high open to students 15 to 18 years of age; and junior high open to those from 12 to 14.

Although a specific topic has not as yet been selected by the contest steering committee, essays will once again be centered on some phase of the life and work of the slain civil rights leader.

Essays will be based on content, originality and clarity of expression. Entries which must be postmarked no later than November 16, 1981, must be typed double spaced and will become the property of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church.

Contest winners will be announced on January 15, 1982. All contestants must be members of the Christian Church. Students interested in entering can secure additional details from their church. Photos of contestants are desirable but not essential.

HELPS TRAIN MINISTERS

Leading Disciples Give Credit To Star Supporter Fund Grants

The Star Supporter Fund, which has given scholarships to black ministerial students for more than 30 years, is a shining example of leadership development in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) say Indianapolis executives.

"Some of the brightest stars of the Christian Church are on the list of Star Supporter Fund recipients," said Elby A. Boosinger, director of the Disciples' church men's department which raises money for the fund.

"Star Supporter recipients are pastoring our leading churches and leading our church commissions and boards," said Ozark Range Sr., director of the Disciples' black ministry who administers the scholarships. "Cynthia Hale, Durham, N.C., for example, is an officer of the National Convocation and Charles Williams, Goldsboro, N.C., is bishop of the black Disciples' Western Assembly."

The fund was begun by black laymen in 1949 and supported one ministerial candidate every year. By 1979-80, however, that number had grown to 22 who received some \$36,000 from various Disciples sources.

Records kept since 1955 reveal 39 people have taken ministry degrees through Star Supporter Fund help. Of these, 22 have entered the ministry, eight are teachers, four are church administrators, two are chaplains, while eight entered other professions.

One recipient is especially ready to "thank God" for Star Supporter help. He is Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the Disciples' evangelism and membership department.

"At the time I entered seminary at age 41, I had a wife and two children, and was still working full time for a church of 500—as well as teaching," Dr. Hannah said.

"I thought that the seminary had given me a scholarship, but they hadn't. At the end of three years I suddenly got presented with a bill for \$5,000."

"Star Supporter Funds paid for me, or I'd still be in hock today with my ministry severely truncated. Their support was one of the most liberating things that ever happened to me," Dr. Hannah said.

National Council Terms Stevens Labor Contract "Major Social Justice Victory"

The National Council of Churches during its 30th birthday celebration last November, listed the union contract for J.P. Stevens textile workers as a major social justice victory.

The Stevens settlement, signed October 19, 1980, came after 17 years of effort by the workers to organize and get a contract. The government and the courts consistently found the company guilty of harassing employees and failing to bargain with them, a situation the churches saw as one of human rights violations.

Disciples played a prominent part in the fight against J.P. Stevens' archaic labor practices. Dr. Kenneth A. Kuntz, president of the Christian Church's Division of Homeland Ministries, served as chairperson of the NCC's Division of Church in Society when the council immersed itself in the struggle.

Bishops of the assembly areas where several of the Stevens Company plants were located, played an active part in urging church bodies to exert pressure on the textile concern. The 1977 General Assembly of the Christian Church passed

a resolution reaffirming the right of workers to organize, petitioning J.P. Stevens and Co. to stop interfering with organizational efforts, and urging Disciples to "consider" refraining from purchase of Stevens products.

The National Council acknowledged that the struggle would not have been won if it were not for the involvement of the American religious community in worker support and a product boycott.

Following introduction of Crystal Lee Sutton of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., whose efforts for worker rights were recounted in an award-winning film titled "Norma Rae," the NCC passed a resolution congratulating the Stevens workers for "having endured and waged the struggle for justice."

The NCC's work and influence over the 30-year period includes development of the now widely accepted Revised Standard Version of the Bible, once burned by some church groups; its 1950's advocacy for recognition of Red China, then termed "treasonous;" and its witness on economic justice, Indochina, Panama and South Africa.

Up-Date personality



Janice Newborn is a minister's wife. As such, she plays an important part in her husband's career - wife, homemaker and mother. She must also support his undertakings and aspirations, and share his difficulties and disappointments while playing a subordinate role.

The support ministers' wives give, however, is not always from behind the scenes. Traditionally congregations have looked upon them for assistance in such areas as Christian education, music, community service and clerical functions.

Janice Newborn has always known that as a minister's wife, she must play an active part in his church. But she is also a person in her own right and although subject to ministerial whims and obligations, she has a career of her own.

Currently serving as secretary to the president of the Christian Church's Division of Overseas Ministries, Mrs. Ernest J. Newborn is also corporation secretary for the Division's board of directors. She has been secretary and Administrative assistant to two Missouri state senators and has taught school at the elementary level in Canton, Ohio and Washington, D.C.

Being the pastor's wife has necessitated family movement from Canton to Washington to Jefferson City, Missouri to Indianapolis, Indiana while rearing two children in the process. But Janice Newborn has thrived upon it. The couple's son, Ernest Jr., is studying law at the University of Michigan; their daughter, Mary Jo, is majoring in English at Smith

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Vignettes from the FIELD



AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

Kansas City, MO - Dr. S.S. Myers Sr. was honored as "The Bridge Builder" during a program presented by Central Christian Church, September 7, 1980. Dr. Enoch W. Henry served as guest speaker; several other Disciples congregations gave tribute to the work of Dr. and Mrs. Meyers who were presented with a plaque and love offering during the service. Rev. Norman S. Fiddmont is Central Christian's minister.

Indianapolis, IN - Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, pastor of Second Christian Church, was elected vice president of the National Black Pastors Conference during a meeting held in Chicago last October. Some 500 pastors representing 10 different denominations attended the meetings. Dr. William A. Jones, a Baptist minister from Brooklyn, N.Y., heads the conference.

Denver, CO - Dr. Rosa Page Welch presented a series of lectures on "Decisions for the Decade" here at Faith United Methodist Church in October. Regional chairperson for the Disciples Reconciliation, Dr. Welch also serves on the Board of the American Leprosy Mission.

Hopkinsville, KY - Campbell Street Christian Church, currently in search of a pastor, recently received a gift of \$1,000 for its building fund from "Mrs. Nettie," termed a staunch supporter and dedicated member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Lexington, KY - East Second Street Christian Church will observe the 29th pastoral anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. O.B. Garner on February 1. The 100-year old congregation is preparing a souvenir booklet to mark the occasion.

Cincinnati, OH - Bond Hill Christian Church held a special "Night of Celebration" in honor of the 25th pastoral anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Frank T. Garner Jr. The event in recognition of the Garners' "ministry and missionary work during the past 25 years," was held December 17, 1980.

"Miss Jarvis 1980-81"



Harriet Elizabeth Roberts, Houston, Texas, is the reigning "Miss Jarvis" of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas.

Miss Roberts, a senior majoring in biology, hopes to enter medical school upon graduation and become a gynecologist-obstetrician.

Known to her classmates as "Black Magic," her hobbies are creative writing and music. She is a member of the college concert choir and her name has appeared on the Dean's List and in Who's Who Among College and University Students.

Springfield, OH - Fair Street Christian Church observed the 200th anniversary of the Bible School, November 23, with William Evans Jr., a seminary student from Oakridge College, Huntsville, Ala., as guest speaker. Choirs of the church presented a December 7 concert using "Reflections of God's Light Through the Seasons" as their theme.

Memphis, TN - Fall activities at Walker Memorial Christian Church included a September musical program, "Women Witnessing for Christ;" a week-long October revival service; homecoming; and annual Men's Day. Rev. G.A. Evans, pastor, reported the ordination of three more deacons at Walker.

Los Angeles, CA - Women's Day was observed at the 92nd Street Christian Church in December with Mrs. Alberta Craggett, Pasadena College educator, as guest speaker. Dr. Cornelius W. Arnold is the 92nd Street minister.

Pies For Prisoners

COLUMBIA, SC - Inmates at Manning Correctional Institute for men and the Women's Center Prison enjoyed freshly baked sweet potato pies during the Christmas season. Church women from two counties baked nearly 200 pies to make the treat possible.

Mrs. Vonicia Kinard, a member of Cypress Creek Christian Church, was responsible for the project. Mrs. Kinard in addition to baking pies herself, enlisted some 90 women to bake, collected the pies and delivered them to the prisons.

Through her "prison ministry" Mrs. Kinard also raised funds for the purchase of choir robes for prisoners at Manning. "The Lord leads me to do these things," she says, "and I obey."

Oklahoma City Church Calls Robert Brown



East Sixth Street Christian Church, Oklahoma City, OK, installed Rev. Robert L. Brown as its minister, November 2, 1980.

Rev. Brown left a position as pastor of Jeffries Memorial Christian Church, Birmingham, AL, to accept the East Sixth Street call.

A member of the Christian Church's General Board and Administrative Committee, Brown also pastored Disciples churches in Austin, Texas; Lockland, Ohio; and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas.

Rev. King David Cole of Kansas City delivered the installation sermon.

The Day Rosa Parks Sat Down

(Reprinted from December 7, 1980 issue of *The Milwaukee Journal*)

It is now 25 years since that day in December when blacks began their boycott of segregated buses in Montgomery, Alabama. It remains a marvelous milestone on the long road to racial justice in America.

As with many events of major import, the boycott was triggered by a seemingly routine incident. A black woman, Rosa Parks, refused to surrender her bus seat to a white man. She was arrested and fined \$14. Such incidents were perhaps relatively common in the Montgomery of the time. But this time, things were different.

Blacks had had it with the degrading discrimination—and for 381 days they made their point by staying off the buses. When the boycott was over, blacks had desegregated seating. And America had discovered the forceful moral leadership of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Indeed, the Montgomery boycott gave birth to the later campaigns for equal access to public accommodations, and most significantly, for the right to vote. The victories that were won in those struggles might have come a few years later anyway, but the triumphs came when they did because the marching blacks (and whites) brought the issue of equality into the heart and conscience of the nation. And the nation responded.

That national response produced measurable progress. Blacks now wield power in high councils of government. There is a growing black middle class. Many old and stubborn barriers have fallen.

Yes, difficulties remain. The gap between median income of black and white families still is too wide for national comfort. The rate of unemployment among blacks—particularly young blacks—is staggering. Far too many blacks appear to agree with King's lament that they "have nothing for which to vote." Congress recently has faltered shamefully on busing for school desegregation. Some old hatemongers, such as the Klan, are again at their despicable work.

Nonetheless, America today is a more comfortable place in which to be black than it was in 1955. And it is a better place in large part because Rosa Parks sat down and her people stood up.

A NATIONAL MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

A growing list of cities and states observed January 15th as a holiday in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A continued effort is being waged to make it a national holiday.

Dr. King, in his non-violent efforts on behalf of the poor and lowly, typified the best in Christianity - what it all should be about. The major religious holidays as we now know them - Christmas and Easter - have become commercialized. Their religious significance has been obscured in receipt and giving of presents; in the purchase and donning of new clothing.

Religion, which has played such a prominent part in the birth and growth of this nation, needs a day of public remembrance. A day of quiet retrospect when it can ponder on the message from Isaiah - giving hope to the hopeless, sight to the blind and freedom to the captives. This is what the life and work of Martin Luther King was all about. A holiday in his name could be a holy day for all of us.

*Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders*

America has long professed to be a Christian nation. It has claimed to be an advocate of freedom and a stronghold of democracy - a beacon light to a world rampant with oppression and exploitation.

Our Christian principles, however, have too often been secondary to business principles. Church bells tempered by factory whistles. Sermons subjected to prevailing community standards. Christian growth measured by numbers and dollars and buildings.

As our country enters 1981 under a new administration, Christians may be asked to stand up and be counted. Indications are that national emphasis is to be shifted from support of human rights to support of elements that promise security regardless of their reactionary nature. That environmental needs will become subservient to increases in the gross national product. That human needs will be sacrificed on the altar of national defense.

Will revelations of the next four years find national and world leaders tampering with the fourth seal that halts the pale horse? Will might once again become right with the weak rather than the wicked wiped from the earth?

The period already promises to be a trying era for Christianity. The voices of ignorance, prejudice and oppression are becoming increasingly louder. As they grow in volume and strength, fewer and fewer will be those who dare to cry out in opposition. The timid will not want to be thought of as being in disfavor of the new interpretation of "God and country."

Temptations for The Church to abandon its traditional role as watchman on the wall will be many. Prayer might be returned to the schools and thus dispensed with in the hearts of men. Neighbors might be redefined as red-blooded Americans and their interests throughout the world. Enemy could well become anyone not in accord with our actions. Love, already far too casual a term, might be relegated to bedroom use.

We face so many paradoxes as Americans. Contrary to the Biblical edict, we beat our plows into swords and furnish tools of destruction to all able to buy. Our Lady of the Harbor turns off her light when dark-skinned people approach.

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Up-Date  **ON THE
BLACK
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Florida Disciples Plan Response To Refugee Problems

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations in Florida are proposing a four-part response to the needs of Cuban and Haitian refugees flooding the state.

The 83 congregations already have given \$2,500 to two ecumenical agencies working with refugees in Fort Lauderdale and Miami as a first step in helping more than 114,000 refugees.

Twenty-one of the congregations are being asked to sponsor at least one family

or individual and 42 are being encouraged to provide food and clothing, said Thom C. Gibson, Seminole, who chairs the Florida region's Christian Action Committee.

Congregations also are being encouraged to press their state legislators and members of Congress to change the status of newly-arrived Haitians from economic to political refugees, added Gibson, minister of Seminole Christian Church.

"The needs of both groups of refu-

gees differ and we are working with others to assure equal recognition and equal treatment," according to R. Woods Kent, Coral Springs, associate regional minister.

"The Haitians need political advocacy first, resettlement second. The Cubans have a network of financial, emotional and cultural support because of the earlier influx of refugees," Kent said.

"Because they are considered political refugees, Cubans can get work permits and other necessary papers in a matter of hours. The same process takes days for the Haitian refugees.

"If the country the refugees come from is not clearly fascist or communist, the U.S. government is uncooperative. The refugees get limited permits and could be sent back to their homelands to face prison or death," Kent said.

"We need to look at the humanity of the people involved and address the issue of them as people of God who are suffering and need someone to care about them," said Dr. James D. Bailiff, pastor of Parkway Christian Church, Plantation.

"The most important thing to do is to deal with the refugees as human beings with human needs first and ask the sociological and political questions second," he added.

Charleston, S.C. Site For Seventh Annual Black Ministers Retreat

Charleston, S.C., has been selected as the site for the seventh annual Black Ministers Retreat, March 3-5, 1981.

Retreat sessions, sponsored by the Department of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will be held at the Emmanuel AME Church with nearby Holiday Inn, 125 Calhoun Street, furnishing accommodations for visiting ministers.

Ozark Range Sr., Disciples Director of Black Ministry and coordinator for the event, stated "registration fee of \$15 will include lunches and dinners to be served by members of Emmanuel.

Dr. Leon Wright, Howard University professor and noted scholar and lecturer, will be guest leader and will make three presentations during the retreat. Dr. Wright's lectures will be centered on the retreat theme, "Spiritual Preparation for Ministry."

Presentations will also be made by Dr. William K. Fox on "Aspects of the Life and Work of the Church;" Dr. William W. Hannah on "Growth for Witness;" and Dr. John R. Compton on "Pastoral and Congregational Expectations."

Several workshops and "soul sessions" have been scheduled. Special arrangements have been made for semin-



Dr. Leon Wright

arians who are scholarship recipients to attend.

In urging ministers to attend and reminding them of the "very meaningful 1980 retreat," Rev. Range stated "the brothers and sisters of South Carolina have anticipated our arrival and you won't want to miss this experience."

CMF Retreat Themes

Retreat themes for the next three years have been listed by the International Christian Men's Fellowship.

"Shirt-Sleeve Ministries" is the 1981 theme; "Prayer" the 1982 topic; and "Assertiveness and Stress" will be the focus for 1983.

Site for the 1981 ICMF Conference will be Hillcrest Christian Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Preliminary plans for Sessions '84 at Purdue University are being made.

Phillips Guest Preacher

Rev. K. David Cole, minister of Swope Parkway United Christian Church, served as the fifth annual guest preacher during Phillips University's 1981 Ministers' Week held in January.

Rev. Cole delivered evening sermons at the Enid, Okla., seminary and during the university chapel service.

Start Planning Now!

7th BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY, NATIONAL CONVOCATION

August 3-7, 1982

Indianapolis, Indiana

"THE WORD GIVES LIFE"

K.C. Merger May Set Pattern For Ghetto-Bound Disciples Congregations

Kansas City, MO - Putting aside age and racial barriers, the members of Swope Park Christian Church and the West Paseo Christian Church have merged their congregations and are looking to the future with hope.

The new church, a mixture of black and white congregations, is known as the Swope Parkway United Christian Church, located at the Swope Park Church site.

It is the first merger of black and white congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in this vicinity.

David Downing, area minister of Disciples in the Greater Kansas City area, said the merger decision could affect the city "for many years to come."

"It could be the most positive statement concerning the Christian faith that we have had for many years," Downing said.

The area minister declared it is not enough simply to be partners to form a warm fellowship, "but we must be partners together to launch forth in mission and ministry—doing the work and ministry God calls us to do."

Dr. K. David Cole of West Paseo and pastor of the merged group, said we will work to become balanced racially as "fast as we can."

Roger Coleman, associate pastor, said he is concerned about the church's relationship to the community, as Downing suggested.

The merger is "giving us a chance to see how brotherhood really works," said Mrs. Ruth McCallop, a deaconess of West Paseo. Lucille Cornelius, chairman of the board of the Swope Park church, said that most of the Swope Park members are remaining at the church "and we all work together to better minister to the community."

She said she was delighted not to have to move away from her church.

"We just had some chance, some luck and some faith and it all came together," Roger Coleman, associate pastor, said. "There's a tremendous feeling of love, I don't see the merger as any kind of philosophical imperative. It's just that it made sense, and it resulted from a series of personal decisions, people caring about each other."

The pastors said they have not lost

any members from either group.

"The future looks very bright," they said. "The evangelism field is basically black, but the congregation expects to retain its integrated nature including the whites who are mostly older people."

The few "no" votes against the merger, they said, were matters of geography, not racial.

In addressing the merged congregation, Downing said, "All too frequently the local congregation has become a mirror in which we reflect the culture in which we live. To be sure, the church must experience being 'set apart' for times of enrichment and challenge. But the church must be always ready to launch forth in witness and service and ministry to the world in which it lives. It dare not become a 'holy ghetto' or a private club."

Downing said, "All that you have done in the past, as significant as all that may have been—does not compare with

what can and will be done in the years that are before you. All you need to do is to be open to the Spirit of God's leading. Put yourself to the task. Assume the responsibilities and you will indeed see the 'greater things than these' of which Jesus spoke, take place."

The merger may answer problems for both previous congregations.

The West Paseo church had been meeting in its basement because the sanctuary was damaged extensively by fire August 14, 1979. Many of its members had moved to the Swope Park area. A freeway had been announced cutting across near their front door. They were looking for a new location.

The Swope Park church had struggled each month to make ends meet because white members had moved away and blacks didn't want to join their congregation.

The ministers hope that the merger has solved these problems.

Disciples Featured In National Publications

Dr. Rosa Page Welch was the subject of a comprehensive cover article in the July 1980 issue of "Messenger," official publication of the Church of the Brethren.

The article highlights the ecumenical witness of Dr. Welch who spent a lifetime building bridges of racial understanding through song. Although now 80 years of age, Mrs. Welch still continues her work as a singer, lecturer and messenger of God.

The National Convocation of the Christian Church was featured in the religious section of a September 1980 issue of "Jet Magazine." The two-page story with pictures gave Disciples important exposure in a black-oriented publication of national circulation.

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin and Rev. Ozark Range Sr. were among those interviewed by Jet editors. Ten Convocation and church officials from Indianapolis travelled to Chicago to confer with Johnson Publishing Company personnel.

The October 5, 1980 issue of "The Disciple" contained an article on Carnella J. Barnes, former ICWF president, authority on problems and programs for the aging, and a life-long Disciple.

Venita Carney Waddleton, an outstanding educator, was profiled in the January 18, 1981 issue of "The Disciple." Mrs. Waddleton's fifty years of teaching and administration at Jarvis Christian College was marked by service under the first seven presidents of the institution.



Venita Waddleton

Disciples Leaders Discuss Possible 1982-85 Priorities

Human rights. Poverty. Racism. World peace. Justice. Stewardship. Congregational establishment. Evangelism.

These were among possible 1982-85 priorities for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which surfaced as international leaders met at St. Louis, MO, December 2-3.

The Disciples' general and regional executives spent three hours discussing possible priorities with their suggestions to be among those considered by the chief executive officer of the church in formulating a recommendation.

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Indianapolis, Ind., told the Council of Ministers that some success has been reached on a current human rights priority but that it and renewing congregational life and witness, another priority, have not been responded to adequately.

The church's human rights emphasis has affected United States policy, said Dr. Teegarden, the general minister and president of the 1.2-million-member denomination.

"U.S. policy has saved lives, emptied prisons, curbed torture and restored, in part, democratic governments. It has encouraged expansion of human rights in Latin America and put some distance between the U.S. government policy and South Africa," he added.

He suggested continuing priorities in effect since 1977, adding a possible third priority of working toward world peace and its many related issues.

Dr. Kenneth A. Kuntz, Indianapolis, reminded the council that "we may write priorities but God still is the Holy Intruder. Priorities have validity only in so far as we make room for God to intrude."

Dr. Kuntz, president of the Division of Homeland Ministries, pointed out that being faithful to the gospel "may mean having the patience to wait, having the courage to act or risk and working our heads off knowing that the answer is not in our hands."

Dr. William K. Fox, Indianapolis, said he hoped a human rights priority would highlight racism. "Many of us feel racism is becoming more and more of a major issue of society, the economy and government policy," said the administrative secretary for the black Disciples' National Convocation.

Stewardship—money management—on the part of individuals, the church and governments was suggested as a possible priority by Dr. Jean Woolfolk, Indianapolis, president of the Church Finance Council.

How people and governments manage their money is related to all concerns of life, she asserted. "It is the root cause which upsets peace and leads to war."

Overseas executive Dr. Robert A. Thomas, Indianapolis, said there could be no "confrontation with the gospel which is not at the same time a confrontation with the powerless."

He noted that "any place the question is raised about the relationship of the church and the poor, there are serious divisions, misunderstandings or questions of justice and power."

Although there was no attempt to formulate specific priorities as a body,

the church leaders seemed to agree that the church is engaged in two kinds of tasks—continuing work of the church and special issues needing emphasis for a short period of time.

A recommendation on priorities will come to the General Board in May, then to the General Assembly in July-August for consideration.

Moderator of the assembly, Dr. Thomas J. Youngblood, predicted increased problems for the church in the near future, citing inflation, the energy crisis and social unrest as some factors affecting the church's ability to witness in the world.

Bentley Christian Grows By Stepping Out on Faith

By Arzolla Cooke

"Stepping out on Faith," has been a recent theme at Bentley Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Knoxville, Tennessee, and the members are proud to share with the brotherhood recent developments made possible through faith in God, the prayers of many, and the leadership of our pastor, Dr. Titus Haynes.

Our church mortgage has been paid; the mortgage on the parsonage is only approximately \$3,000; Bible school and church attendance has grown; students from Johnson Bible College are in regular attendance; six additions this year; the recent purchase of a bus; and the 15 minute radio broadcast has increased to a Sunday morning radio ministry of 30 minutes which reaches many sick and shut-ins.

We are fortunate to have two associate ministers and a minister in training, Louis Thompson, who spearheaded a youth revival in November. The first Black president of the Christian Churches in Tennessee is one of our deacons, Samuel Dixon, who is serving his second year; and one of our youth, Steven Mostella, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mostella, Sr., has been listed in "Who's Who," a publication of outstanding high school students for 1980.

Our pastor, who is a leader in community religious and civic work and a University of Tennessee professor of social work, has just had his book released by Vantage Press entitled, "Fundamentalism in Black Inner City Storefront Churches."

We are thankful to God for His witness in all the Christian Churches throughout the brotherhood; for dedicated Christians who have labored for many years; and for the emerging interest and commitment of Christian youth, as well.

NAACP Seeks Church Support

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a year-end letter asked churches for a special offering "to wage the fight it must for the legitimate rights of blacks."

"If ever there was a need for Black Americans to work closely together," said the NAACP director, "the time is now."

Hooks cited election of right wingers to Congress, resurgence of the KKK, and killing of blacks in Atlanta, Buffalo, Utah and New Orleans as things that "threaten the hard won gains Black Americans have made in recent years."

"The mood of America has shifted drastically in the past few years," the NAACP head stated. "Affirmative Action programs are under attack. The recent passage of the Anti-Busing Amendment by the U.S. Senate indicates that the gains won over the past 26 years are in danger of being turned back."

Contributions can be forwarded to the NAACP's National Office, 1790 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

Black Disciples Chaplain Among First With Returned Hostages

WIESBADEN, West Germany—A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) chaplain who was among the first visitors with the 52 freed American hostages said they were happy at being alive, angry that their freedom took so long and thankful that they would be with their families soon.

Chaplain Danny R. Thompson said that in spite of the anger at being held captive 444 days, "they still feel good about their country."

"There is a strong need for family ties now," said Thompson who observed that the former hostages, housed near the pediatrics ward at the U.S. Air Force Hospital, wanted to go into the ward and hold and play with the children.

"Since they were not allowed into the ward, they have been standing outside, trying to touch and kiss the children through the glass as their parents held them up," he added.

The welcome the 52 Americans received in Wiesbaden was overwhelming and in sharp contrast to the taunts at the airport in Tehran. "I don't know if they expected praise for their calmness and endurance," but they got it, Thompson said.

During their captivity, the Marines, who had been kept together, stayed in

shape physically by working out and lifting weights. Others read. "A lot read the Bible and some read it several times," reported Thompson who said he sensed a "strong religious commitment" among the former prisoners.

During their first full day of freedom, the 52 sandwiched roaming the halls of the hospital and "reading what they wanted to read" between visits with the medical staff.

It was difficult to hold an extended conversation because of constant interruptions for physical examinations, said Thompson who let them know he cared about them and offered to go to them at any time—day or night.

Night was a bad time for the first groups of hostages released shortly after the American Embassy in Tehran was taken by militants in November 1979. "When they were alone, fear came," said Thompson.

"The black and women hostages released in the early days of the siege "expressed a sense of guilt that they would be rejected in America, that they would live and the others would die. There was more hysteria then than there is now," commented Thompson. "This group is far happier than the earlier group because they know no one is left behind."

Project Equality Urges Support of Retailers

Project Equality, a Reconciliation supported organization with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., urges church members to shop with Sears Roebuck, JC Penney, Montgomery Ward and affiliated May Department Stores.

These concerns, Project Equality stated in a recent action letter, have equal employment opportunity programs favorable to "minorities, women, and others facing historic discrimination."

"With the possibility of retrenchment of government efforts in this area," said Rev. Maurice E. Culver, director of the inter-faith program, "the leadership of religious organizations and concerned individuals is essential."

Project Equality publishes lists of concerns willing or unwilling to subscribe to EEO. Congregations can secure lists by writing to 4049 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Park Manor CMF Presents Awards

The Christian Men's Fellowship of Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., during its annual Men's Day services held October 26, presented awards to two outstanding laymen.

George Washington, an elder, church treasurer and bass singer in the choir was given the "Churchmanship" award; Marion Anderson, member of the finance committee and the individual responsible for preparing and serving the monthly CMF breakfasts, was given the "Service-man" award.

Dr. Charles A. Berry Jr., president of Jarvis Christian College, was guest speaker. The Park Manor men chose "Trusting - a Lifestyle in Christ" as their theme.

Ellis L. Jordan Sr., an elder and president of the CMF, presided at the worship service. Dr. Charles H. Webb Sr., Park Manor's pastor, is assisted by Rev. Stanley E. Watson.

Training Still Major Need Of Blacks, Hispanics

Black and Hispanic leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), meeting at Indianapolis in December, raised anew some concerns about leadership training, the need for specialized services and the desire for ethnic solidarity.

The church's Task Force on Black and Hispanic Concerns, created several years ago to coordinate and evaluate Disciples' work with ethnic constituencies, heard calls for increasing the numbers of minority persons in seminary training.

It received a report from blacks that urged the church to speak prophetically against the rise of anti-black organizations.

It listened to Hispanic needs for Christian education and worship materials, including Spanish-language meditations and music.

One proposal from black members sought a "black think tank" that would be set up to deal with issues of oppression and other concerns.

Hispanic Disciples called for establishing new congregations in the Midwest, Texas and the East Coast and help for struggling congregations in Florida, Los Angeles and Connecticut.

In a report prepared by David A. Vargas, director of program services to Hispanic and bilingual congregations for the Division of Homeland Ministries, Hispanics outlined plans for their first national assembly next June 24-26 in Indianapolis.

Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the church, stressed the importance of the ethnic groups being an integral part of the whole church.

A black caucus report from Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin of Indianapolis stressed increasing black participation by forming organizations and relating them to the existing church structures.

Luis E. Ferrer, Gary, Ind., president of the Midwest Convention of Disciples, reported for Hispanic Disciples the need for services by the church to undocumented residents of the United States.

He also urged there be conferences in each of the three Hispanic geographic areas to advise Hispanics of the work of the Reconciliation race and poverty program and fund.



● **ELI WARREN WILBERT** who served as pastor of Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, for over 34 years, died January 1, 1981, after a long illness. Rev. Wilbert was ordained as a Disciples minister in 1930 and served as first vice-president of the National Bible School Convention; as president of the Ohio State Convention of Disciples of Christ; and as a member of the Commission on Ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio.

He was also secretary of the Dayton Inter-Denominational Ministers' Fellowship for a 15-year period. One of the pioneers in the Disciples movement from rural to urban churches, Rev. Wilbert attained national stature during the life of the National Christian Missionary Convention. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Jordan Wilbert; a son, Harry L.; and a daughter, Mrs. Lois Wilbert Hendrix.

Bishop Tutu G.A. Appearance Dependent On South African Travel Approval

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu has been invited to address the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) next summer, but he may not make it.

The outspoken Anglican's passport has been confiscated by the South African government's Department of the Interior.

Bishop Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, was called "one of the most eloquent spokesmen on behalf of human rights any place in the world" by Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Indianapolis, general minister and president of the Disciples.

"His coming to the assembly would be consistent with our commitment to human rights in the framework of our global mission.

"We are hopeful the South African

government will relax the limitations placed upon the bishop's opportunity to travel outside the country," Dr. Teegarden added.

Disciples' relationships with Bishop Tutu and the South African Council of Churches go back many years, Dr. Teegarden noted. Bishop Tutu was a luncheon guest of Disciples leaders during the 1976 Africa fraternal visit which included meetings in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The council "probably has been the most influential ecumenical body in Southern Africa in working for justice and against oppression not only in that country but in all of Southern Africa," Dr. Teegarden added.

The Disciples will hold their biennial assembly July 31 - August 5 in Anaheim, California.

Fair Street Honors Six Senior Members

Six senior members of Fair Street Christian Church, Springfield, Ohio, were honored during a special October 12 service held at the church.

Individual crosses were given during the service to Mariah Dabney, Beulah Youngblood, Edna Fowles, Mary Jones, MagVernon Jones and Cecil Jones Sr. The group represented almost 400 years of service in the Christian Church. A memorial plaque with their names en-

graved was presented to the church.

Fair Street Christian celebrated its 70th anniversary on October 19 with Rev. J. Thomas Johnson, pastor of Dayton's Summit Christian Church, their choir and congregation as guests.

A November 2 "appreciation day" was held for Fair Street's interim pastor, Dr. Emmett J. Dickson with Rev. Ozark Range Sr., director of Black Ministry for Disciples, as guest speaker.

Disciples Worker From Jamaica Lists CWF Parallels

Shernett F. Smith serves as executive secretary of the Disciples of Christ Synod of Jamaica. She also plays an active part in the Christian Women's Fellowship on her island.

A visitor at the 1980 National Convocation, Mrs. Smith found many similarities between work of the women in Jamaica and within the United States. "Not only are we similar in our physical appearance," she said, "but I feel strongly that we may have similar aims, aspirations and activities."

CWF groups are found in most of the local churches in Jamaica with coordination by a national executive body that offers skill and leadership training to local officers.

The Jamaican women make an annual contribution of \$1,000 to support training of male and female ministerial students. Working through private and government agencies, they have aided mentally and physically retarded children of their land. They also support Children's Hospital in Kingston through voluntary work projects.

"Our CWF groups have recently started a fund to be used for the establishment of a home for the aged," Mrs. Smith said. "We have a far way to go to see this dream realized, but it is a start."

Terming the work to be done in Jamaica "a constant uphill struggle," Mrs. Smith claimed only one type of slavery was abolished on her island in 1838. "Many of our women are still shackled by a sense of inferiority, worthlessness and nothingness," she stated.

Citing as a challenge to the church and CWF groups, words found in the first verse of the 61st chapter of Isaiah, Mrs. Smith declared that for women in Jamaica "the struggle has just begun."

RACISM, A TOOL

"Racism," says Eunice Velez, Puerto Rican minister, "emerged as a tool necessary to justify the exploitation, subjugation and destruction of other human beings." She cited the massacre of American Indians, use of Blacks as slaves and mistreatment of Hispanics to support her statement.

Chairperson of the NCC commission on justice, liberation and human fulfillment, Rev. Velez claimed Christians justify their actions by labeling minority groups inferior.

Ministers' Wives FROM PAGE 1

mind that we are committed to assisting young men and women in their training."

Assisting in the drive which ends at the 1982 assembly of the National Convocation are members of the Fellowship executive committee including Mrs. Ruth Range, vice president; Mrs. Louise Evans, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Luberta Griffin, recording secretary; Mrs. Rochell Brown, financial secretary; and Mrs. Lee Clark, treasurer.

"We are notifying our members early," said Mrs. Range, "because the needs and demands for training are so great, we cannot afford to fail in reaching our goal."



FROM PAGE 5

Our centuries old melting pot is yet unable to deal with color.

We fly gracefully through space yet still flounder in the earthly maze of human relations. There are those rich beyond measure and those poor beyond imagination. We pay our gladiators in six figures and haggle over two for our educators.

What does The Church have to do with all of these earthly things? Jesus Christ gives us the answer:

"He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Up-Date personality

FROM PAGE 3

College, Northampton, Massachusetts and contemplating a career in journalism.

"I have enjoyed being a pastor's wife," said the Youngstown, Ohio native who gave up a possible music career to be one. "Sharing my husband with a congregation can sometimes be annoying but I have found more than compensation in sharing the joys and sorrows of our various congregations."

Although busy and happy at Indianapolis, Janice Newborn is looking forward to the day when her husband returns to congregational ministry and she will once again become a vital part of a church family.

Affirmative Action Resolution Subject

The General Reconciliation Steering Committee of the Christian Church has submitted a resolution on Affirmative Action for consideration by the General Board and possible action during the Anaheim General Assembly.

The proposed resolution asks church executives, units, regions and institutions to develop and implement affirmative action plans and offers guidelines for such action.

In citing an "urgency for renewed action" in the area of affirmative action, the resolution states in part "sporadic and halfhearted attempts at affirmative action within the church only fosters continued apathy . . . affirms the subtle, but entrenched persistence of institutional racism and sexism in the church . . ."

Disciples were also called upon for "greater support for the Reconciliation Fund and its educational and conscience raising endeavors."

Established 1910, United Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Members of United Christian Church, Jackson, Miss., celebrated their 70th anniversary with week-long services beginning October 22.

Theme for the observance was "One Church, One People, United - the Tradition Goes On." Guest speakers included two area Baptist ministers; the October 24 service included a pageant written and directed by Mrs. Ruth Hobbs, 1979-80 vice president and program chairperson for the National Convocation.

United Christian is the result of a merger of College Addition Christian Church, established in 1910, and the North Jackson Christian Church, established in 1916 as the Farish Street Christian Church.

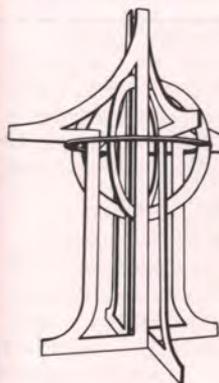
The two congregations agreed on merger, October 22, 1956 and chose 1730 Florence Avenue as the building site for a church home. Prominent in the effort to build was the Abe Elmore family who used an estimated \$65,000 in personal resources to insure construction.

Howard Bruce Bowser became United's first fulltime pastor in 1968. From 1971 to 1976 the church operated under interim ministerial leadership.

United's current pastor, Rev. Clarence L. Johnson Jr., began duties February 1, 1977.

Briefly tracing the church history during his anniversary remarks, Rev. Johnson gave credit for church progress to "builders, planters and prayers."

Pointing out the special significance of the figure "70," the youthful pastor prayed that "the next 70 years be just as rewarding, progressive and fulfilling."



CREATED
TO BE

ONE

This time:
It's Anaheim!

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
JULY 31- AUG. 5, 1981

The 1981 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held July 31 - August 5 in Anaheim, California. "Created to be One" is the theme under which Disciples from throughout the United States and Canada will gather to review and plan the work of the church.

Black Disciples must be involved! State fellowships, seaboard assemblies and the National Convocation are important - but the General Assembly is where The Church - the whole church - sets the pattern for the future.

Plan to attend. By our presence and by our voice we show interest and can have input. "One body in Christ" must become more than a pious phrase. Participation of Blacks is essential if the Body of Christ is ever to be reunited.

King's Non-Violence: A Leverage For Change

It is important to hear the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., and not just to speak about him on this week of what we hope will become a national holiday in his memory. It would be such a good thing to honor someone whose chief distinction in our society was the philosophy of non-violence.

The Christian religion is not a religion of perfectionism nor of moral absolutes, for we would be despairing of ever being reconciled with God. Our text (Romans 5:1-8) reminds us we are justified by faith through the loving and forgiving grace of God. But this being said, God gives exceptional people who take an absolute stand as a practical necessity and as an inspired vocation. These have been the saints of history.

Protestants have always been uncomfortable with saints, so we measure everyone by the same standard and deny ourselves contemplation of the spiritual giants of our world. Tillich said that the saint is one who is transparent to God.

Martin Luther King could take non-violence and make it not only an expression of love but, in the historical context, a leverage for the change of institutions and structures. We honor him for it and thank God for him. We must never succumb to the illusion that this is possible everywhere, particularly since we ourselves practice it so little.

But in addition to our realism about resisting evil with constraint and weighted judgment, I think we must dare to say that we all need to be more converted to the cause of peace. Ourselves, I mean - not preaching to others in El Salvador or in the Philippines!

It is not enough to say that non-violence would be ineffective under Presi-



Dr. William J. Nottingham, Department of Overseas Ministries for the Christian Church, served as a chapel speaker during the week-long Missions Building observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This article is based on excerpts from his chapel remarks.

dent Somoza, but we have to say that it was ineffective in Memphis, too, if you take into account the fact that Dr. King was slain.

Rather than ask, "Do we ever win this way?" (and the answer can only be, "yes, sometimes!") people like him cause us to ask, "Do we ever win any other way?" Is this not the power of God and the powerlessness of the crucifixion?

The dream goes on, with people in jail in the Philippines, in Korea, in Paraguay, and in many other places. Even the hostages of Iran are going to become a historical sign that it is better not to kill, and we hope they'll be home soon.

The dream is related to people who are struggling for human dignity all over the world, from Russia to Chile, from South Africa to Kampuchea. A non-violent Presbyterian minister in Korea, Timothy Moon, has been sentenced to 20

years. But he has written that the protest of people against injustice everywhere is a sign of God active in the world, a movement of the spirit at grips with suffering everywhere.

Dr. King saw that Birmingham and Vietnam were part of the same insanity: the roots of racism are tied to 500 years of colonialism. Our modern way of relating to that Third World must face this double hypocrisy straight on.

It's a way of saying that we cannot have peace with our neighbors overseas on the basis of our lack of peace among the races in our own country. One of the continuing enigmas of our history is that racial respect and harmony are so crucial to the peace of mind of each one of us and to world peace for all of us.

We must remember that we are justified by faith through grace. We do not justify ourselves. This is the really liberating truth of St. Paul, the New Testament, Eucharistic liturgy and all Christendom. And in this connection, it helps us to see that we never free ourselves of racial biases.

We are all conditioned somewhat in racial prejudice by our social and class history. We can only have the humility to recognize this and to take away its power to dominate us. Nothing we can do can ever fully make up for the indignities and tragedies suffered because of racism, but we can repent, forgive, and be forgiven when we are honest and loving to one another. We are made righteous through grace by somebody else!

The dream is here and now but it is also for the whole world and for the future. We can say with glad hearts about Martin Luther King, Jr: "I like him and what he represents."

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ON THE
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CHURCH

Summer
1981

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

Jarvis Given Full Mineral Rights

Oil Discovered in 1941, Now Belongs to School

HAWKINS, Texas — An historic black college in East Texas related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been given full title by the church to oil and gas rights currently paying some \$2 million annually in royalties.

Mineral leases on and adjacent to the campus of Jarvis Christian College, founded by the Disciples 68 years ago, represent some 16 per cent of the college's budget.

The church, Jarvis and a bank acting as trustee jointly have signed an agreement under which mineral rights retained by the Disciples now will become the property of the college.

Land Title in 1960

The campus, located on part of 874 acres, had been turned over to the college in 1960 and in recent years all royalties from the oil and gas had gone to Jarvis as well.

Principals in the transfer of the mineral rights were Dr. Charles A. Berry, president of Jarvis, and Dr. Robert A. Thomas, Indianapolis, Ind., representing the church.

Jarvis, a school of some 700 students, has produced a number of key leaders for the Disciples of Christ as well as public officials and professional people since it became a four-year college in 1938.

About half the land involved had been given to the church by Major J.J. Jarvis of Fort Worth in 1910 to establish a "school for the elevation and education of the Negro race." The rest had been purchased by the church over the years.

Church Used Royalties

When oil production began about 1941 the church used the royalties to assist Jarvis as well as black education efforts in Mississippi, notably Southern Christian Institute, now merged into Tougaloo College.

In the early years Jarvis was operated as an elementary and high school by the Disciples' Christian Woman's Board of Missions and its successor United Christian Missionary Society. But the college long has been self-governing, the church simply retaining property rights.

The final transfer of mineral rights was seen as a long overdue step giving Jarvis full freedom of action. The property would revert to the church under the agreement, however, if the college should become unrelated to the Disciples of Christ or discontinue operations.

Transfer Fulfills Intent

Dr. Thomas, president of the missionary society, declared the transfer was "being true to the intent of the donor of the land and the church boards that made investments in the school and property."

Considered a "home mission" during more than half of its existence, Jarvis received operations assistance and equipment as well as land from the church.

Since 1964, the Republic National Bank of Dallas has managed the oil leasing and investment function under trust agreements periodically renewed.

'We Will Be Free' Says Bishop Tutu; Seeks International Community Aid

"We will be free," says Bishop Desmond Tutu, "and will remember who helped us in becoming free."

The general secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches during recent talks with foreign ministers in West Germany, Finland, Holland, Denmark and Reagan administration officials, deplored the fact that at the age of 50 in



the country of his birth he could not vote - a right available to any white child of 18 based upon their color.

Bishop Tutu is scheduled to speak at the Disciples General Assembly at Anaheim, Calif., but passport difficulties might prevent it. Prime Minister P.W. Botha of South Africa has stated that Tutu's passport will be withdrawn upon his return to his homeland.

In seeking help from international and church leaders for change in South Africa, Bishop Tutu warned of a pending crisis and asked for pressure to bring his country's leaders to the negotiating table before there are no longer "viable peaceful options."

He asked for political, diplomatic and economic pressure to be brought upon South Africa if change is to come about by reasonably peaceful means. Blacks in South Africa have no constitutional ways to bring about change themselves. None have seats on the ruling President's Council and they have no recourse to the ballot box.

The South Africa church leader feels "freedom and world peace are at stake in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa."

EMPHASIS ON MINORITIES

Disciples Launching New Congregation Campaign

A committee planning a multi-million-dollar effort by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to establish new congregations heard here that a "successful" new congregation should be self-supporting in three to five years.

Further, the New Congregation Establishment Committee was told, new congregations ought to have a sense of mission that includes willingness at the outset to share 10 per cent or more of their resources with others.

This was part of the data fed into the committee chaired by Raymond E. Brown, vice-president of the Disciples' Board of Church Extension, as it met to weigh policies and procedures in launching this year a program of establishing new congregations.

Church Advance Now

Key to the effort will be the securing and training of "pastor/developers" who can move into regions where need for congregations has been determined and who can take leadership in organizing.

The program is called CAN—Church Advance Now—and will be the focus of a major informational campaign which was launched in March.

By direction of the church's General Assembly, a major part of the effort will be with ethnic minority congregations.

The Board of Church Extension which plans and finances church facilities, will have administrative oversight of CAN, with the Division of Homeland Ministries, which assists congregations in their programs, sharing leadership.

No Split Congregations

In addition to the potential of self-support and a sense of mission being criteria for success of new congregations, the new churches supported by the program ought not be splits within existing congregations, the committee was told.

The report by Thomas E. Wood, executive secretary of the department of ministry, DHM, outlined research under way by Cedar Falls, Iowa, pastor George L. Sublette, who is gathering data from research institutes, other denominations, Disciples staff and a sampling of white, black and Hispanic Disciples congregations.

This May, all Disciples' congregations started during 1966-75 will be surveyed as part of the research aimed at preparing a profile for selecting Pastor/Developers.

Ethnic Minority Priority

The committee also:

- Considered different models for es-

tablishing new congregations and discussed components common to various models.

- Envisioned homeland ministries as providing grants for leadership and program to the new congregations, with church extension handling grants for site purchase and first unit construction.

- Suggested priority be given to work in regions where ethnic minority congregations are to be established and in re-

gions where "potential is great but the Disciples' constituency is limited."



Disciples Need Increased Emphasis On Minority Seminarian Placement

—from address to Lexington Theological Seminary
by Dr. Ozark Range, Sr. - March, 1981

From time to time the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has made some rather assertive claims concerning an affirmative stance in regards to the opportunity for the well educated-seminary prepared graduates to be employed without regard to race, color or national origin. These claims usually come in one or two ways: 1. A resolution hammered out during and proceeding our plenary body known as the General Assembly. 2. The formulation of a task force by a unit of the church.

These actions are many times prompted by a call from the National Convocation of the Christian Church or the Black and Hispanic Concerns Committee. To date we have never really tested the assertions by actually calling a pastor to serve across racial or ethnic lines. Although the face of Disciple ministerial leadership has changed with the influx of Black, Hispanic, Asian and Female Clergy, the result is the same. We talk a good game but we do nothing to change the result.

Talk to any field education director at our seminaries and the conversation quickly turns to "not having enough Black or Hispanic Congregations to which our students can go to practice ministry." The time is now. If we are really to be the Church for all daughters and sons of God we must provide the vehicle that makes possible the calling of ministerial leadership without regard for social mores.

Our method of placement assistance needs to be totally overhauled so as to show no racial designation. Congregations of the Disciples of Christ need to be challenged to go beyond mere listing of one or two blacks on prospect lists to actually providing opportunity for service without regard to racial designation.

Regional ministers and regional boards must be constantly challenged to recommend to pulpit committees all those who have the necessary academic preparation as bonafide candidates to fill our pulpits.

In the setting up of a clear apparatus for affirmative action and implementation, the collaboration of a number of persons dedicated to this goal is a must. Once the method is agreed upon there has to be constant review to ascertain what movement is being made toward the realization of the goal.

It therefore becomes the task of all concerned to make recommendations, to engage in consultations, to challenge and point out how unreal it is to assume that one group has the sole responsibility of providing for "their" own a place to minister.

There are many ways congregations can assist with the process:

1. Let it be known that they are equal opportunity organizations.
2. Actually employ minority persons.
3. Encourage their regional office to adopt an open stance in every phase of its operation.
4. Become a charter member of a network of congregations pledged to be open to the possibility of hiring across racial or ethnic lines.
5. Publication of such a list and make available for all units, regional and area organizations within the church.
6. Call to service minority-interns, interims or other short term possibilities.
7. Seek out minority persons rather than simply making available opportunities known.

Disciples To Consider Social Justice Resolutions

Congressional hearings on the violence-related activities of the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi organizations are supported in a resolution on racism to be presented to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this summer.

The resolution, sent to the July 31-August 5 meeting in Anaheim, Calif., was approved by the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries board here March 10.

Disciples' congregations are asked to examine critically the criminal justice systems in their communities and their treatment of minority persons.

Review Employment

Congregations also are asked to review their employment practices, resource materials and membership and evangelism programs to "detect and change practices of racism."

Members, congregations, regions, general units and institutions of the church are requested to support local, state/provincial and national legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination in housing and to support enforcement of existing legislation.

Other elements of the resolution call for support of school desegregation and quality education for all, affirmative action, equal employment legislation and the church's efforts to end systemic racism.

Affirmative Action

In a separate resolution on affirmative action, all parts of the church are asked to evaluate their employment policies and practices and to affirm that they will hire without regard to race, sex or national origin.

Congregations, regions, general units and institutions are urged to seek women and minorities as full-time ministers as well as in intern, interim and other short-term positions.

Pastors are urged to preach on affirmative action and to develop educational programs and opportunities for "spiritual reflection on issues of distributive justice, equity and affirmative action."

Regions are asked to send the resolution to all pulpit/personnel committees, to include names of women and minority clergy in lists of candidates for consideration by search committees and to publish the names of congregations who agree to follow the affirmative action principle.

Provide For Needy

A third resolution, dealing with providing human services, will be presented to the assembly for its action.

The resolution declares that all persons deserve adequate food, shelter, medical care and "fulfillment of human community" and that now is the time to increase services to those who are "struggling to survive."

Congregations are asked to work with food pantry programs, food stamp outreach efforts, school breakfast pro-

grams, facilities for the aging and other services.

The resolution also calls on the church to increase its "efforts to change the political, economic and ecclesiastical (church) structures which in the name of human need and social justice require change.

"Political action is a necessary ministry of the church and the risks of error and misunderstanding are necessary if we are to fulfill our ministry to the needy of the world," the resolution adds.

Cynthia Hale, All-Assembly Worship Preacher

Rev. Cynthia Hale, Protestant chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institute, Butner, N.C., will deliver the all-assembly worship sermon at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be held at Anaheim, Calif., July 31 - August 5.

Rev. Hale will speak on Sunday, August 2, using the assembly theme, "Created to Be One," as the basis for her sermon.

Employed as the Butner prison chaplain in 1979, Miss Hale supplies worship and counseling services for 350 male inmates. A 1975 graduate of Hollins (Va.) College, she received the master of divinity degree in theology from Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C., in 1979 and was ordained a Disciples minister the same year.

Rev. Hale chaired the 1977 nominating committee of the National Convocation; and since 1978 has been a member of the Council on Christian Unity. A trustee of the National Convocation, she is also vice-president of the board of direc-



Cynthia Hale

tors of the Greenwood Cemetery Association.

Ministers Meet History At Retreat

The Black Ministers Retreat held at Charleston, S.C., in March, was a historic as well as a religious experience.

Emmanuel AME Church where the retreat sessions were held, was reportedly built by blacks during slavery times and had a membership of over 2,000. It was a flourishing congregation when ministers like Denmark Vessey and Nat Turner led insurrections on the plantations.

Following the revolts, Emmanuel and other black churches were forced to close down and memberships went under-

ground. When reopened some ten years later, almost the entire membership returned to worship as before.

A large, beautiful structure in the heart of old Charleston and a short distance from mansions which have been restored to their pre-Civil War elegance, Emmanuel AME now has more than 3,000 members. The church is considered of national historic significance and a "magnificent testimony to the virility of black people during their most difficult times."

CONVOCATION BLACK PAPER

Trustees Question Reagan Proposed Economic Policy

Trustees of the National Convocation during their April meeting at Indianapolis, found economic policies advocated by the Reagan administration having "the potential for adverse and immediate effects on our society."

"If such policy is fully implemented," the trustees stated in their initial 'Convocation Black Paper,' "many poor will become poorer; many rich become richer and resources and quality of life for those persons in the middle levels more lean than is already being experienced."

The group urged concerned citizens to contact members of Congress by letter and in person, and to respond in writing to "ill-advised" editorials and articles in their local papers.

Expressing the feeling that "when this administration's time is ended, inflation and unemployment will have increased," the Convocation officials claimed "racial minorities will be among those who will have paid most dearly for the grand experiment in economic policy."

Proposed Reagan administration policies questioned included using a "tight money" monetary policy to fight inflation; providing investment and production incentives through tax reductions for rich and upper income persons; deregulation of private enterprise and removal of required standards; and shifting of responsibility for government services back to states.

Trustees expressed disbelief that these proposals would slow the rise of prices and interest rates, create new jobs and reduce production costs, and lead to more effective means of meeting social service and education needs of people.

The Convocation Black Paper stated "the historical experience of black people and other racial minorities in this country is that -

"When a 'tight money' monetary policy is operative, times get tighter and more difficult for blacks and other racial minorities - whether as business entrepreneurs or as members of the labor force.

"When federal guidelines are absent and no national agency has the capability of monitoring business and industry, the civil rights of racial minorities can be in jeopardy.

"When full employment is totally dependent upon the initiatives of private enterprise, many racial minorities - prepared and unprepared - are not absorbed

into the labor force.

"Relying upon some states and many municipalities for the wise and just utilization of federal dollars (without federal guidance) to meet the social services and educational needs of their residents, most often means blacks and other racial minorities will get 'the short end of the stick.'"

"As representatives of more than 75,000 Black Disciples of Christ residing in some 550 congregations in 18 states," the trustees stated, "we cannot be true to our commitment to aid in the empower-

ment of the poor and oppressed minorities and not sound these words of caution."

The paper urged Convocation members to ask the 97th Congress to support fair housing legislation, public school desegregation, voting rights and minimum wage laws. And that they ask for prudence in military expenditures, development of means to attain international peace through non-violent methods, and defeat of proposed budget cuts "which shrink the financial resources available to the poor for mere subsistence."

Hot Dogs, Apple Pie And Ku Klux Klan

All things strictly American aren't good. In addition to baseball, hot dogs and apple pie, we are the native land for poison ivy and the Ku Klux Klan.

Many would like to think of the KKK as a reconstruction era organization that has faded from the scene. The rapidly growing Klan would have us believe that it is now respectable. Neither premise is true.

The Klan is still a violent and lawless organization dedicated to hatred of blacks, Jews and other minority groups. Currently flourishing in a period of economic crisis, the Klan has added paramilitary activities to its program and is no longer content just to function in the South.

The tactics adopted in 1865 are still basic with Klansmen - armed assault, intimidation, arson, murder, rape and the active promotion of racial conflict. They have bombed, flogged, tortured, blinded, castrated, hanged, drowned and bludgeoned to death countless Americans.

Although sponsors of the KKK paramilitary training camps claim their purpose is "defense and survival," it is apparent the racists are arming for guerilla warfare.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith, says training sites are located in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas. Others may be in Georgia, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee. Activities range from target practice to the selling and study of manuals on how to make bombs, grenades, mines and chemical explosives. Military-type fatigues are the basic uniforms and some camps have elaborate

"security" forces and systems.

Many of the instructors are service veterans; some in Texas are said to be active duty members of the U.S. Army. Women are enrolled as well as men; some Klans have organized youth groups and indoctrinate boys and girls in racism and the use of guns.

Editors

Convocation Offers Minister Aid

Financial aid in placement of a woman seminary graduate is being offered by the National Convocation. Trustees of the organization during their April meeting authorized grants up to \$1,200 per year for 1981 and 1982 support of a Disciples woman minister.

Trustees stated purpose of the grant was to aid in meaningful deployment of a growing number of women seminarians and to aid congregations in developing multiple staffs. Earnings from the Preston Taylor - National Convocation Endowment Fund will be used to finance the grants.

Congregations in need of a full-time minister or capable of utilizing additional ministerial staff are eligible. Official board action with congregational confirmation should accompany all requests.

Women eligible must have completed a seminary degree program within the last five years; possess the interest, skill and commitment to be a member of a ministerial staff; and have the support of her home congregation and region.

Program details can be secured through contact with the administrative secretary of the National Convocation.

Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Convocation Must Play Integral Part In Developing Policy And Program

by Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., President, NCCC

Since last summer, I have enjoyed very much both the fellowship and friendship of all those who work to make the Convocation a viable part of the whole church, most particularly to W.K. Fox, our esteemed executive secretary and to the executive committee of the board and its related task forces who have so faithfully shared with me in bringing us to this point.

Of course, when one looks at our national situation, it becomes increasingly important to both define and understand the role of the church. It should be clear to all of us by now that the church needs to be the redeeming agent in this sin sick society. Structurally, it should also be clear that the Convocation, being a part of the whole church and not a program unit, does not set policy or program for the whole church but it should play an integral part of developing that policy and program.

As racism, violence and greed abound in America, we as black Disciples must not fall prey to any institutional trappings that might inhibit our freedom or curtail our quest for liberation. Black Disciples must have a vision greater than the Convocation in order to lead our people from the dark dungeons of dependence to the bright sunlight of independence and interdependence. In other words, we who represent 4% of the constituency of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) must first work on self-definition before we can try to define or impact others.

We must seek earnestly to build the *people-base* of our churches in order to increase our *self respect* and self esteem because Jesus said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37,39). We must love ourselves properly before we can love others adequately. At this point in the life of our church and our nation, black Disciples are far too dependent upon others for their sense of worth and their will to witness. Let us start spreading the word that we must build our churches spiritually and numerically because we are an African people who cannot survive without unity and strength in the religion of our mothers and fathers.

Speaking of growth and witness, let me say that evangelism should be the priority and continuing emphasis of the black Disciples movement. It should both feed into and be fed by the whole church on its emphasis to win souls for Christ. The winning of souls is not conflictual with the prophetic witness to the world. When the hungry see us, both feed their hunger and speak to the needs of the hungry, then they begin to see Christ for what He is—Liberator and Savior, and it is out of this context that the least, the last and the lost will begin to occupy our churches.

It is when black Disciples no longer need permission to be prophetic but "stand on the wall and tell Pharaoh to let my people go" that we will begin to feel the movement of the masses *toward* us as well as a deeper sense of self esteem *in* us. As our white brothers and sisters must clean up their act, so we must clean up our act in order that the "pot doesn't wind up calling the kettle black."

In conclusion I should simply like to say our possibilities far outweigh our liabilities but it will take a new attention to basics, Bible study, prayer, Christ-centered preaching and evangelistic fervor in growth and witness. That's the kind of leadership that I would like to see the board of trustees offer to the whole church

Continued on Page 11

*Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders*

The next few years should be exciting ones for Disciples. The church has launched a multi-million dollar drive to establish new congregations; several hundred thousands will be spent in a "Growth for Witness" effort to reverse the membership decline; and the Office of Communication has designed a multimedia program to enhance the Disciples image.

The three-pronged attack on complacency and lethargy that seemingly has beset us, should herald a new day for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It indicates that we are no longer willing "that this body die."

However, the long months of planning and the sizeable funds involved, will not alone insure the success of the three programs. We will need to reach back and recapture some of the zeal and dedication of Barton W. Stone, Alexander and Thomas Campbell and Walter Scott.

Modern day Disciples will need the daring and down-to-earthness of "Raccoon John" Smith; the far-reaching vision of Preston W. Taylor; the evangelism of H. Jackson Brayboy; and the love and devotion of Rosa Brown Bracy, Caroline Neville Pearre and Deetsy Blackburn Gray.

In many respects the Christian Church has come a long way from the Cane Ridge Meeting House. Perhaps too far in some instances. It may be that our organizational structure has traveled so far and so fast that the people have been outdistanced.

Emphasis in the coming years will hopefully be placed on people. The beauty of the Disciples belief lies in its simplicity. Stone and the Campbells sought to divest a fragmented religion of its superfluous trappings; to reunite the Body of Christ under its basic banner. They carried their message to the people of the frontiers, fostering the establishment of churches in hamlets and villages as they went.

Religion may well be earth's last frontier. The villages and hamlets of the 19th century are now the teeming ghettos of our large cities - filled with lost and bewildered people searching for something to cling to. "The Word" is yet beclouded with a myriad of confusing slogans and sectarianisms.

Continued on Page 11

Women Ministers Pre-Assembly Meet At Chapman College

Orange, Calif.—Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) women who are ministers and seminary students will gather here July 29-31 for their third biennial pre-General Assembly meeting.

More than 125 women are expected at the event which will be held at Chapman College, a school related to the Disciples.

Theme for the meeting, to be held before the July 31-August 5 General Assembly of the church, will be "Rekindle the Gift Within You," taken from 2 Timothy 1:3-14.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Beverly Jean Wildung Harrison, professor of

Christian social ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

A member of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, Dr. Harrison is a former faculty member of the University of California at Berkeley, San Francisco Theological Seminary at San Anselmo, Iliff School of Theology at Denver and the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley.

Guest preachers will be La Taunya Bynum of Los Angeles, Calif., and Holly Beaumont of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Bynum is interim pastor at First Christian Church at Lynwood. A June

graduate of the School of Theology at Claremont, Bynum's professional project dealt with black and feminist theology of liberation.

Beaumont is director of development for the Disciples' National Benevolent Association, covering Oklahoma and Arkansas. She also has been associate minister for Creighton Christian Church in Phoenix, Ariz.

The meeting is being coordinated by Susan M. Robinson, Indianapolis, director of women in ministry for the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries.

No Chances

(In memory of the slain children of Atlanta, Ga.)

by Calla L. Dean © '81

No chances, so sad to say, - yet it's true!
In this wonderful nation of ours
Bonded by the spirit of Brotherly Love;
All men should, united be in the spirit of honor,
Serving under one flag and one God.
Today, someone whose feet have trod the ground,
Who breathes the same air
Causes me to pause and wonder who you are.
I do not know who you are, only God.
You're only known to God above.
How in your selfish mood you cut small young flowers
In their blooming period of life, (as they were).
Today, several children slain in life's prime.
Sleeping in American sod, because you gave them "no chances".
Their faces are lifted today, toward our Father God.
For them there'll be no -
School bells gently ringing,
Sacred choirs sweetly singing.
No mother to teach them to pray
Or father a bedtime story to relate.
They're sleeping beneath the clay,
Silently, calmly and sedate,
Because, you gave them no chances
To live their lives for humanity.
Springtime -
There'll be no early morn with dewdrops sparkling in the sun.
The smaller children will have no tricycle rides
Or, larger ones, no skating or bicycle rides.
Never behold green grass growing everywhere.
They'll see no hillsides or highways
Decked with budding trees blossoming there.
Nor see beautiful flowers in full bloom
Filling the air with sweet perfume,
Because, you gave them no chances.
Summertime -
There'll be no summer for them.
No visits to the parks or games to play.
There'll be no playmates to share their toys
Or trips to the zoo with other girls and boys.

Or take a nice swim at leisure -
Watch high school games for pleasure -
See a graceful Pole Vaulter perform,
Smiling with his graceful charm.
You, gave them no chances.
Graduation Day - will ne'er be.
No seniors meet together-choosing the college they're to enter.
There'll be no standing in September shade
Watching a "Labor Day" parade.
Sitting, in church pews, listening to the Gospel truth,
Accepting the Lord, in their youth.
You robbed them of their chances.
No marching down the aisle, to say "I Do"
After the soloist sings clearly, "I love you, truly - dearly."
Winter nights -
No popcorn or other snacks will be shared,
While watching TV programs being aired.
Today, Multitudes in public are seen -
Wearing the saddened token of green;
In memory and care of the slain loved ones,
Who were forced to die, one by one.
Who cried for their lives, one by one -
Or tried to shield themselves to no avail,
Pleaded for mercy which failed to prevail.
You, gave them "no chances",
It's the opinion of some that you're insane
But, insanity would have been dropped in it's lane.
There are those who suggest addicts,
But addicts only want money for their habits.
It appears to others as a cruel Homosexual.
Be your actions singular or plural
How can you be so cruel, so cruel?
God gave those children, - life and beauty.
Those precious lives belonged to our Lord, -
At His Will to call all from labor to reward.
It is His, and only God's duty.
Alas! you gave the children, no chances;
And you didn't give God a chance to do His duty.
You've given, no chances to mankind
Or chance to the Almighty God.

Plan Souvenir Booklet For 1982 Convocation

A souvenir booklet commemorating the 65th anniversary of the National Convocation is being planned for the organization's 7th biennial assembly at Indianapolis, Ind., August 3-7, 1982.

The National Convocation is a continuation of the National Christian Missionary Convention founded by Preston Taylor at Nashville, Tenn., in 1917.

The planned booklet which has met the approval of the Convocation program committee and board of trustees, will include Convocation and congregational historical data and pictures in addition to special feature articles.

Disciples organizations, congregations and individuals will be asked to sponsor advertisements in the booklet based on their own histories and activities. It is anticipated that the project will result in a historical picture of the National Convocation, its members and their works, that will be of permanent value.

Convocation ministers and congregations will be mailed solicitation letters and forms listing prices of advertisements in the near future. The project is designed as a money-raising event for the Convocation.

NEA Speaker



Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin, president of the National Convocation, will be one of the featured speakers for the National Evangelistic Association's pre-General Assembly meeting.

Dr. Benjamin, pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, the Disciples fastest growing congregation, will speak during a 2:00 p.m. program on July 30, using "How Second Christian Has Grown" as his subject. His congregation has been cited as outstanding by the

Completes Work For Doctor Degree



Irving H. Allen, Sr.

Irving H. Allen Sr., currently serving as a ministerial and educational consultant at Talladega (Ala.) College, was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree by Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kans., May 15. Allen's degree was from the school's College of Education.

Ordained a Disciples minister in 1971, Allen earned his bachelors degree at Jarvis Christian College, the master of religious education degree from Brite Divinity School, and the master of education degree in administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Allen has served as college minister, instructor of religion and administrative assistant to the president at Jarvis; and as director of institutional research and planning at Talladega.

His Christian Church service in addition to work at Jarvis includes membership on the board of trustees for the Christian Church in Arkansas, committee on ministry for the Christian Church in the Southwest, board of trustees of the National Convocation, and chairman of the Convocation evaluation committee.

Convocation Project Gets BLPC Grant

The Black Leadership Projects Committee of the Christian Church during its April meeting, awarded a \$5,000 grant to the National Convocation to aid in the establishment of a program for development of black writers and composers.

The BLPC grant together with a \$2,500 commitment from the Convocation board of trustees, will be used to set up a "publication commission" within the National Convocation designed to discover writers and motivate them to produce books and pamphlets.

In his appeal to the leadership projects committee, Dr. William K. Fox, administrative secretary of the National Convocation, cited "the need for quality church materials written from the black perspective by black writers and composers." He saw the publication of scholarly and creative documents related to

Continued on Page 11

Christian Church for its membership growth.

On August 2, Dr. Benjamin will be the Sunday morning guest speaker at the Robert Schuller Cathedral, Los Angeles.

The National Convocation during the Anaheim General Assembly will sponsor an exhibition hall booth; hold a black caucus meeting at 9:30 a.m., August 1; and is planning a dinner at 5:30 p.m., August 4.

Oscar Haynes, second vice moderator, will present business items at the General Assembly.

Arnolds To End 92nd St. Ministry

Dr. Cornelius W. Arnold and his wife, Alpha, plan to complete their ministry at 92nd Street Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif., this year and "pass the mantle on to a younger man."

Dr. Arnold who founded the church in 1945, will observe his 36th year as pastor in June. Many of the current members grew up in the church under the Arnold's ministry. He and his wife plan to remain in Los Angeles and members of the church.

In announcing his pending retirement through a pastoral letter, Dr. Arnold stated, "I was 37 years old when 92nd Street church was started and now the mantle must be passed to a much younger man, capable, energetic and well trained.

"Your faithfulness, prayers and support will be needed more than ever. We hope to see you and the family at church every Sunday as we come to the close of our 36th anniversary in June and our last year as pastors."

**Copies of UP-DATE
Are Limited!**

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With a Friend!**

Preachers Explore Their Preparation For Ministry

"Let God be God," Dr. Leon E. Wright warned 130 ministers and seminarians in attendance at the seventh annual Black Ministers Retreat held at Charleston, S.C., in March.

Dr. Wright, a retired Howard University professor, delivered three sermons stressing the need to be in touch with the power of God as a means of "Spiritual Preparation for Ministry."

"Your mission is to represent God to those in suffering or misdirected," he told his Disciples audience. "Theology should never tie you into a pretzel. It must come from your experience."

Other highlights of the three-day meeting held at Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, included addressers by Dr. John R. Compton, Indiana regional minister; Dr. William K. Fox, assistant to the Disciples general minister and president; and Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the Christian Church's department of evangelism and membership.

Servants Then Leaders

Dr. Compton urged the ministers to be faithful to their commitments and to make their ministry worldwide. Dr. Fox cautioned them to be servants first, then leaders. Dr. Hannah claimed evangelism requires more than proclamation from the pulpit and asked retreat participants to do some 20th century oriented "planting and watering."

Several other ministers delivered sermons or led retreat worship services.

William Edwards, Indianapolis, Ind., told the participants "ministry involves commitment, a daily challenge to give up your life for the ministry and for your people. The only way to accept that challenge is through Christ and spiritual preparation."

Thomas W. Courts, Flint, Mich., pastor of Vermont Christian Church, reminded, "it is impossible to share something you don't have. It requires something outside yourselves. You will not be the kind of people you want to be without the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Put Hands To Work

Booker R. Dickason, Kansas City, Kan., pastor of Quindaro Community Christian Church, claimed one could not just "wish the church together. It takes work to mould and glue it together. We need to put our tired and weary hands to work."

R.W. Dickerson, Cleveland, Ohio, pastor of Bethany Christian Church, cited prayer life as part of preparation for the ministry. "Love everyone, live and speak the truth, study and stop fighting women preachers. They have a ministry, too," he said.

Frank T. Garner Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio, pastor of Bond Hill Christian Church, led the participants in a repeated chant as part of his morning meditation.

"I am somebody. I am a Christian. I am better than no other person, but I am different as a child of God. Jesus touched my life. I love because Jesus first loved me," they chanted.

Get Ready For Battle

Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Los Angeles, Calif., interim pastor at First Christian Church of Lynwood, told the ministers they need to prepare themselves by developing their intellectual, preaching, counseling and administrative skills.

"Get ready for the battle against the principalities and powers, the rulers and authorities, those who deny justice, cut off hope, cut short opportunity to be part of the whole people of God," she said.

LaMar Clark, Detroit, Mich., pastor of United Christian Church, urged the ministers not to let their sermons become amateur psychology or sociology. "Preachers whose Christian lives are adrift are searching for faith among the theologians not from Christ and God," he said.

Robert L. Stephens, Pittsburgh, Pa., pastor of East Hills Christian Church, reminded that "great work calls for sensitivity to the needs of others," now that conservatism and the Ku Klux Klan are on the rise and federal funding for programs to help the needy are being cut. "Work together to meet the crisis, but plan for dealing with the opposition," he urged.

Deal With Conflict

Dr. John Foulkes, Indianapolis, director of special congregational services for the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries, traced the meaning of sacrifice and linked that concept to the ministry. Sacrifice calls for total commitment, a willingness to deal with conflict, stress and persecution. "The offering of a sacrifice is not an offer of death but of life," he said.

Cozelle Wilson, Kinston, N.C., assistant pastor of Grove Park Christian Church, told the ministers to be concerned about lives and souls, not about how they appear to others. She rebuked Americans who were "More concerned about who killed J.R. (a character in a television series) than who killed the black children in Atlanta, Ga."

Claude Maples, Dallas, Texas, pastor of Denley Drive Christian Church, said the ministers need to be clear about which spirit they were talking about, noting there are many spirits. He urged them to "get your armor ready" for fighting forces trying to destroy the faith.

Preston Taylor Endowment Fund

Recently folders soliciting support for the Preston Taylor - National Convocation Endowment Fund were mailed to Black Disciples individuals and congregations. The appeal is an important one. The need is vital and urgent. The fund is necessary to expand the work of the National Convocation and make it more meaningful in your life and the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The folder asks "how much is liberty worth?" We repeat the question. How much is liberty worth to you and your congregation? Is it something we want to achieve or just continue talking and dreaming of?

If liberty is meaningful to you, there is a cost attached. If we want the National Convocation to be more than a "hat in hands" organization, we must make it so.

Preston Taylor devoted his life and fortune to religious liberty for Black Disciples. How much is it worth to you? \$50? \$100? \$500? \$1,000? Each gift will help the National Convocation reach its \$2,500,000 goal. Respond today. Become a donor to the Preston Taylor - National Convocation Endowment Fund.

Ray Havens Dies

Ray H. Havens, long time friend and financial advisor of the National Convocation, died on April 16. He was serving as executive director of the office of financial services for the Christian Church at the time of his death.

In addition to serving a period as treasurer of the National Convocation, Havens spent three years in Africa working with the Church of Christ in Zaire. He had also served as treasurer of the United Christian Missionary Society, Christian Church Foundation and Christian Church Services.

Summit Plans Move To Suburbs

Summit Christian Church, Dayton's only black Disciples congregation, plans to end its inner city ministry and move to the suburbs. The church home located at the corner of Summit and Mercer was destroyed by fire on March 22, 1980.

The congregation during a March 22, 1981 meeting, anniversary of the fire, accepted a plan to move to 4021 Denlinger Road in September. The new site, former home of the Christian Life Center, a white Assemblies of God congregation, will be occupied under a "lease-purchase" agreement. Summit will lease the premises for a five-year period at a monthly rental fee, and then under the contract terms, purchase at a price of some \$475,000.

Organized in 1912, Summit Christian Church has long been considered an "outstanding" black Disciples congregation. Ministers who have served the church include the late Eli W. Wilbert, Robert H. Peoples and William K. Fox. Rev. Wilbert's period of service was in excess of 34 years.

Summit's current minister under whom the suburban move is being made, is J. Thomas Johnson, employed February 1, 1976. The church has a 70-year record of service to Dayton's inner city black population.

Dedicate Window Honoring Johnson

A stained glass window honoring former President Lyndon B. Johnson was dedicated at the National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C., in March. A Disciples, President Johnson worshipped at National City during his years in the White House.

Emblems on the 25-foot high, \$50,000 window symbolized "acts of mercy" from Matthew 25, including bread for the hungry, water for the thirsty and a cloak for the naked. Johnson was noted for his efforts to help ordinary citizens through education, housing, senior citizen, poverty and civil rights legislation.

Among program participants and attendants at the dedication ceremony were Oscar Haynes, Disciples second vice-moderator; Dr. Charles A. Berry, president of Jarvis Christian College, Patricia Roberts Harris, secretary of Housing, Education and Welfare under Johnson; and Walter Washington, D.C. mayor.

Included in the extensive remodel-

Voluntary Service Lists Varied 1980 Work Projects In Year End Report



Hurricanes Frederick and David were responsible for the two major work projects undertaken by the Office of Voluntary Service of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during 1980.

Julia M. Brown, voluntary service director, in a year end activity report, listed in excess of 148 volunteers participated in the five projects undertaken by the office.

A two-week project at Mobile, Ala., attracted 37 Disciples. Homes of elderly, disabled and poor, damaged as a result of Hurricane Frederick in September 1979, were cleaned and rehabilitated as a result of the group's efforts. Volunteers included Sandy Fletcher and six others from Loveland, Colo. Fletcher's home, damaged in the 1976 Big Thompson Canyon flood, was rebuilt during a prior Voluntary Service project.

Volunteers spent a month in the Dominican Republic repairing damage done by Hurricane David. A team of 23 laid cement floors and did carpentry work on 12 houses during the period. They left behind a sawmill donated by Canadian churches, Canadian government and Kenneth McDougall, Waverly, Nova Scotia, a retired contractor who instructed villagers in operation of the sawmill.

Eight volunteers worked at All

ling and redecoration program taking place at the Disciples national meeting house, is to be a pew dedicated to the

Peoples Christian Center, Los Angeles, Calif. The annual Hazel Green Academy adult work project attracted 48 persons, mostly Indiana residents. Thirty-five young men and women took part in the annual youth project at Hazel Green.

An overseas scholarship grant permitted Barbara Smith of Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church, New York City, to participate in a World Council of Churches project in Cameroun, Africa. Barbara, an NYC University doctoral student, spent two weeks working in the construction of a YMCA building.

Voluntary Service also made a 1980 grant to Ecumenical Summer Service, a Los Angeles program for support of college students working at community service projects. Gregory and Beverly Brown served as coordinators for the program. Gregory, a Disciples minister, serves on the faculty at Jarvis Christian College.

A 1981 program resulted in 19 volunteers spending three weeks in January at Jubilee Partners, Comer, Ga. The organization serves as a welcoming center for refugees. The work team aided in construction of recreational, educational and workshop facilities at the center.

Hazel Green Academy work projects for 1981 will be held June 14-20 for youth and July 12-18 for adults.

National Convocation. Donations towards the \$2,500 project are currently being solicited.

Vignettes from the FIELD



AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

Dallas, TX - Members of Romine Avenue Christian Church held a week of appreciation services for their pastor during Mar. Area churches joined with Romine members in paying tribute to Rev. Archie J. Warren Sr. Rev. M.C. Dickson of Warren Avenue Christian Church delivered the final sermon during which the Romine pastor and his wife were presented with a gift.

Detroit, MI - United Christian Church observed its 44th anniversary, Mar. 8, with Rev. Ozark Range Sr. as guest speaker. The youth choir of Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., participated in United's Mar. 15 worship service. At the Feb. 22 annual meeting, United adopted a 1981 budget totaling \$177,200.

Jefferson City, MO - After several years in secular work, Rev. Joseph Blair has returned to the pastoral ministry as pastor of Second Christian Church. Rev. Blair will also be serving as campus minister at Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

Roanoke, VA - Loudon Avenue Christian Church, pastored by Rev. William L. Lee, held a "Get Acquainted Hour" on Mar. 10 for all persons who had united with the church during the past two years. The program was designed to aid new members in becoming a part of the church family.

Port Gibson, MS - Christian Chapel Church observed the 25th anniversary of its pastor, Rev. T. Elias Harris, on Sunday, April 26. Mary J. Wynn and Lula M. Arnold served as co-chairpersons for the anniversary event.

Oklahoma City, OK - East Sixth Street Christian Church will hold a "homecoming celebration" June 27 and 28. Activities will include a family picnic and fellowship on Saturday with special services on Sunday. Former members and friends from as far away as California are expected to attend. Rev. Robert L. Brown, recently installed as East Sixth's pastor, will deliver the Sunday morning sermon with a former church pastor speaking Sunday afternoon.

For Whom the Bells Toll



● **J.K. DICKERSON**, founder of Community Christian Church, Covington, Ky., died April 3, 1981. Rev. Dickerson was a former pastor of Robbins Street Christian Church and also served congregations in Tennessee and Virginia. He was a member of the northern Kentucky Human Rights Commission and served on the board of directors of the Northern Kentucky Community Center and Ministers Alliance. During his ministry at Community Christian, he was also the executive director of the Hamilton County Mental Retardation

Adult Center. Survivors include his wife, Annie Dickerson; a son, Charles; and daughters, Mrs. Beverly Butler and Mrs. Offutt.

● **MARY B. STROUD**, longtime member of Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio, died March 17, 1981. Mrs. Stroud served the church in many capacities including usher, choir member, Sunday school teacher, deaconess and department chairperson. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Carman Renee Butler, and a son, Robert Bradley Stroud.

National City Summer Program Now Full Year

A Summer Enrichment Program began by the National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C., some 20 years ago, was expanded to a year-around effort in 1979. Neighborhood children of elementary school age receive help with basic reading skills and engage in recreational activities, overnight camping and trips through the program.

Based on interest shown by the children and a study of needs in the area during the six-week summer school, the decision was made to initiate tutoring and Saturday activities. The ministry is centered on children in grades four, five and six, most of whom are referred by the nearby Thomson Elementary School.

National City and program officials have found the involvement with children making parents aware of church activities and also becoming involved. Church and community volunteers make home visits to each family to more precisely determine needs.

"It has become clear that concentrated effort with the children, on an individual basis or as a group, must be complemented by involvement with the parents and the total family unit," program sponsors have discovered.

Volunteers meet with each child weekly to aid with homework and provide friendship, provide transportation, and help with camping and crafts. Facilities of a nearby YMCA are used for

recreation.

Plans are to include additional forms of service as "needs are uncovered and additional levels of trust established."

Gay-Lea Ministry To Elderly Adults

Gay-Lea Christian Church, Nashville, Tenn., has instituted a "People's Outreach" program as part of their ministry to older adults of the church and community. Sponsored by the Christian Education department of the church, Dr. Bessie E. Chandler serves as director.

Group meetings are held twice a month with speakers, discussions, films, games and devotions on the program. Informational materials pertinent to aging are furnished and periodic field trips to Nashville places of interest are scheduled.

Using "reach out and touch in love" as their slogan, program staff offers "wheels that care" for transporting elderly to meetings; "handyman care" to aid elderly with maintenance problems; and "tele-care" whereby elderly can phone in for help. Light lunches and snacks are served at meetings.

Serving with Dr. Chandler on the program staff are Mrs. Frankie Blakely and Mrs. Elizabeth Cooke as community coordinators; and Beulah Johnson and Helen Gleeves as homebound care leaders. Rev. William Dansby is Gay-Lea's pastor.

1982 Convocation
Indianapolis, Indiana

Up-Date personality



Up-Date salutes Dr. Walter D. Bingham, pastor of Third Christian Church, Louisville, Ky. An outstanding Disciples and Christian leader, Dr. Bingham was elected moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1973, serving until the 1975 General Assembly.

Rev. Bingham preached his first sermon as a high school senior in 1941. His continuing years as a minister were highlighted in April when Third Christian honored him for "20 years of dedicated service."

A 1945 graduate of Talladega College, Rev. Bingham was ordained in 1946 and became student minister at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C. His Master of Divinity degree came from Howard University and for several years he served on the faculty of Jarvis Christian College. He has been awarded honorary Doctor's degrees by Christian Theological Seminary, Drury College and Transylvania University.

Dr. Bingham in addition to his present pastorate, has served as minister to congregations in Memphis, Tenn., Detroit, Mich., and Tulsa, Okla. He has been president of the Christian Church in Kentucky, a United Christian Missionary Society trustee, and a member of the governing board of the National Council of Churches. His work on behalf of the Christian Church has taken him to Argentina and Paraguay in South America; Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and India in Asia; Mexico and Africa.

He has served on the Disciples General Board and Administrative Committee, the Council on Christian Unity and nu-

Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders

from Pg. 5

Can Disciples meet the challenge? Can we establish our new congregations, inspire a spirit of evangelism and paint a picture of church and Christ that the people can subscribe to?

The next few years will tell.

Convocation's Part In Developing

from Pg. 5

in general and the black Disciples in particular. As I have traveled around the country, it has become painfully clear that black Disciples have been "anvils rather than hammers" in molding and fashioning their future, but as we often say in our churches "trouble doesn't have to last always."

BLPC Grant from pg. 7

blacks as a means of "increasing knowledge and effectiveness of black church leadership."

Members of the Publication Commission are to be selected for their knowledge and experience in areas of writing, editing, promotion and marketing of publications. Tentative plans call for publication of initial manuscripts within a two-year period. It is contemplated that the Commission will eventually become self supporting and possibly a profit making venture.

Read UP-DATE to keep informed of happenings in Black churches

merous other state and area boards and commissions.

Members of Third Christian Church paid tribute to their pastor by stating he "is controlled by the love of Christ in full dedication of all his strength and influence to the doing of God's will in all his relationships.

"He accepts the obligation to direct all his strength of body, of mind, of heart and of soul and to invest all his material resources in ways and through causes that will achieve the largest results in human brotherhood, in righteousness among all peoples and in giving dignity and abundant living to every person on earth."

12th Street Selects Evangelism Team

Eleanor Paige has been named to head the "Growth for Witness" effort at Twelfth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C., with Lula Webb serving as co-chairperson.

In announcing the 20-member evangelism team, Rev. George W. Jones, church pastor, stressed the need to involve the entire membership in the intensive four-year campaign to win new members. He and Rev. Mary B. Oliver will serve as facilitators in the effort.

Twelfth Street will join with other Capital Area congregations in a Growth for Witness training event to be held in May.

Jarvis EVENTS

BULLDOGS PLACE SECOND

Jarvis Christian College "Bulldogs" placed second in the Interregional Athletic Conference basketball tournament held at Waco, Texas in February. Paul Quinn College of Waco was the tournament winner. Three Jarvis players made the all-tournament team. The Jarvis women's team took third place in their conference.

CHURCH LEADER WORKSHOP

Jarvis Christian College sponsored a one-day workshop for church leaders on March 7. Serving as resource leader was William Sprague, Disciples director of congregational men's work and resources. Focus of the workshop was functions of elders, deacons, deaconesses, ushers and teachers. College staff and faculty members assisting included Thomas J. Griffin, Claude Walker, Jesse J. Hawkins, Effie M. Blair, Paul A. Sims and Gregory Brown.

OBSERVES LAITY SUNDAY

Dr. Kathryn Williams, associate regional minister of the Christian Church in the Southwest, was laity speaker at Jarvis Christian College on May 8. Her sermon subject was "Mission - a Risky Business."

HOLD ETHICS SEMINAR

Rev. Claude O. Maples, pastor of Denley Drive Christian Church, Dallas, Texas, was the principal guest speaker for a three-day spiritual issues seminar held at Jarvis Christian College in March. General theme for the event was "The Work of the Holy Spirit."

For Whom Bells Toll

● **AREATHA HANKAL BUSH**, a member of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, Mo. A dedicated church worker, Mrs. Bush's major interest was in providing educational opportunities for children. Ninety-five years old at her death, she served Centennial as an adult Sunday school teacher and CWF worker.

● **DORIS BRUCE RIGGINS**, a St. Louis, Mo., public school teacher, died April 25. A member of Centennial Christian Church, she was active in the gospel choir and fellowship guild.

First Baptism For Woman Minister

Rev. Juanita Cole, an associate pastor at Romine Street Christian Church, Dallas, Texas, performed her first baptism April 26. It is believed the occasion marked a "first" in the history of the Texas Christian Missionary Society.

Rev. Archie J. Warren, Romine's pastor, said the baptism was part of his policy "to help women ministers gain experience in all parts of the ministry."

Fellowship Meetings

Alabama Christian Missionary Convention will meet at Mt. Calvary Church, Tuskegee, Ala., June 25-28. The Texas convention will be held at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, July 15-19; Kentucky Disciples will meet at High Street Church, Mt. Sterling, Ky., July 16-19. The Piedmont Tri-State Convention will be held July 24-27; Mississippi Disciples will hold their annual convention at Jackson, Miss., August 6-9. The South Carolina Christian Missionary Convention will be held at Zion Pilgrim Church, Ridgeville, S.C., October 9-12.



ADDRESSES GENERAL BOARD — Lorenzo Graham, Claremont, Calif., speaks on issues before the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during its meeting in Chicago, Ill., May 2-5.

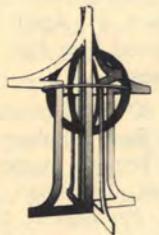
Graham, author of books on West Africa and the Bible, was one of several board members defending the Reconciliation program of the Christian Church. The board without a single negative vote, declared that "Reconciliation does not support communist activities" as charged by a Grafton, Va., congregation.

The General Board in its last meeting prior to the General Assembly, covered a wide range of resolutions and reports to be presented at the Disciples biennial meeting at Anaheim, Calif., July 31 - August 5.

An estimated 20 percent of the 200-member General Board is composed of representatives of minorities within the Christian Church.

**This time:
It's Anaheim!
JULY 31- AUG. 5, 1981**

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Up-Date



ON THE
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Fall
1981

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Office of the Administrative Secretary Indianapolis, Indiana

Compton To Head Division of Homeland Ministries

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) executive for Indiana, third largest region in the church, will become the chief officer for one of the denomination's major divisions, the Division of Homeland Ministries, January 1, 1982.

For the Rev. John R. Compton, 55, a former Cincinnati pastor, it will be another in a career of firsts. He will be the first person since the church's restructure 13 years ago to have been a top administrator at all three structure levels—congregational, regional and general.

He will be the first black president of a Disciples' division just as three years earlier he became the first black regional minister.

Compton, named by the division's board of directors, will succeed the Rev. Kenneth A. Kuntz who retires at the end of this year.

Multi-million Operation

The Division of Homeland Ministries, based in the Disciples' Indianapolis office building at 222 South Downey Avenue, is a \$3 million-a-year operation that provides services to congregations in Christian education, social action, laity work, evangelism and membership, and ministry.

It also is the Disciples' link to historic "home mission" work of the church among Appalachians in Hazel Green, Ky., Mexican-Americans in San Antonio, Texas, a racial mixture in downtown Los Angeles, Calif., and Yakima Indians in the state of Washington.

Oscar Haynes of Washington, D.C., who chaired the presidential search committee, said Compton's record is "enviable—professionally, ethically and spiritually." Haynes, also vice-chairperson of the division board and former vice-mod-



John R. Compton
New DHM President

erator of the denomination, asserted that the new president's "knowledge, abilities and skills" stood out as the search committee sifted through 87 nominees.

Effective Church Leader

Noting that the Division of Homeland Ministries related closely to congregations, Haynes said of Compton: "Under his leadership of two congregations, which spanned a 30-year period, each congregation made significant progress in church attendance, stewardship and finance, evangelism and spiritual growth. (He) is an effective preacher and writer with a good biblical background."

Compton pastored primarily at the United Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, serving there from 1948 to 1966 and 1971 to 1979, with a break in the middle for regional and general assignments. Since January 1, 1979, he has been regional minister for Indiana, a territory that includes some 250 congregations, 530 ministers and 103,000 members.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Compton was vice-moderator of the Disciples of

Continued on Page 11



NEW CHURCH MODERATORS—Heading the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the next two years will be the three individuals shown above. Elected and installed during the Anaheim General Assembly were (left to right) Dan H. Loving as second vice moderator; Joy L. Greer as moderator; and Kenneth E. Henry as first vice moderator.

Form NCCC Publication Commission

A new Commission on Publication has been formed here by the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It plans to stimulate and promote the work of Black creative writers in the Church.

A donation of \$2500 from the Convocation Board of Trustees and a \$5000 grant from the national Committee on Black Church Leadership Projects was combined to launch the Commission. According to the new Commission chairman, Joe Saunders of Dayton, Ohio, a search for writers of Church materials from the Black perspective is underway.

The Commission was asked to "solicit, select, review" and aid in the publication of materials which would "increase the knowledge and effectiveness of Black Church Leadership" and the Church in general.

Besides Saunders, other Commission members are: Walter Bingham-Louisville, KY.; Deborah Jordan-Boston, MS; T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr.; Wanda Crews and William K. Fox all of Indianapolis.

The Commission will have seven members and access to consultants.

Chairman Saunders announced that "The Commission is ready to receive documents from writers—both of literature and music."

Among the first publications to be released by the Commission will be a manual on EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP for BLACKS in the CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ). It will be made available during the Seventh Biennial Session of the National Convocation in Indianapolis - August 3-7, 1982.

Grants from individuals or organizations are needed to advance the Commission's purpose. Contact the Office of the National Convocation.

We Want To Hear From You

Is there something you want to say? Some comment or message you think **Up-Date** readers need to hear? Then write to us.

Up-Date is interested in starting a "letters from readers" section. Comments should be brief and are subject to editing; and although publication is not guaranteed, as many as possible will be printed.

If we please - or displease you; if you agree - or disagree with us; let us know. Send a letter to the editor. It will help us be more responsive to your needs and desires.

CYNTHIA HALE

Assembly Speaker Asks Christians Be Worthy Of Christ's Vocation

Building on the theme, "Created to Be the Church," a federal prison chaplain accused Christians of being part of the division of the world.

"We have affirmed individual creeds rather than Christ," said the Rev. Cynthia L. Hale, Butner, N.C. "We have written policy rather than preach."

Hale, a prison chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institute at Butner, spoke at the Sunday worship service of the biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Quoting from the fourth chapter of Ephesians, Hale said Christians must "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." The vocation mentioned is not a person's occupation, but the call to be a Christian, she added.

With the world in turmoil, its people divided, God calls on the Christian Church to be the "visible sign of that new creation which he died to give life to," according to Hale.

"We assemble not so much to share our thoughts, ideas and opinions about the state of the church and where we go from here," she said. "We are assembled because God, our Father and Mother . . . has called us to listen and act upon His word."



Hale urged Christians to exhibit the qualities of self-denial attributed to Christ; meekness, forbearance, love, benevolence and good will. These qualities foster peace and preserve unity, she said.

While Christians must strive to heal the divisions in the world, Hale cautioned against getting bogged down with policy and procedure. She warned Christians not to be guilty of theologian Karl Barth's assertion:

"Today there is rather too much than too little said about the church. There is something better: Let us be the church."

ADM Seeks Black Members

by Marthetta G. McMickle

The 20th annual National ADM Workshop was held at Chapman College in Orange, California, July 28 through August 2, 1981. The Association of Disciple Musicians is a group of organists, choir directors, pastors, and other interested persons, who gather each year from throughout the United States and Canada, for fellowship, worship and learning.

There were clinics in advanced choral directing, advanced and beginning organ playing, children's choirs, small church choirs, hand-bell choirs and worship planning. In addition to these, there were also choral reading sessions directed by various musicians, which gave choir directors and others an opportunity to review a variety of choral selections for varying ages and degrees of difficulty.

The highlight of the 1981 Workshop was our participation in the General As-

sembly at the Anaheim Convention Center on Friday evening, July 31 and Sunday evening, August 2, providing special music for those two occasions. The three Black musicians in attendance were: Dorothy Sweatt of Swope Parkway United Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri; Irenie Thomas, First Christian Church, Muscatine, Iowa; and Marthetta McMickle, Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois.

There were 144 persons in attendance from throughout the United States and two persons were from Canada. Three Black musicians from a gathering of 144, is not representative of the number of Black musicians engaged in church music in Christian Churches.

In 1982 the National Workshop will be held at Eastern Kentucky State University in Richmond, Kentucky from July 25 through July 30, 1982. Please watch for further details about this event and begin making plans to attend. Black musicians - "try it, you'll like it!"

Vignettes from the FIELD



AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

Montgomery, AL - Eld. Phil Rushing, pastor of Ross Street Christian Church, was guest speaker for the CMF program presented as part of the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention at Tuskegee, Ala., June 26-28. The Ross Street Gospel Choir also sang during the convention.

Dallas, TX - Dr. Ozark Range Sr., director of Black Ministry for the Christian Church, served as evangelist during revival services held at Warren Avenue Christian Church, July 5-10. Other ministers participating included C.O. Maples, L. Stanley, M.L. Fountain, S.H. Cole, Travis Lee, W.D. Hines, W.M. Waterhouse, D. Shelton, F. Henry, V. Jackson, L.B. Faison and C. Bates. Eld. Hines serves as president of the District Two churches involved; A.J. Warren, the host pastor serves as general director; and M.C. Dickason is president of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship.

Los Angeles, CA - 92nd Street Christian Church held week-long services June 14 thru June 21, marking the 36th anniversary of their pastor, Dr. Cornelius W. Arnold. Included among guest congregations were 30th Street Christian Church, Antioch Christian Church, 105th Street Christian Church, United Christian Church, McCarty Memorial Christian Church and First Christian Church of Lynwood. Guest speakers included Dr. P.C. Washington, former Jarvis Christian College president; and Dr. Ozark Range Sr., past president of the National Convocation.

Detroit, MI - Dr. Julia Brogdon of Chicago, Ill., former missionary, teacher and currently interim minister at Parkway Garden Christian Church, conducted revival services at United Christian Church, Detroit, Mich., in July. Dr. LaMar Clark, United's pastor, termed it "the first time in our history a female will be conducting our meeting."

New Brunswick, NJ - Antioch Christian Church summer activities included a vacation Bible school with 80 children participating; an April celebration of the pastor's 23rd anniversary; and a revival held in June. Esther L. Tillman, associate pastor, reports nine new adult members, purchase of a new heating system and repair work done on the church building.

General Assembly Reaffirms Human Rights Stance

In a trio of human rights resolutions, the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) reaffirmed the Christian struggle against racism, urged renewed attention to affirmative action programs and rejected a bid to link a church race poverty fund with communism.

The actions came August 3 during the biennial General Assembly.

Racism was termed a "perennial and pervasive" problem in a resolution proposed by the church's Division of Homeland Ministries, and congregations were urged to take a number of steps to promote racial equality.

The resolution, affirming that the Christian struggle against racism is not optional, urged increased funding of the Reconciliation race and poverty effort, as well as support of local criminal justice efforts, anti-Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazi Congressional hearings and housing and employment anti-discrimination practices.

Luis Ferrer, pastor of First Spanish Christian Church of Gary, Ind., told the assembly that the church must continue to be concerned with racism and the problems it causes.

"It's time to be united and clear about racism," he said. "We must leave no doubt about where we stand."

Ray Trotter of Home Street Christian Church of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, said that "It is the greatest sadness that racism still exists in the church," urging the efforts of each congregation and each individual to combat the problem.

Woodrow Whitlow, Columbia, Mo., retired businessman, related instances of verbal abuse of black representatives to the assembly and distribution of anti-semitic literature to others.

"Racism is very much alive here in Anaheim," he said.

An approved affirmative action resolution advised the church to review, update and improve its equal employment plans and guidelines. A monitoring process had revealed that implementation of affirmative action programs had been "sporadic and half-hearted" in some regions and units of the church.

One specific problem has been resistance to employing women, blacks and Hispanics as professional ministers.

In speaking against a move to refer this resolution to a committee for clarification, Dr. LaTaunya Bynum, Lynwood, Calif., told the assembly that it could not afford to delay even long enough for a committee to consider the

problem. She falls into two minority categories as a woman and a black.

"Discrimination continues while we are referring," she said, "Let's make a stand. We can't pretend to be the whole people of God if we negate some parts of that whole."

The assembly rejected the resolution of a Grafton (Va.) Christian Church which sought notations on Reconciliation publicity to the effect that the fund supports an organization which "works in coalition with Communists."

The Disciples' General Board recommended rejection of the resolution denying that Reconciliation supports communist activity and decrying guilt by association and distortion or Reconciliation purposes.

In the past, Reconciliation funds have been donated to the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organizations, a group founded by the poor to support non-violent efforts toward social change, human rights and justice struggles.

The General Board responded that IFCO was not a political organization and is an ecumenical organization supported by mainline Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic Church and other community organizations.



1982 CONVOCATION THEME

"The Word Gives Life," theme for the 1982 biennial assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, is depicted in art by Thelma Pyatt of the Disciples art and design studio. The drawing shows a family group above an open Bible, indicating "The Word" as their source for life and growth.

Indianapolis, Indiana will be host city for the 1982 Convocation.



Samuel F. Tyree

D.C. Black Disciples Give \$9000 In Trust

Nine thousand dollars (\$9000) received from the sale of Church property in Fairmont Heights, Maryland has been placed in trust with earnings used to foster Black Disciples of Christ Church ministerial training and mission development on a national scale.

According to the Community Church of Christ of Fairmont Heights Trustee Board Secretary, Esther Callis of Washington, D.C., the money is being placed under the management of the Christian Church Foundation to further the original mission objectives of the Fairmont Heights congregation.

Forty-five percent of the annual earnings will go to the Star Supporter ministerial fund which fosters ministerial training and forty-five percent will go to the Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund which undergirds established mission objectives. Ten percent will revert annually to the principal.

This historic action was made possible by the labors of the late Samuel F. Tyree, founder of the congregation. Under Tyree's leadership the idea for a Community Church of Christ in Fairmont Heights, Maryland was born in late 1948.

Ministerial leaders such as William and Margaret Holt, J. Whitefield, George Campbell, K. David Cole and Laurence Phillips nurtured the congregation until 1963-64. It was decided then that its continued life was impractical.

The church property was sold in

Support For Endowment Fund Growing

"Initial response to a limited mailing of a brochure announcing the establishment of the Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund has already resulted in 25 new donors," according to Dr. William K. Fox, National Convocation administrative secretary.

The gifts averaging \$35 each, added a total of \$860 to the fund set up to increase the work and effectiveness of the National Convocation.

"I anticipate more sizeable gifts from our Convocation officers and trustees, ministers, national and regional staff members and general and unit board members," Dr. Fox stated, "but it is essential that all members of Convocation churches respond regardless of the size of their contributions."

The brochure, titled "How Much Is Liberty Worth," stressed the long-lasting contributions of Preston Taylor to the National Convocation and urged today's Disciples to give toward the fund's \$2.5 million goal.

Included among the recent donors were \$100 - Ruth P. Hobbs, Jackson,

Miss.; \$90 - LaMar Clark, Detroit, Mich.; \$50 - Walter Bingham, Louisville, Ky.; James T. Chandler, Memphis, Tenn.; Verlesta Hicks, Dayton, Ohio; Cozelle Mills Wilson, Kinston, N.C.; and Carnella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, Calif.

\$40 - Norma J. Burros, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Julia Lyda, Bedford, Texas; Selekia D. Moseley, Nashville, Tenn.; and Adella L. Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla.; \$30 - Ernest Newborn, Indianapolis, Ind.;

\$25 - Rosa V. Brown, Indianapolis, Ind.; Maldonia Jackson, Hayneville, Ala.; Charles E. McGee, Kansas City, Mo.; Arthur T. Miller, Columbus, Ohio; Anthony Wayne Smith, Bay City, Texas; and Bessie Chandler, Nashville, Tenn.

\$15 - Doris A. Turner, Lexington, Ky.; \$10 - Ellen B. Blackmar, St. Louis, Mo.; Thomas P. Green, Louisville, Ky.; E.L. Griffin, Shelby, Miss.; Lillie B. Johnson, Detroit, Mich.; Ellis L. Jordan, Chicago, Ill.; Betty A. Mohny, Pratt, Kans.; and W.E. Schaumburg, Shreveport, La.

"The fund currently at \$13,705, is rapidly approaching its first benchmark of \$25,000," Dr. Fox stated.

Give to the Preston Taylor - National Convocation Endowment Fund

1979. The \$9000 is the residue of funds received from this sale.

Current Trustees of the Fairmont Heights Church are: Mrs. Lula Tyree, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Esther T. Callis, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Andrew Franklin, District Hgts., Maryland; and Mrs. Alice T. Mines, Clinton, Maryland.

\$1000 C.D. For Conv. Endowment

Philandria D. Dickerson, widow of the late L.L. Dickerson, recently purchased a \$1000 investment certificate with the Board of Church Extension in the name of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Annual earnings from this certificate will go to the Preston Taylor-National Convocation Endowment Fund whose returns are used to support designated Convocation mission concerns. The principal will also be used to advance the purposes of the Board of Church Extension.

Mrs. Dickerson, also mother of the late Anne Dickerson, continues to be active in the Church through affiliation with Second Christian Church of Indianapolis and serves on regional and general Church committees.



Heads NCCC CMF

Robert Moseley, Nashville, Tenn., is the current president of the National Convocation's Christian Men's Fellowship. Moseley, elected at the 1980 Cincinnati Convocation, in June attended the International CMF Conference held at Toronto, Canada.

Up-Date

ON THE
BLACK
CHURCH

NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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John R. Compton - Blazing New Trails

By William K. Fox

A new trail will be officially blazed by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) January 1, 1982 when Dr. John R. Compton becomes president of its Division of Homeland Ministries.

For the first time in the history of this predominantly white middle-America Protestant body, a Black churchman will be the chief executive officer for the largest church unit staff providing a variety of services to its 4,000 congregations; administer one of the largest general church unit budgets; chair and coordinate board approved policies and program services through the Division's staff council; and sit on the General Church Cabinet as a peer with 10 other general unit presidents.

This is a hallmark development in the uneven struggle of the Disciples of Christ to become a church.

Dr. Compton was elected by the Division of Homeland Ministries Board because of his high quality churchmanship and proven administrative ability. Long tenure as a congregational minister, a variety of experiences as a general church staff executive and a short but effective service as a regional church minister has provided ample proving grounds.

John happens to be Black and thus brings an additional rich asset. Dr. Compton will be able to provide another role model in ministerial service and professional excellence. But most importantly he will aid in the motivation of that growing number of racial and ethnic minority church leaders in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to strive for high achievement in service.

On the fifth day of a delightful six day bike tour of beautiful northern Wisconsin this summer, I had the chance to make an 82 mile ride through the rolling hills of the Kettle Moraine. Occasionally I would notice the sign of a new hiking trail blazed through the thick woods by some scout troop or community organization.

The struggle—the pain from sticking thorns—the strain of cutting through the underbrush—the agony of climbing steep unconquered hills—all of this and more

Continued on Page 11

Pen Tracks
by Joe Saunders

There is such little dictionary difference between the words "gift" and "present," that I am taking the liberty of adding my own.

A gift, to me, has always meant something extra-special - unexpected and not anticipated by the receiver, and indicating love and sacrifice on the part of the giver.

A present is, well, just a present. A gesture we feel obligated to make. In the course of our lives, we give and receive many presents but very few gifts.

Cost is no factor in the determination. The gift might be the crude handiwork of a child while the present might be some rare and valuable luxury.

My daughter when a youngster, always went about Christmas in a matter of fact way. She used a two-sided ledger listing probable income on one side, and necessary expenditures on the other.

Probable income was based on the experiences of past years. One aunt might be listed as "ten dollars in cash," while another as a "gloves or sox" donor. Uncles ranged from candy to sweaters with lesser relatives mostly placed in the Christmas card category.

Way up on her list was "Granny," her god-mother who could be depended upon to buy that desired item that we parents deemed either too expensive, beyond her years, or both.

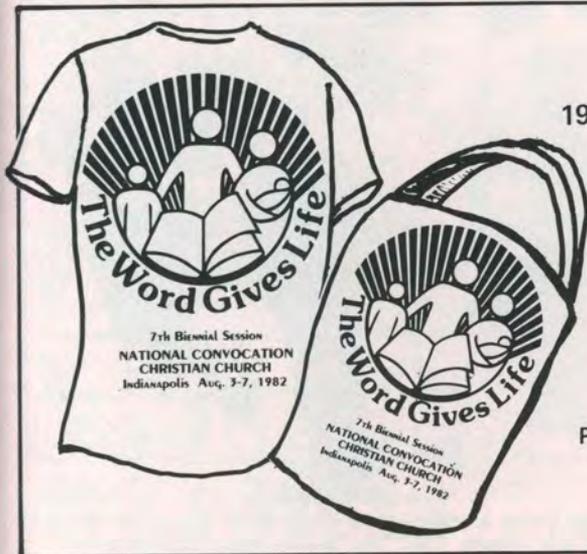
The other side of the ledger was equally as fascinating. The amounts and items listed thereon denoted months of carefully hoarding portions of weekly allowances and extra bonuses and earnings.

With a keenness unexpected for her years and without regard for degrees of affection, the total to be spent was proportioned in ratio to expected income. The ten-dollar present might rate a one-dollar costume jewelry expenditure, while a handkerchief was to be given in exchange for the expected sox.

Although most of us are not honest enough to admit it, this is our practice at Christmas time. Our giving is based on anticipated receiving rather than on goodwill. We even carefully list card senders, revising from year to year as others stop sending.

I have always enjoyed asking "what

Continued on Page 11



1982 CONVOCATION THEME

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25 Top Groups Raise \$15,421 For BMF

Women in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have traditionally been the major supporters of fund raising events. A review of statistical data in the denomination's 1981 Year Book and Directory, indicate that Christian Women's Fellowship groups have been important factors in Basic Mission Finance giving.

Heading the National Convocation CWF groups for 1980 was Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., with \$3,251. Ella Simmons is the fellowship's president.

"The top 25 CWF groups from Convocation churches gave a total of \$15,421 to Basic Mission Finance," said Rev. Laura Luz Bacerra, director of social involvement for the Disciples' Department of Church Women. "This is a definite increase over the previous year," she added, "and I hope the beginning of a new trend."

Other CWF's in the first five were McCarty Memorial, Los Angeles, \$1,705, Arwilda Woods; Stuyvesant Heights, Brooklyn, \$1,453, Eloise Fleming, Second Christian, Indianapolis, \$1,000, Deaneath Wallace; and United Christian, Los Angeles, \$872, Lessie Johnson.

Included in the next highest groups were Denley Drive, Dallas, \$700, Estella Doty; Fayette Street, Martinsville, Va., \$566, Ethel Johnson; Third Christian, Louisville, \$551, Shirley Mucker; Mt. Olive East, Martinsville, \$500, Odatta Redd; and Summit Christian, Dayton, Ohio, \$450, Helen Reed.

Warren Avenue, Dallas, \$416, Georgia Traylor; Michigan Park, Washington, D.C., 358, Dorothy Bogan; Williamsburg, Brooklyn, \$350, Alberta Hemmingway; East Sixth Street, Oklahoma City, \$348, Mrs. Hartwell McNeely, Woodland, Columbus, Ohio, \$327, Thelma Thomas.

Cross Street, Little Rock, \$305, Lottie Brock; Third Christian, Philadelphia, \$300, Hattie Clark; Wildewood, Oklahoma City, \$289, Mrs. Arbeechee Hutcheson; Mt. Olivet, Baltimore, \$275, Alma Thompson; United, Cincinnati, \$250, Althea Day.

First United, Xenia, Ohio, \$247, Charlotte Vaughn; Centennial, St. Louis, \$244, Gloria Marshall; Bonnie View, Dallas, \$237, Marie Brown, Park Avenue, East Orange, N.J., \$237, Nan Piercy; and Jeffries Memorial, Birmingham, \$200, Rebecca Robinson.

LaTaunya Describes Role As Woman Minister

An Interim Ministry

By LaTaunya M. Bynum

One of the most frequent statements I heard as I approached graduation from seminary last year was: "The church needs black women in ministry. You'll have no problem getting a call". Surprise! As graduation got closer, it became clearer to me that not only was I not the number one draft choice among Disciple seminary graduates, I was apparently not even in contention.

I knew that I had (and have) the inspiration, insight, and intelligence necessary to do the work of the ministry. I had planned on entering ministry since I was in high school. Four years of college and four years of seminary had all been spent in anticipation and preparation of my spending the next 40-plus years in what used to be called "full-time Christian service".

Ten months passed between graduation and an opportunity for full-time service. During those months, I experienced frustration, some anger, and some bewilderment. Was the lack of call due to my femaleness, my blackness, some combination of both? The answer was not clear.

I am now serving as the interim pastor of a small, struggling church. The community in which the church sits is transitional: a mostly white community a few years ago, Lynwood is now predominantly black and Hispanic. A once vigorous 200-300 member congregation is now at less than 50.

Within this setting, I engage in the work of ministry. I am preacher, I am Bible study teacher, I am caller. I water the lawn and empty the trash. I am available.

I am not aware of any negative reaction to the fact that I am a woman. I haven't met with any rejection because of it. What I have met with have been the regular joys and frustrations of a minister of Jesus Christ.

Our services are spirited and we have exciting Bible study sessions. On the other hand, we could use several hundred new members. Sunday School needs to be enlivened. We all need to grow more tolerant and understanding of one another's theologies and experiences of Spirit. We could be more open and honest with each other.

My experiences, my meditative life, and my soul tell me that I have the gifts and graces for the ministry of Jesus Christ. I belong in the church because I have received from God what an eighteenth century black woman minister has called God's "gracious calling". God's call is a mysterious, irresistible pull toward service, leadership, and giving. I am assured by the God of Sarah, Miriam, Phoebe, Lydia, and others of God's daughters that God goes with me. I am not alone.

So, how do I summarize my experience as a black woman minister in a particular setting? Perhaps by saying what I am not.

I am not a symbol of courageous black womanhood, I am not particularly brave, nor especially prophetic. I am one who enjoys using the gifts God has given for the work of the ministry.

Along with the frustration and craziness of ministry, there is a greater amount of satisfaction and joy. Whether in the local church or not, there is no place I would rather be than in full-time professional service of the cause of Jesus Christ. It really is good to be here.



BEHIND THE PULPIT—Ministers' wives shown exchanging memories while dining are Mrs. Alpha Arnold, 92nd St. Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Martha Myers, Central Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo.; and Mrs. Philandria Dickerson, Second Christian, Indianapolis.

Up-Date personality



Eliza H. Cave

A review of her church activities makes one wonder where Eliza H. Cave finds the time and still manages to do an outstanding teaching job as head of the home economic department at Langley-Bath-Clearwater Sr. High School in Bath, So. Carolina.

She serves her Poplar Hill Christian Church as a member of the choir, CWF president, and adult advisor for young adults and the CYF. She has also been a member of the congregation's official board and chairperson for Edu-Care.

Eliza Cave is the immediate past president of So. Carolina's CWF Black Constituency and during the 1978 ICWF Quadrennial, directed stewards at the event which drew thousands of women to Purdue University campus. She also serves on the nominating committee for ICWF.

This energetic Disciples laywoman is a member of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a former member of the board of directors of the Church Finance Council.

Up-Date salutes Mrs. Cave for her devotion and dedication to the Christian Church. In a day when most of us are too busy to undertake even the little tasks necessary, Eliza H. Cave has found the secret of making time for Christian service.

*Share Up-Date
with someone*

For Whom the Bells Toll



WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, once served as president of the National Christian Missionary Convention. He died at Baltimore, Md., August 25. Funeral services were held at the Mt. Olivet Christian Church on September 1, with Rev. Donald Gibbs officiating.

Taylor, born at Durham, N.C., January 22, 1898, served Disciples congregations in North Carolina and Virginia prior to an eight-year pastorate at Mt. Olivet Christian Church. He left Mt. Olivet to organize the Emanuel Christian Church at Baltimore in 1933, pastoring there for 48 years.

A World War I veteran, Taylor was widely known as "Baltimore," and was well known for his sermons on "the restoration movement." He served as editor of "The Christian Informer" for a number of years.

GILBERT F. WILLIAMS, an Oxford, Ohio layman, served his native city as both mayor and vice mayor. He died August 15. A member of Elm Street Christian Church, funeral services were held there on August 19.

In recognition of Williams' contributions to Oxford, he was named its "citizen of the year" in 1976, and in his memory, the Municipal Building flag stood at halfmast. "Oxford is a better place in which to live and work due to the self-sacrifice and service of Gilbert F. Williams," was the tribute from the city council.

A member of Oxford's city council for nine years, Williams became the

first black mayor in 1973. He stepped down to vice mayor in 1976 and resigned from the city council in 1979 following open heart surgery.

DOROTHY BERRY GEATER, prominent Arkansas educator and civic worker, died March 15. Funeral services were held at Mt. Beulah Christian Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., with Dr. James W. Rainwater, executive minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arkansas, delivering the eulogy.

Mrs. Geater, a longtime member of Mt. Beulah, served as treasurer of the CWF and conducted vacation Bible schools for her church. She served as corresponding secretary for the Arkansas CWF and as a member of the state Disciples education committee.

In addition to a lifetime teaching career in the Linwood School District, she was active in Scouting, Eastern Star, child abuse prevention and women's clubs.

ALICE B. COWAN, sister of the late Cleo W. Blackburn, died at Indianapolis in July, with funeral services held at Second Christian Church and Dr. T. Garrot Benjamin, Jr. officiating.

Born at Port Gibson, Miss., and a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, she worked closely with her brother, Cleo, during his years at Flanner House. A member of Second Christian, Mrs. Cowan was particularly active in Christian Womens Fellowship affairs.

Continued on Page 11

Propose NCCC Registration Day In May 1982



Mrs. Dorothy Witten, NCCC vice president and program chairperson

As a means of boosting attendance at the 1982 session of the National Convocation, Mrs. Dorothy Witten, NCCC vice

president and program chairperson for the event, is urging pastors and congregations "to designate Sunday, May 23, 1982 as Convocation Registration Day."

In addition to making registration and publicity materials available to their members at that time, pastors are being asked to boost the event from their pulpits—and if possible, to center that Sunday's service upon the National Convocation, its work and importance to Black Disciples.

Much of the effectiveness of the Catholic Church, Mrs. Witten stated, stems from delivering messages on the same theme at the same time, throughout the entire country. "It would have a tremendous effect," she said, "if 500 Dis-

Continued on Page 10

ANAHEIM IN REVIEW

Peace, Human Rights, Get Major Emphasis

With the "State of the Church" message coming from Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), setting the theme, over 7,000 representatives gave approval to some 19 action resolutions in support of peace and human rights.

Measures adopted by the General Assembly meeting in Anaheim, Calif., included resolutions against racism, torture, domestic violence, anti-Semitism and the nuclear arms race; and resolutions in support of affirmative action, establishment of a national peace academy, designation of a "Peace Sunday," and meeting needs of immigrants.

Dr. Teegarden told the Assembly the church must rediscover Jesus' imperatives for meeting the needs of the poor, the sick, the disabled and aged if society as a whole does not protect and assist them.

He saw this as the church's task if Americans reverse the social gains of the last 50 years in order to pay fewer taxes. In seeking to solve America's economic problems by cutting taxes - and social services - to preserve affluent life-styles, "we are in danger of losing our moral integrity," the Disciples leader asserted.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

Citing a world endangered by militarism, nuclear proliferation, economic oppression, and terrorism, Teegarden saw "peace with justice" as the overriding concern of the church.

In support of the general minister and president's address, Assembly representatives adopted a resolution adding "peace with justice" as a Christian Church priority for the next two years.

A wide range of Assembly and meal function speakers included Bishop Desmond Tutu in absentia. The black South African church leader was denied a passport by his government and appeared before the Assembly via videotape. Bishop Tutu termed apartheid "the most vicious system since Naziism" and warned that Western investments in his country are as much a moral matter as economic.

Black family life in South Africa, said Tutu, "is being destroyed systematically by deliberate government policy. They are turned into aliens in the land of their birth. Aliens can't claim political rights."

MAJOR MORALITY NEEDED

John Mack Carter, editor of Good

Housekeeping Magazine, told the Disciples, instead of Moral Majority, Americans should build on a "major morality" to root out evil.

Another editor, Norman Cousins of the Saturday Review, claimed the United States was infected with "mass insanity" and its citizens "seem to worship the bomb." Cousins asked "what species of reasoning is it that says we must spend a billion and a half dollars a day on military machines to pulverize the human race?"

"War is not a matter of nation against nation, or man against man, but man against God," he claimed.

Dr. Estelle Ramey, Georgetown University Medical School endocrinologist, termed women biological marvels, jewels of creation, and much stronger than men. She told an audience predominantly of women to "stand up and be counted as women - not as housewives or professors or women who work inside the home or outside the home but just as women who work." Women, said Dr. Ramey, must learn to value themselves for their own qualities and not as weak and dependent things. "We need equal rights," she added, "because men need equal rights."

RESIST SERVICE CUTS

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, speaking at the Reconciliation breakfast, urged the Christian Church to pursue its racial reconciliation efforts vigorously and to speak out in behalf of those who need society's help. He expressed hope the church "would resist efforts to balance the federal budget that involved cutting service and subsidies to the poor, the unemployed, the elderly."

Richmond I. Nelson, principal of Jamaica's Oberlin High School, called the gun "the new arbiter of justice." Nelson, president of the World Convention of Churches of Christ, urged the church to "struggle for a new world order in which human beings themselves count and not merely money or power."

Assembly representatives approved resolutions calling for a boycott of Nestle Corporation's products and affiliates because of their unethical promotion of infant formula in Third World countries; and protesting U.S. military assistance to El Salvador and calling for an end to the deportation of Salvadorans seeking political asylum here.

ACTION MUST FOLLOW

Another resolution reaffirmed the

Continued on Page 11



SUPPORTS RESOLUTION—Sybel Thomas, a member of Park Manor Christian Church, Chicago, Ill., speaks at the General Assembly in support of one of the resolutions concerning peace and human rights. Mrs. Thomas currently serves as vice president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship.

Blacks Play Prominent Assembly Roles

Although black Disciples among the 7,000 Anaheim General Assembly participants were estimated at 300, they played a role much more prominent than their numbers.

Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Ind., was the featured speaker at the opening meeting of the National Evangelistic Association, a pre-Assembly event. Title of Dr. Benjamin's address was "How Second Christian Has Grown." He also served as Sunday guest speaker at Robert H. Schuller's famed Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, Calif.

Jarvis Christian College choir sang at the two-day NEA meetings; Dr. William W. Hannah, executive secretary of the Disciples department of evangelism and membership, led a worship session; and Mrs. Zola Walker, retiring NEA secretary, presided over the closing NEA session.

Oscar Haynes, second vice-moderator of the Christian Church whose term of office was ending, presided over four of the General Assembly sessions. Cynthia L. Hale, Protestant chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institute, Butner, N.C., delivered the all-Assembly worship sermon preceding mass communion. Jarvis Christian College choir sang at the Sunday evening service.

Interest group leaders included Dr. Walter Bingham, pastor of Third Christian Church, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. Ray-



REACHING OUT! AND TOUCHING!

"Created To Be One," theme for the Anaheim General Assembly, requires exhibiting love if subscribers are sincere. Such love is being shown in the two photos above as Assembly participants reach out and touch in greeting.

On the left, Rosa Page Welch, Disciples ambassador of song, gets a greeting hug from Mary Lou Savage. On the right, Oscar Haynes, prominent layman and retiring second vice moderator, embraces David Vargas, Disciples director of program services to Hispanic and bilingual congregations.

mond E. Brown, vice president of the Board of Church Extension; and Mrs. Louise Evans, Disciples consultant in children's ministry. Claudia Highbaugh and Timothy M. James served as microphone monitors.

Among the Disciples ministers speaking at Anaheim area churches on Sunday, August 2, were Claudia Highbaugh, William Hannah, Clarence L. Johnson, J.O. Williams, Alvin D. Jackson, Brenda Cardwell, T. Garrott Benjamin, Lamar Clark, and Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.

More than 200 black Disciples from as far east as New York City and as far south as Alabama participated in both

a caucus gathering on August 1 and a dinner meeting on August 4. Key input came from the predominantly black congregations in metropolitan Los Angeles. A feature was a mass choir ensemble from United Christian Church, pastored by John E. Tunstall.

The traditional Jarvis luncheon on August 3 was a high celebration of the college's receipt of full title to the oil and gas rights from natural deposits in Jarvis properties. Dr. Charles A. Berry, Jarvis president, coordinated the festivities with more than 350 in attendance.

Mayor Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles was warmly received following a very frank and candid talk at the second biennial Reconciliation Breakfast. More than 275 persons were in attendance.

The National Convocation shared exhibit booth space with Johnson Publishers and Ebony Magazine.

In a unique venture this year, "General Assembly News," official publication which reports Assembly events and business actions with copies mailed to all congregations within 24 hours of the final session, was edited by Joseph Saunders of Dayton, Ohio, a former Office of Communication staff member.

News stories were written by staff members in Anaheim, transmitted by wire to Saunders, stationed in a Columbus, Indiana hotel room. Photos, sent by plane, were picked up at the Indianapolis airport. Following editing and layout in the hotel room, composition and printing was done by a Columbus shop. Indianapolis staff members found copies of the paper upon their desks on their return from Anaheim.



Jarvis Concert Choir sings at Assembly

BIGGEST PROTEST MARCH YET

The Church And Solidarity Day

by William K. Fox

Under somber gray skies, interspersed by occasional sun rays bursting through, I and 299,000 others trudged slowly and patiently from the Washington Monument down expansive Constitution Avenue on September 19, 1981. It was AFL-CIO sponsored SOLIDARITY DAY!

We the people had come to Washington, the nation's capitol. Technical operators, tillers of the soil; producers of food; teachers of children; churchmen; the unemployed; community health clinic staffs; senior citizens; military veterans; building contractors; welfare recipients; government employees and civil rights leaders. We the people soon stretched from the West apron of Capitol Hill back through the broad Mall of Lincoln Monument.

IT WAS THE BIGGEST PROTEST MARCH YET!! IT WAS AWE INSPIRING!! THE PEOPLE SAID "OUCH, IT HURTS"!

Signature filled petitions from scores of Black Convocation-related Disciples of Christ congregations were carried by me to the March for presentation to President Reagan.

The petitions pled for "Jobs and justice for all Americans." They declared that the present "Administration and a me-too Congress" did not speak for them. "We speak for ourselves," they said. "A safe place to work. Payments of all benefits guaranteed by the Social Security program. . . A healthy environment." And "tax justice" were at the heart of their plea.

I walked near some of our South Carolina Black Disciples of Christ Church persons who were members of a trade union. Nearby was a small group of Hunger Program staff persons from the National Council of Churches of Christ.

I, along with the others, carried a banner which read: **WHY HASN'T RONALD REAGAN TALKED TO CHURCH LEADERS?**

The question can prompt some interesting responses. Do the "true and trusted" Church leaders have any sense of urgency and conviction to give a bold and constructive word? Has there been any serious effort by mainline Church leaders to impact the thinking of the Federal Administration?

The week following the inspiration of SOLIDARITY DAY I joined an ecumenical group of mainly Black Church persons (i.e. Partners-In-Ecumenism) in serious seminar study and lobbying for the passage of a strong Voters' Rights Act of 1985 extension bill.

WE WERE THE FIRST RELIGIOUS GROUP TO DO SUCH LOBBYING!

THE BILL WAS UP FOR DEBATE AND VOTE IN THE HOUSE only a few days following our meeting.

For the churches to be effective in these tremendous days of testing, the leadership must become flexible and skilled in developing working coalitions.

Once again, as in the days of Civil Rights struggle in the 1950's and 1960's, such coalitions will include labor, human and civil rights groups, and at times, appropriate special interests. Forging such coalitions on a community, state, regional and national basis will require Christian leadership to reaffirm sound Biblical and theological teachings about humanity, history and God's ultimate purpose.

Jesus was crucified between two thieves. As Disciples of Christ we, too, are called to bear the Cross. If necessary we are to be sacrificed between the poor and the oppressed, rather than the rich and powerful. The wilderness needs a voice and a witness. Will you be one who so speaks and acts?

NCCC Registration Day from Page 7

ciples ministers simultaneously spoke of the National Convocation from their pulpits."

Choice of Indianapolis, Ind., as site of the 1982 Convocation is particularly important for Black Disciples. In addition to location of international headquarters of the Christian Church in the city, visitors will be able to see Second Christian Church, Disciples most rapidly growing congregation.

Convocation attendance at the centrally located city will permit first hand contact with units like Board of Church Extension, Divisions of Homeland and Overseas Ministries and Christian Theological Seminary.

Ministers Retreat

The 1982 Black Minister's Retreat will be held at Detroit, Mich., in March. An annual event attracting Disciples ministers throughout the country, the retreat is sponsored by the department of ministry of the Christian Church.



RECEIVES AWARD—Dr. Robert H. Peoples, retired minister and former national executive for the Christian Church, was presented an award for "pioneering in church development" by United Christian Church, Los Angeles, Calif. The award which also bestowed honorary United life membership on Dr. Peoples, read in part: "In appreciation for pioneering work done in Black Christian Churches for nearly one-half century; special appreciation is hereby extended for leadership provided in establishing Avalon Christian, now United Christian Church." The plaque presented to Dr. Peoples was signed by Harold Martin, president of United's congregation, and John E. Tunstall, IV, church pastor. Mrs. Peoples is pictured with her husband.

Compton To Head DHM

Continued from Page 1

Christ in 1973-75 and was assistant to the general minister and president of the church 1969-71, administering the National Convocation of the Christian Church, a black fellowship and forum for black concerns.

Served In Many Areas

In the 1960s he served six years on the board of directors of the Disciples' United Christian Missionary Society. The UCMS, at that time, embraced both the division he will head and the Division of Overseas Ministries, as well as certain central management functions for the Disciples.

NCCC To Mark 65th Founding Anniversary

When the National Convocation of the Christian Church gathers for its Seventh Biennial Session at Indianapolis, Ind., in August 1982, it will mark the 65th anniversary of a national Black Disciples' organization—a process successfully started by the late Preston Taylor in 1917.

Administrative units, organizations and congregations of the Christian Church are being asked to pay tribute to

the historic landmark by sponsoring space in a planned souvenir booklet.

"Black Disciples congregations will compose the major target for the undertaking," said Dr. William K. Fox, NCCC's administrative secretary. "We feel the souvenir booklet will be of permanent historical value, and we want it to contain historical data on all of our churches."

The booklet will also include special articles and pictures depicting the work, background and history of Black Disciples within the Christian Church. In sponsoring spaces ranging from one-eighth to a full page, congregations are being asked to stress their founding dates and years of existence. Larger sized spaces can accommodate photos of church buildings or pastors if desired.

"Individuals can also subscribe to space," said Dr. Fox. "Some might wish to use the booklet to publicize or memorialize outstanding Black Disciples within their church or family."

Letters and appropriate forms for inclusion have been mailed to all National Convocation congregations. The back page of this issue of **Up-Date** can also be used to reserve space.

All registrants for the 1982 National Convocation will receive a free copy of the souvenir booklet as will organizations and congregations subscribing to space. Copies will also be available for purchase as historical items.

Peace, Human Rights, Get Major Emphasis

Continued from Page 8

Christian Church's abhorrence of anti-semitism. Disciples congregations were called upon to take the lead in their communities to individually and collectively combat the problem when it surfaced. "The real test of the resolution is not in its adoption but in the way we carry it out," commented Maxine M. Burch of Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Joy L. Greer, a vice president of the First National Bank of Little Rock, Ark., was elected moderator of the Christian Church for a two-year period ending with the 1983 General Assembly. Serving with Dr. Greer will be Dr. Kenneth E. Henry, professor of church history at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Ga., as first vice moderator; and Dr. Dan H. Loving, a Dumas, Texas dentist, as second vice moderator.



from Page 5

did you give for Christmas?" a question that can be surprisingly disconcerting while youngsters and adults are avidly tearing open packages and mentally calculating costs.

Few in deed are the gifts designed to bring pure joy and happiness to those in need of a reminder that Christ was the gift to all - the poor, the rich, the young, the old, the lonely and disconsolate.

Presents are nice to receive but gifts are exceptional. The surprised and gladened receiver will know that it is something bordering on sacrifice on the part of the giver.

Bells Toll

From Page 7

DAVID L. KINARD, SR., Brooklyn, N.Y. minister and founder of St. Phillips Church died September 16, 1981. Brother Kinard served this congregation for 27 years. He was active in the area and regional Church. His work continues through his wife, Ruth, two sons, and five daughters.

Address communications to
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OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

John R. Compton - Blazing New Trails - *from Page 5*

would be fruitless if no one ever used those trails! New trails are blazed for others to find an easier way to a designated goal. Unless these trails are used, the undergrowth will return. Thorn bushes will rise again. The path once clear and clean will become invisible and untraceable!

John R. Compton's years of trail blazing have provided him with invaluable experience and comprehension of Church-wide needs and mission opportunities. Others—especially Blacks, Hispanics and Asians—should use the newly blazed trails by John (and others) to reach Kingdom goals.

Throughout his journey Dr. Compton has retained a sensitivity to the needs and potential of racial and ethnic minorities—groups so often overlooked by main-line church leaders (Black and White).

This sensitivity should have a strong positive effect on the church as a whole and racial and ethnic groups in particular.

Dr. Compton's administration can become a logical sequence to his predecessor's—Dr. Kenneth A. Kuntz. Some of the enlightened policies and actions initiated during Dr. Kuntz's tenure will hopefully be expanded and refined under John R. Compton's leadership.

Blacks, Hispanics and other ethnic minorities should join others in the church to celebrate and support the election of Dr. Compton to the presidency of the Division of Homeland Ministries.

H.B. Nicks Ends Ministry

H.B. Nicks, pastor of Bethany Christian Church, Austin, Tex., retired on June 28, ending a 55-yr. ministry in the state.

A graduate of Jarvis Christian College, Nicks' pastorates included congregations in Paris, McKinney, Davilla, Taylor, Pittsburg and Holland, all in Texas. He served as president of District Five.

'82 Quadrennial

The 7th quadrennial assembly of the International Christian Women's Fellowship will be held June 21-25, 1982, at Purdue U., W. Lafayette, Ind. Over 5,000 women are expected at the 5 day meeting which attracted 4,914 in 1978.

Registration fee of \$135 includes housing, meals, program fees and materials, insurance and bus transportation on the Purdue campus.

and 65 ALIVE!

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(See story on Page 11)

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