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### Update on the Black Church, Volume 4, 1976

William K. Fox

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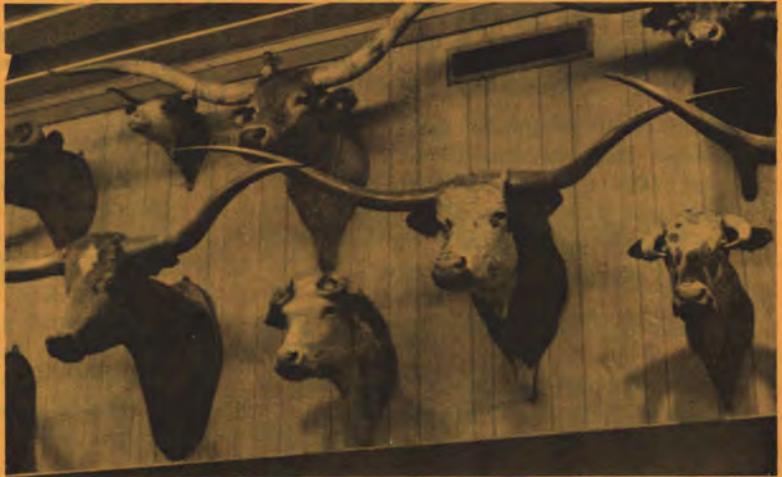
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# Up-Date

ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

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

NO  
BUM  
STEER  
IN  
'76



You won't get a bum steer in the new year if you begin planning now to attend the fourth biennial assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian Church at famous Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee August 18-22, 1976!

Black Disciples of Christ will challenge everybody in the Church to action with the theme: EMPOWERED TO BE -- true to one's self -- the People of God -- His witness in the world!

You can begin your journey to Nashville now by sending the Convocation Office

- \*\$1.00 -- pre-enrollment support dollar
- \*\$11.50 -- program registration fee
- \*\$38.50 -- four and one half days room and board!

You won't get a bum steer with a bargain like this!

Four and one half days on a famous black college campus!

Four and one half days in the "Birthplace of the National Organization of Black Disciples of Christ."

Four and one half days of inspira-  
(cont. pg. 3)

UP-DATE

VOL. IV, NOS. 1/2  
DEC. JAN. FEB., 1976

NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

# GIVE THOSE GIFTS BACK!?

It was nothing more than a dream. I have told this repeatedly to my wife and children, but still they are not convinced. They persist in claiming that we have "stolen some Child's birthday." They are demanding that I take all their lovely presents and give them to the poor.

I will have to admit that it was strange that we should all have identified dreams on Christmas night but didn't we all eat the same foods? And share in the same activities and excitements?

It just had to be something we ate!

We got out of bed early like any normal family on Christmas Day, exchanged greetings and presents; and spent an hour or so assembling toys for the little ones. And after a very light breakfast, because we didn't want to spoil our dinner, the wife suggested that we all go to church.

There was nothing unusual about that because we always go on Christmas and Easter and sometimes on New Years Day if the parties don't last too long. And it wasn't an unusual sermon. We've heard that Christmas Story so often, even the kids know it by heart.

The Wise Men following the Star in the East and finding the Christ Child in the manger and presenting Him with gifts of gold, and frankincense and myrrh. It's a beautiful story and one of our favorites because it's all about joy and happiness. And we enjoy

the Christmas music. Why this year our daughter played the part of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the Sunday School pageant!

We came home, following services, and had one of the best Christmas dinners I have ever eaten. The wife insisted on goose, although I prefer turkey, and it wasn't at all as greasy as I had imagined. We made some pop calls, sang carols and exchanged gifts with a few personal friends, and had a few drinks.

And then we went to bed.

This ragged, dirty little Child just popped up out of nowhere. He didn't belong on our side of town at all with His sniveling and crying and begging -- disturbing people in their sleep. He kept sobbing that we had "stolen His birthday" and that the presents "rightfully belonged to Him."

I was so angry at His presence and His insistence that I threatened to call the police -- to demand that they force Him back across the tracks where He obviously belonged. He was spoiling the Spirit of Christmas.

But somehow, as I looked into His tear-streaked face and heard His plaintive cry, I felt guilty. It was something about His eyes. They were brighter than the lights on the tree and more sparkling than our Christmas tinsel.

As I stared into those eyes, fascinated and almost hypnotized I saw the poor children of all the world and of all times and of all colors speaking in all tongues. They were naked and crippled and diseased and starving -- and

(from pg. 1)

tion, information and fellowship with an all-star Holy Spirit east --

\*Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. -- St. Louis, MO -- Courageous Convocation president and Keynote!

\*Dr. C. Eric Lincoln -- Nashville, TN -- World renown professor of religion and sociology -- author -- scholar -- Principal lecturer!

\*Mr. Elimu Njau -- Nairobi, Kenya -- Africa Charismatic East African

artist, sculpturer, lecturer -- Assembly Artist in Residence.

\*The Ron Stotrell Lowe -- Kingston, Jamaica -- Brilliant Caribbean Church leader -- Banquet speaker!

\*Mrs. Elizabeth Enix -- Indianapolis Indiana -- Chairwoman of the Assembly Program and proven church administrator!

\*A Festival of Convocation Choirs on the week-end!



You can't get a Bum Steer!

Begin now by sending our office a sign of your intent:

- \$ 1.00 -- pre-enrollment
- 11.50 -- program registration
- 38.50 -- 4½ days room and board

EARLY REGISTRANTS ARE SURE TO GET GOOD ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotels and motels are also holding spaces for us which must be secured by the individual. You won't get a bum steer if you act now! Use the blank found in this issue of UP-DATE

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Registration for the Fourth Biennial Assembly  
 of the National Convocation of the Christian  
 Church in Nashville, Tennessee August 18-22, 1976

Return to: NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
 of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
 Box 1986 Indianapolis, Ind. 46206  
 (Fill out completely)

(Check proper age bracket)

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Last Name		First Name & Middle Initial		Pre-school	7-12 yrs.	13-21 yrs.	22-35 yrs.	36 & over
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By Motels -  
 pecific number of rooms are being held for the Convocation in the following motels until approximately three weeks before  
 Assembly: 1. Holiday Inn - West End 2. Anchor Motel 3. Allen Motel 4. Holiday Inn-Vanderbilt.  
 umber of rooms reserved and payment is an individual responsibility. Circle the motel you are interested in and check here if  
 want a reservation card sent to you..... Date:.....

all crying out in a now deafening voice -- "You have stolen our birthday -- Christmas belongs to the Christ Child -- those gifts belong to us!"

\*Mr. Saunders is a layman and member of the Summit Christian Church, Dayton, Ohio

# HIGHBAUGH SUCCEEDS DICKERSON

A Chicago homemaker and part-time secretary has been elected second vice-moderator of the 1.3 million member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Mrs. Richard G. Highbaugh was chosen unanimously November 18 by the Administrative Committee of the church to succeed Dr. Ann E. Dickerson who died October 25.

Mrs. Highbaugh, a six-year veteran of the church's General Board and Administrative Committee, will chair the key business committee for the Disciples' General Assembly and will serve two years.

The mother of two, Mrs. Highbaugh works part-time doing statistical typing in the controller's office of Marshall Field and Company.

A daughter, Claudia, 25, is studying for the ministry at Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif. Her son, Burton, 21, is a student at Hiram College in Ohio but currently at home working.

Mrs. Highbaugh has been secretary

of the state convention of Disciples in Illinois and served on the constitution committee. She was secretary of the Chicago Disciples Union for three years and has been active in Christian Women's Fellowship work.

She was first elected to the General Board of the Christian Church in 1969.

She is a member of Park Manor Christian Church on Chicago's South Side.



As a black member of the church's Administrative Committee, she once said that blacks have had significant influence on the church at the national and international level.

A lot of things additionally will have to happen at the grass roots for most effective service by blacks to the church, she said.



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

*THOSE WHO HAVE CROSSED OVER.*



**DR. ANN E. DICKERSON** of Nashville, Tennessee -- at 38 years of age elected last August in San Antonio as second vice-moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) -- was a recipient of the Ph. D degree in Child development from the University of Illinois just 10 days before she died suddenly in St. Louis, Missouri, October 28. She was attending the first meeting of a national church committee.

Services of memorial were held at the Gay Lea Church of Nashville where she had held a membership; at Meharry Medical College where she had been employed as assistant director of the Child Development Center and assistant professor of pediatrics; and the final service in the chapel of Fisk University where she had completed her college work.

Gay Lea Pastor, William A. Dansby

gave the principal eulogy at Fisk University and was assisted by Drs. Kenneth Teegarden, General Minister and President of the Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana; T. Garrett Benjamin, Pastor of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis; and Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., Pastor of Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis and President of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Philandria Dickerson.

**HENRY HUGH REED, JR.** of St. Louis, Missouri -- 45 year old church leader in the Centennial Christian Church died November 9, 1975 in a local infirmary following a sudden illness. He was a teacher in the public high school system.

Brother Reed who grew up in the Centennial Church, had served as chairman of the official board, deacon, elder, church school teacher and member of the chancel choir.

He was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute (Alabama) and Harris Teachers College (St. Louis). Just two months before his death he received a Master of Arts degree from Webster College, Webster, Missouri. Special work was also done at Southern Illinois University.

Following graduation from Tuskegee Institute in 1954, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and had a three year tour of duty.

He left to mourn his loss a faithful mother who is also an outstanding church leader. The memorial service was conducted by Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., Pastor of the Centennial Church.

JUSTINE A. SUTTON of St. Louis, Missouri -- 62 year old church leader in Centennial Christian Church and the region died in early December 1975 in her home after an extended illness. She was a veteran elementary school teacher and specialist in mathematics in the St. Louis public school system.

Sister Sutton was the first woman in Centennial to serve as chair lady of the Official Board. She had been president of the local C.W.F.; chairlady of various functional church commissions; and active in the district and regional structures of the Christian Church.

She was a vice-president of United Church Women of Greater St. Louis and had been president of the Christian Womens Fellowship of the former National Christian Missionary Convention.

Ms. Sutton was in great demand as a crafts instructor in summer camps for young people.

She leaves to mourn her loss a sister, brother, nieces and nephews and a great number of friends.

The memorial service was conducted by Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., Pastor of the Centennial Church.



## BLACK EMPLOYMENT CALLED LOW

A committee which deals with race and poverty issues for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has issued a request for a national consultation on employment of blacks in churches, sent a letter to President Ford on the New York City financial crisis, and approved a total of \$119,000 in grants.

The General Committee on Reconciliation authorized the preparation of a resolution to be sent to the General Board of the Christian Church empowering the committee to convene and fund a consultation of general and regional units and institutional administrators to deal with the issues of minority employment.

In behalf of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, a committee, led by A. C. Stone and Clarence Clemons, both of Cincinnati, Ohio, presented a report on minority employment. It said that 16 general units have 9.5 per cent minority employment; 20 colleges have 7.3 per cent minority employment and 5.8 per cent minority enrollment; seven seminaries, 8.7 per cent minority employment and 8.4 per cent minority enrollment; and 37 regional offices, about 10 per cent minority employment.

"This is low compared with 20 per cent goal for church units set in 1969 by Resolution 19 at Seattle, Wash., to be achieved by 1975," said Stone, spokesman for the Convocation committee.

# SOCIAL ACTION TRAINING PROGRAM

Black church leaders in Mississippi are being recruited for a training program on social action and service to begin in early 1976.

The program represents a new direction for the Mount Beulah Foundation and Development Corporation, organized in 1973 by the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Under the new program, the Rev. John Perkins, Mendenhall, Miss., non-denominational minister, will recruit clergy and lay persons from Disciples' congregations and from other denominations.

The training program will be under the direction of the Delta Ministry which will work with the church leaders in determining the community problem they will tackle.

For the past two years, the board has funded projects initiated by persons and groups in Mississippi to achieve greater economic, social and cultural advantages.

The corporation board sees the change from funding to training as necessary for survival. A major reason for the shift is the need to become a major resource for black congregations in Mississippi willing to become involved in social change.

Competition for money is stiff and new sources for funds are drying

up. Money for programs funded comes from the sale of the old Southern Christian Institute campus at Edwards, Miss.

Use of the \$50,000 realized from the sale was limited to programs which continue the SCI "tradition of service to the black community".

While the recruiting and training program is in operation, grants will not be made for other programs.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

# COMPANIONS OF THE CLERGY

Dear Companions:

While in the process of facilitating one of the several tasks of home-making, I was about to put the final touches on my husband's home "study nook" (with the exception of the desk, which is "never-never land"), when my eyes fell on two captions on the front page of the current issue (December-January 1975-76) of the Minister's Bulletin.

They were: "It's a Great Church", by Spencer P. Austin, President, Church Finance Council; and "The Ministry as Servanthood", by Thomas E. Wood, Executive Secretary, Department of Ministry and Worship, Division of Homeland Ministries. The former came through to me as the testimony of a veteran who had so disciplined himself in the course of his "journeyings" for

Christ and His Church so, that on the eve of retirement, he could say with joy and a real sense of satisfaction "God bless you all", and "I'd choose this way again". The latter, in my opinion, offered a challenge - a call even for covenantal renewal and self examination on the part of Christ's ambassadors. Among several things Mr. Wood asks: "Can a minister living in a \$40,000 home in the suburbs really bridge the gulf to the Black mother in the ghetto, the Chicano in the harvest field, or the twelve year old, barefoot, illiterate in Appalachia? And, then he adds, "we, like you, call ourselves servants. We believe our ministry is modeled after the ministry of Christ. But sometimes His words bring us back to the stark truth: 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself. . .'".

Christmas dawned this year on a national and a world scene that is seemingly helpless but not hopeless. This is evident to me, and I believe to all who look and listen, when one takes even the casual glance at our age of crises and, along with it, a real hard look at efforts in ministry and witness and mission on the part of the Church; the testimony and challenges offered by its present leadership; the young men and women who have made the awesome decision for full-time Christian service.

As "Companions of the Clergy" and during this particular season when we do homage to God for his gift "Too wonderful for words", let us put aside our best gifts possible for the "Star Supporter Fund" of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, for the education of Black ministers for Christ; for "servants" who will take the

risks to communicate Christ's "Good News" of liberation - of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward mankind."

Following up from our luncheon conversations at the General Assembly in San Antonio, plans are shaping up for a marvelous event in Nashville during the 4th Bi-ennial Assembly of the Convocation, at Fisk University next year. Indications are that not only will the "Companions of the Clergy" turn out in their stylish best, but they will also bring an offering to Christ worthy of the "High Calling", that His transcending love may be known. His saving grace among all people.

"Companions" in Alabama presently reign. Who will hold the sceptre in the bi-ennium 1976-1978?

A fruitful New Year to all!

Sincerely,

Marion Sands Henry  
 President  
 Minister's Wives Fellowship  
 National Convocation of the  
 Christian Church

**"MOVIN' ON UP"**  
*in DETROIT*

According to Publicity Chairwoman, Jalean LaBlanc, the past twelve months at United Christian Church in Detroit, Mich. have been

featured continuing growth and revival. Among the developments noted are -

\*Celebration of the first anniversary of the new minister, Brother LaMar Clark, November 9.

\*Nearly 100 persons have renewed their covenants with God by baptism and restoration.

The lower auditorium has been renovated at a cost of over \$7,000, paid in full. Over \$8,000 was raised between April and June for the work without a "special" rally program.

\*8 Deaconesses and Deacons were ordained by the laying on of hands by Bro. Clark and two of our Elders, and the State Minister Eric White.

\*A thirty voice choir has been organized to augment the present choirs called the Heritage Choir. At their debut concert on November 9, 1975 over 325 persons attended the 3:30 p.m. program and nearly 500 tickets were sold for it.

\*The minister conducted revival services in Oklahoma City in November and had over 25 responses at the Wildwood Christian Church.

\*The minister is now residing in a new home, and his wife was appointed Education Specialist with the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Organization, under Dr. James Woodruff, former provost of the University of Detroit.

# BROWN HIGHLIGHTS SIXTH YEAR

Brother Robert L. Brown, minister at Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Winston Salem, N. Carolina was given a "Service of Appreciation" by the congregation November 9 as he completed his sixth year in the church's leadership.

Pastor Brown is president of the Piedmont Tri-State District Convention, and is actively involved in the Regional Church in North Carolina.

Among the several highlight events in the year has been -

\*Honoring Dr. A. T. Terrell, noted educator and churchman, by establishing a scholarship fund in his name.

\*A newly organized women's group under the leadership of Mrs. Barbara Hayes, which sponsored two major receptions, a "Family Fun Night" on Halloween and a breakfast on Thanksgiving morning.

\*A landscaped lawn created by the Christian Men's Fellowship to enhance the new church building.

\*Replacement of the "old church organ" by a new Hammond Church organ paid for in cash through over-and-above giving.



# HAYNES HONORED

Elder Titus Haynes, pastor of the Salem Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) in Hempstead, New York was selected last year as a "Pastor of the Week" by the NEW YORK VOICE, a Hempstead newspaper. Brother Haynes is founder of the rapidly growing Salem Church.

Haynes has liberal art and graduate degrees from Adelphi University and is currently working on a Ph. D at New York University.

Pastor Haynes couples his work as minister of the Salem congregation as the clinic director for psychiatric social work and counseling for the Department of Drug and Alcohol Abuse of Nassau County.

# Benjamin Workshop LEADER

The two week January 6-16 seminar at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana emphasizing the "Rebirth of Religions Experience in America" included Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin as one of the invited guest leaders.

Dr. Benjamin is pastor of Second

Christian Church in Indianapolis.

More than 100 registrants attended workshops on preaching and worship, Teaching ministry, pastoral care and counseling, parish administration, communicative arts and social involvements.

# BLACKS and NAIROBI

More than 2,300 leaders from a hundred countries gathered in Nairobi, Kenya November 23 - December 10, 1975 for the fifth assembly of the World Council of Churches. One of the 747 delegates was Dr. Walter Bingham, pastor of Third Christian Church in Louisville, KY and the first Black Disciple to serve as moderator of the Christian Church.

Mrs. Carnella Barnes of Los Angeles, president of the International Christian Womens Fellowship attended on her own as a "registered visitor".

The following report from Dr. L. Maynard Catchings of the National Council of Church's Office of Interpretative Relations pin-points those blacks nominated for membership in the W.C.C.'s Central Committee and those American Blacks in attendance as delegates and non-delegates:

I.

Six American Blacks are Nominated for Membership in the W.C.C.'s Central Committee... (The 128 member body which governs the affairs of the W.C.C. between Assemblies- which are held approximately every seven years.)

American black church leaders nominated for membership on the World Council's important Central Committee included: Dr. J. Oscar McCloud, United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; Dr. Joseph Jackson, National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc.; Mr. Albert Price, United Church of Christ; Ms. Barbara Thompson, United Methodist Church; Bishop Fredrick Jordan, African Methodist Episcopal Church; and Bishop C. A. Kirkendoll, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

II.

American Black Church Leaders in attendance as delegates to the World Religious Confab. include: A.M.E. Church: Bishops John H. Adams, Frederick Jordan, Samuel Morris, D. Ward Nichols and Mrs. Dorothy Peck. A.M.E.Z. Church: Bishops J. Clinton Hoggard, Arthur Marshall, Jr., Professor Abna Lancaster, and Congressman Louis Stokes. American Baptist Churches U.S.A.: Dr. Thomas Kilgore, Jr. American Lutheran Church: Mr. William T. Billings. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): Rev. Dr. Walter D. Bingham. Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: Bishop C. A. Kirkendoll and Mr. I. C. Faulk. The Episcopal Church: Bishop John Walker. Lutheran Church in America: Rev. Rudolph Featherstone. National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Inc.: Rev. Dr. Joseph Jackson, Rev. Burnilee Faison, Rev. Dr. William

Shaw and Dr. Olivia Pearl Stokes. Presbyterian Church in United States: Mrs. Barbara Campbell. United Church of Christ: Miss Miss Jean Fairfax and Mr. Albert Price. The United Methodist Church: Bishops Charles F. Golden and Roy C. Nichols, Ms. Theresa Hoover, Ms. Annette Hutchins-Felder, Ms. Barbara Thompson and Clarie Harvey. The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.: Mrs. Mildred Brown and Rev. Dr. Oscar McCloud. National Council of Community Churches U.S.A.: Mr. James Hite. Progressive National Baptist Convention U.S.A.: Rev. Dr. Nelson Smith.

III.

American Blacks among the non-delegate participants included: Dr. Edler Hawkins, N. J.; Will Hertzfeld, Cal.; Dr. James Cone, N. Y.; Ethel Payne, Ill.; Cornish Rogers, Cal.; Rose Catchings, N. Y.; Dr. Cecil Cone, Ga.; Wm. Howard, N. Y.; Sylvia Talbot, Jamaica; Emily Gibbs, N. Y.; Dr. Lucius Walker, N. Y.; Bernard Holliday, N. Y.; Cane Felder, N. Y.; Dr. Randolph Nugent, N. Y.; Carnella Barnes, Cal.; Dr. Clinton Marsh, Ga.; Dr. Maceo Pembroke, Ill.; and L. Maynard Catchings, N. Y.

## ENIX ENDS-BEGINS

December 31, 1975 Mrs. Elizabeth Enix of Indianapolis, Indiana retired from her position of an associate regional minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana which she had held since June 1, 1972. She

had done an effective job as staff for congregational programming for the Christian Women's Fellowship with additional administrative responsibilities for regional areas three and eight.

Retirement was not new for Mrs. Enix. She had retired from employment by the public school system of Indianapolis to take the church position in 1972.

A few months ago Mrs. Enix was unexpectedly designated by the executive committee of the Convocation Board of Trustees to function as Vice-president of the Board and Chairperson for the 4th Assembly program of the National Convocation.

Mrs. Enix continues to end only to begin anew.

## YOUR ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Of the 42 members of the Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), two-thirds are lay persons, 10 of them homemakers and four college students.

The key committee of the 1.3 million member church held its first meeting in Indianapolis November 16-18 after taking office at last summer's General Assembly. Half of the members are new.

The committee, an arm of the General Board, meets three times a year and coordinates the world work of the church, carrying out

long range planning and recommending budgeting procedures.

One third of the Administrative Committee are ministers, one third lay men and one third lay women. Twenty per cent of the members are of minority races.

The committee includes 11 pastors, six pastors' wives, four other homemakers, four college students, three educators, three lawyers (one of them a judge), three company executives, two government employees, two bank officers, one regional church executive, one local church staffer, one self-employed businessperson and a retired person.

The committee is elected by the 220-member General Board for two-year terms, half of the members rotating off each year.

## VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE. . . 1975 year-end highlights in the life of Mt. Olivet Christian Church included the launching of a new Gospel choir; vocal concert by Earl D. Chainey and the Woman's Day for missions (outreach giving). Brother Donald A. Gibbs is the pastor.

OHIO, CINCINNATI. . . A host of committees, groups, and sister churches enabled the United Church to have a successful 85th church anniversary celebration. Brother John R. Compton is pastor.

KENTUCKY, LOUISVILLE. . . During the 1975 General Assembly in San Antonio, the Disciples of Christ Historical Society presented a \$1000 Life Patron Membership to Dr. Walter D. Bingham. Dr. Jean Woolfolk, who was moderator of the General Assembly at that time, also received a Life Patron Membership. Friends of the two leaders contributed the money for the membership.

PENNSYLVANIA, PITTSBURGH. . . The new East Hills Community Christian Church continues to grow. Traditional church school, worship and prayer services are combined with being the glue which holds the East Hills Community Council together. The Council enables the residents to have a Well Baby Clinic, counseling and tutorial labs. Brother Arthur L. Harris is pastor.

OKLAHOMA, TULSA. . . A massive song fest by community choirs recently performed in the Pine Street Christian Church heralding the congregation's purchase of a \$4,400 new Hammond Organ. The service was highlighted by a \$1040 offering and the wearing of new robes by the Pine Street choir. Instrumentalists for the Pine Street choir are Mrs. Zenobia Guess Mayo, organist, and Ms. Delores Walker, pianist. Brother Charles Webb, Jr. is pastor.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE. . . Woman's Day of the Alameda Street Christian Church last November featured Mrs.

Gladys Abernathy of the Gordon Methodist Church. The service was one of several events sponsored by the Christian Woman's Fellowship of Alameda. CWF President Mable Fisher reported that the CWF group was one of eleven church fellowships who prepared the worship setting at the fall CWF Retreat at Bethony Hills. Another feature event of Alameda was the congregation's Christian Education Conference led by Dr. Bessie Chandler of the Gay-Lea congregation and Dr. W. Nettleville of the regional staff. Brother Alvin Brown is pastor.

TEXAS, KILGORE. . . The Corinth Christian Church reports the year of 1975 highlighted by a "Homecoming Revival" in July and an "Annual Mission Day" program both featuring the Rev. Wesley L. Moore as the principal speaker. Brother James E. Smith is pastor.

OHIO, DAYTON. . . The Summit Christian Church Christian Youth Fellowship and Chi Rho groups sponsored an "I'm OK, You're OK" Lock-In" at the church in November. Like groups from the Hillcrest Christian Church were invited to participate. The program aims to improve communications between young people. Brother J. Thomas Johnson is pastor.

NORTH CAROLINA, WINSTON SALEM. . . A large number of ministers and friends from the city and state swarmed into the Middle Fork Christian Church November 9, 1975 to help celebrate a "Day of Appreciation" for the Rev. William D. Elder, pastor of the Middle Fork congregation. Edler Gwaltney Leak was the guest speaker. A fellowship dinner was served.

SOUTH CAROLINA, BRUNSON. . . The Cherry Grove Christian Church held a Testimonial Banquet at the Fairfax Community Center November 21, 1975 honoring Mrs. Minnie Green "Mother of the Church", Brother A. B. Haynes, Senior Church Elder and Brother M. F. Riley, Funeral Director. Elder Charles Wright, Pastor of the Cherry Grove Church was the keynote speaker.

## VISITATIONS CONTINUE

A special Task Force of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention has adopted a \$2500 budget for 1976 which will enable on-site visitation of Convention congregation by teams of leaders to encourage leader training and church development.

The Task Force which consists of visitors for Christian Education, Christian Youth Fellowship, Christian Mens Fellowship and

Ministers are making congregational visits from September 1975 through April 1976.

CWF Team Leaders are Annie L. Thomas and Bessie Buck; CYF Team Leaders- Bernice Greene, Cheryl Dianne Smith, and Bertha Marshall; CMF Leader - Dr. C. C. Mosley, Sr; Ministers Team Leaders - T. Elias Harris, Aaron Johnson and E. L. Griffin. The coordinator of the program is Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs.

Advice and counsel has been given by Regional Minister William McKnight and Dr. Enoch W. Henry, Jr. of the General Church.

## LEADERSHIP TRANSFERS in SOUTH CAROLINA

During the recent setting of the 105th South Carolinian Christian Missionary Convention at the New Grove Christian Church in Summerville, S. Carolina, Elder J. C. Fowler, pastor of the Popular Hill and Freemont Christian Churches, was elected to succeed Elder J. J. Jamerson as president of that historic assembly.

Brother Jamerson, who had been president for 16 consecutive years, is also pastor of the Briner and New Hope Christian Churches.

Elder W. Wright, young full-time minister for the Cherry Grove Christian Church, was elected vice-president.

A two consecutive year tenure ruling adopted by the 104th assembly caused the change in leadership.

The 105th assembly used the CELEBREMOS theme of the General Church and featured addresses by Luz Bacerra, Clarence Johnson and

William Fox of Indianapolis; the first "Testimonial Banquet" on Saturday evening under the leadership of Mrs. C. G. Black; and workshop periods in which Regional Minister and Mrs. David Brooks and others participated.

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR ANN DICKERSON

The Gay-Lea Nursery Kindergarten, affiliated with the Gay-Lea Christian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, has been granted the privilege of establishing an ANN E. DICKERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND by the official board of the Gay-Lea congregation. Ms. Dickerson used the Kindergarten as a laboratory for her doctoral dissertation.

Money given to the fund will be used to sponsor needy children between the ages of 3 to 5 attending the Kindergarten.

Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S.A. and Canada are invited to contribute to the Fund. Contributions are to be made to the congregation for the Fund. The Memorial Fund was launched in December 1975 with

a donation of \$300 by the Kindergarten board of directors. Elder William Dansby is the minister of the church and Dr. Bessie E. Chandler is program director for the kindergarten.



## FAULKNER SWORN IN

Elder Charles Faulkner, pastor of the Clark Street Christian Church of Greenville, Texas, and an elementary public school teacher, was recently sworn in by District Judge Hollis Garmon as a member of the Hunt County Juvenile Board.

Brother Faulkner is filling a vacancy on the board erected by the Rev. M. Curtis Perry who moved to Dallas.

The Juvenile Detention Center serviced an ever increasing number of youngsters in 1975.

# THURMAN CAPTIVATES

"Give me the strength to be free and to endure the burden of freedom and the loneliness of those without chains." Thus intoned the veteran scholar, mystic and lecturer Dr. Howard Thurman of San Francisco, California as he led a special forum series at Second Christian Church of Indianapolis last November.

Dr. Thurman, once listed by Life magazine as "one of the 12 great preachers of this century," held a full sanctuary spell-bound for three consecutive nights as Second Church sponsored its first Annual Fall Lecture Series in partnership with the Lilly Endowment Fund.

Dr. T. Garrett Benjamin, Jr., pastor of Second Church, presided each night as Thurman inspired the congregation when he declared; "Freedom is the ability to stand in your place in the present and so act in the present as to determine or shape or influence the future."

A "Howard Thurmond Recording and Listening Room" in Second Church was dedicated during the lecture series.



# THOMAS ON SCHOOL BOARD

The new Board member is active in the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Johnson City.

Mrs. Bessie Thomas Williams of Johnson City, Tennessee, a daughter of the late Dr. James H. Thomas, widely known Christian educator of Martinsville, Virginia was elected to the Board of Education of Johnson City during the 1975 elections.

Mrs. Williams received the highest number of votes in the run-off and will serve six years. The Board chose her to be the secretary.

# BLACK-WHITE CHALLENGE

After two years, the St. James Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) of Durham, North Carolina

continues to struggle and prove that an essentially all-black congregation can grow in a predominantly white neighborhood.

Unlike in most communities, whites in the area are not running because a few blacks have moved into the

neighborhood.

Elder R. Earl Jones, pastor of St. James, has been striving to reach all of the residents, regardless of color, by house-to-house visits and the purchase of a church bus.

# DISTRICT ASSEMBLY SESSIONS HELD IN 1975

<u>Number and Name:</u>	<u>Theme:</u>	<u>Date and Place</u>
*104th - Washington and Norfolk	"Faith in Action	October 9-12 Roper, N. C.
*Union -	"Christ is the Answer"	October 17-19 Elm City, N. C.
*103-Goldsboro -	"The Little One"	October 21-26 Goldsboro, N. C.
*103 - Western -	John 13:34-35	October 29 - November 2 Four Oaks, N. C.

WATCH FOR THE PROGRAM MATERIAL ANNOUNCING THE  
MINISTER'S RETREAT - CINCINNATI, OHIO - MARCH 16-18, 1976!



Mrs. Lucille Baum, Boston of Jamesville, N. C. presented Church Center memorials.

## BAUMS GIVE MEMORIALS

The Baum Family presented a pulpit set and plaque to the Washington and Norfolk Assembly while in session at the Disciple Headquarters in Roper, N. C. October 9-12, 1975.

It was in memory of the late Elders Noah T. Boston, Haywood W. Baum and Winfield H. Baum.

Each name of the commemorating family was engraved on the plaque as follows:

Lillie N. Baum, James A. Baum, Wyelinza H. Baum, Lucille B. Boston, Nancy B. Cobb, Ernest W. Baum, Joseph M. Baum, Mariah B. Wills, James H. Baum, William N. Baum, Flora B. Boston and Joseph H. Baum.

Bishop S.W.R. Keyes is Chief Bishop of the Washington and Norfolk Assembly.

## CAPITAL AREA BLACKS MEET

A group of Black Disciples of Christ leaders representing five predominantly Black congregations in the Greater Capitol Area was convened in Washington, D.C. the week-end following Thanksgiving to consider church development among Black people in the region.

Elder Frank Bradley was selected to chair the ad hoc Task Force as future discussions were scheduled. Oscar Haynes, president-elect of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, and William K. Fox, the Administrative Secretary, were among the resource persons participating.

Ministers' wives present agreed to lead the Capitol Area in sending no less than \$1000 to the Nashville assembly of the National Convocation August 18-22 for the Ministers Wives Fellowship scholarship fund project.

# DICKASON to SAGINAW



Elder Booker Theodore Dickason, Jr. left his position in New York City as assistant to the area minister of the Northeastern Association of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) to become co-pastor of First Christian Church in Saginaw, Michigan as of

January 1, 1976.

Ted completed his college work at Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio and was an honor student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City where he received a master of divinity degree in 1974.

Brother Dickason is the 10th member of his family to be ordained as a minister of the Disciples of Christ. The Dickason family line has been active participants in Christian Church history for 110 years.

While in New York City, Elder Dickason served as staff for the United Church of Christ-Disciples task force on youth activities; participated in the Interfaith Coalition for Equal Justice; advised the Black Ministers Fellowship of Metropolitan New York; and was active with the Christian Education Research for Black Disciples in the New York City area.

WATCH FOR THE PROGRAM MATERIAL ANNOUNCING THE  
MINISTER'S RETREAT - CINCINNATI, OHIO - MARCH 16-18, 1976!

# CHURCHES HELPED

The Homeland Ministries board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recently appropriated \$36,000 to assist three congregations in Texas and California. There is one church each in Black, Hispanic and White areas.

One grant for \$15,000 is for the Hispanic Emmanuel Christian Church of San Benito, Texas. It is located in a Spanish-speaking area and growing rapidly under the leadership of a Cuban pastor, Feliberto Pereira. To go along with these funds in a project to erect a new building are \$15,000 from the congregation, \$10,000 from the regional church, \$7,000 from nearby Rio Grande valley congregations and a loan of \$30,000 from the Board of Church Extension of Indianapolis.

A second grant for \$15,000 is for a new congregation in a fast-growing White suburban development southwest of Houston, Texas. To aid this cause \$10,000 is to be raised by the region and \$10,000 by the Coastal Plains area churches. The new congregation will start with a pastor-enabler and hold services in members' homes until such time as a building becomes available.

A third grant, this one for \$6,000 is for a Black church at Lynwood, Calif., which will pick up the assets of First Christian Church, which has been discontinued as a congregation in the region. The Southern California regional church

for this first year is helping with leadership and a grant of \$5,000.

# HART "DY-NO-MITE"

Pastor and Mrs. George Hart were honored November 2, 1975 on their 6th anniversary as minister at the Mt. Olive East Christian Church, Martinsville, Virginia. The slogan was "WE REALLY LOVE YOU, GEORGE AND LUCY HART, AND WE THINK YOU ARE DYNAMITE." The Harts are leaders in the Piedmont area.

# DISCIPLES increasing, but...

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will show a net gain in participating members in 1975 for the first time in 12 years.

Baptisms will be up by the largest percentage in 16 years.

The data is drawn from reports of local congregations and will be included in the church's 1976 Year Book and Directory which is now available.

Despite the gains, the church's overall 1.3 million membership again will record a decline since

that figure includes long inactive persons and congregations, some of which gradually are being weeded out.

Participating membership climbed from 857,629 in 1974 to 862,755 in 1975 and baptisms were up 3.4 per cent to 22,624.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

## INDIANS MEET CHURCH LEADERS



Leaders of 15 church bodies and 15 Indian tribes held an historic pow-wow on the Sioux reservation here, some Indians indicating they felt about Christianity like they felt about General Custer.

The occasion was the first Native American Consultation with the Churches, October 1-3, 1975 and the purpose was to measure Indian aims and needs against church resources and sense of mission. The Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization of New York City was the coordinator for the meeting.

Six Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) leaders were among some 120 persons who gathered in a dingy gymnasium in the heart of the Million-acre Rosebud reservation of the Brule Sioux.

The location was about 100 miles east of Wounded Knee and the violent confrontations between government and Indian haunted the consultation. Tribal participants complained of constant FBI harassment and asserted that wanton killing of Indians continues.

The churches were seeking to meet the Indians on their own ground and determine what the responsibility and ministry to Indian people is 200 years after the birth of the nation.

Though no formal findings were reached at the consultation, IFCO issued a report upon which denominational or ecumenical action will be based.

Among informal sharings:

--Life expectancy of the Indian is low, suicide rate high, poverty rampant, alcoholism and upper respiratory diseases severe.

--Indian morale is dominated by concerns over loss of land, broken treaties, forced civilization and other people always making their decisions.

--Indians are working on several legal fronts to regain and protect their land, to block rape of the environment, and to ensure water and fishing rights.

--Efforts are being made to recapture and preserve Indian culture, including the Indian religion which is considered essential by some as the force that binds Indian people together.

# AUTHOR OF MUSLIM BOOK NASHVILLE LECTURER



Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, author of the "The Black Muslims in America" and "The C. Eric Lincoln Series in Black Religion" will be the principal lecturer during the fourth biennial assembly of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, August 18-22, 1976 at Fisk University. Among

the six graduate degrees, Mr. Lincoln has earned are a M.Ed and a Ph.D from Boston University. He left Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1973 to become professor of religion and sociology and adjunct professor of ethics and society at the School of Divinity at Vanderbilt University.

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ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

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



## Black Disciples in "THE RECORD"

Is your congregation listed in THE RECORD? The 1976 Year Book and Directory\* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shows the following thirteen predominantly Black congregations as among the "One Hundred Contributing and/or Reporting Churches Recording the Largest Number of Baptisms":

<u>1975 Rank</u>	<u>City-Church</u>	<u>No. Baptisms</u>
7	Indianapolis-Hillside	75
9	Indianapolis-Second	66
13	Brooklyn, N.Y. - St. Paul	61
20	Roper, N.C. - Shiloh	50
25	Baltimore, Md. - Mt. Olivet	45
37	New Brunswick, N.H. - Antioch	37
52	Roanoke, Va. - Loudon Ave.	33
62	Newark, N.J. - Emmanuel	30
65	Washington, D.C. - Twelfth St.	29
69	Goldsboro, N.C. - Greenleaf	29
71	Brooklyn, N.Y. - Fountain	28
76	Chicago, IL - Park Manor	27
107	Mount Olive, N.C. - St. James	25

Congratulations are in order for the leaders and other members of these fine churches. Actually 113 congregations are listed on Pages S276-277 with the top congregation - Central in Wichita, Kansas representing 142 baptisms - and 14 other  
(cont. pg. 2)

UP-DATE	VOL. IV NOS. 3/4 MAR. APR. 1976
NATIONAL CONVOCATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH P.O. BOX 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206	

2 congregations - beside St. James - reporting 25 immersions.

The following six predominantly Black congregations were among the "One Hundred Contributing and/or Reporting Churches Reporting the Largest Number of Additions":

<u>1975 Rank</u>	<u>City-Church</u>	<u>No. Additions</u>
5	Indianapolis - Second	200
11	Indianapolis - Hillside	150
15	Brooklyn, N.Y. - St. Paul	129
78	Brooklyn, N.Y. - St. Marys	69
102	Brooklyn, N.Y. - Fountain	62
103	New Haven, CT. - Thomas Chapel	62

These congregations are to be commended for doing the basic mission of the Church so well. This listing recognizes 104 congregations on Pages S277-278 with the leading congregation - again Central of Witchita, Kansas reporting a total of 272 additions for 1975 - four other congregations beside the Fountain and Thomas Chapel Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ reporting a total of sixty-two.

Did the church clerk or board secretary in your church fill out the report blank and get it back to your Regional Church Office? Will somebody in your congregation be responsible for getting it in for 1976?

Every congregation which sends in a report is placed in "The Record". Other members of the Household of Faith can be encouraged to go on when they see how God has been working through your church during the past year.

Another part of "The Record" is reporting how your congregation has used God's money to do His work in the U.S.A. and around the world. Unfortunately no predominantly Black Disciples of Christ congregation has yet made the top "One Hundred" in this respect. However, there are several who could and eventually will.

An offering envelope in one congregation has this on the front: "Current Expenses for My Own Comfort \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Benevolences for My Neighbors Necessities \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Building Fund for Our Church Home \$ \_\_\_\_\_; Special or Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

What will "The Record" say about how your congregation has used God's money to do His work. Especially about "Benevolence for My (needy) Neighbor's Necessities" as compared with "Current Expenses for My Own Comfort"?

A familiar but still challenging Christian stewardship goal is to strive to "Give as much for others as for ourselves."

\*Order your 1976 YEAR BOOK and DIRECTORY from the

Christian Board of Publication

Box 179, St. Louis, Missouri 63166

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# Blair Succeeds Evans

Effie Long Blair of Houston, Texas - an educator prepared to do Church work by Northwest Christian College of Eugene, Oregon and the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma - became the successor to Dr. Lorenzo Evan's post in the national Church February 1, 1976 as director of education for minority constituencies of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



While being employed as an elementary school teacher for six years in the Houston public school system, Mrs. Blair was active as a Christian Women's Fellowship and Bible School leader in the University Christian Church.

January 25, 1976 in a special worship service at First Christian Church of Houston, she was ordained to do Christian work upon recommendations by the Official Board of First Church to the appropriate bodies of the Regional Church.

The Rev. Blair's active association with Houston's South Suburban Human Relations Council, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Urban League, Congress of Racial Equality, League of Women Voters and Parent-Teacher Organization will enable her to be effective in her work with Black Hispanic and Native American congregations.

As a former Disciples minister's wife, she has been a part of the life and work of predominantly Black congregations like Third Church, Warren, Ohio; Park Manor Church, Chicago, Illinois; Third Church, Bloomington, Illinois; East Sixth Street Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Pine Street Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

# Haywood Commission Chairman



New Commission Chairman Haygood and wife, Bennie

The new chairman of the Macon County Alabama Commission - the hub of political power in the area - is the Rev. Lawrence F.

Haygood, pastor of Mt. Calvary Missionary Christian Church, Tuskegee, Alabama.

Brother Haygood is also president of Southern Vocational College. This school majors in helping poor and needy students from predominantly black rural counties in Alabama secure technical post secondary education.

The dynamic Disciple pastor was among some sixteen nominees. Three of the four commissioners gave Haygood the nod.

The new commission chairman is a native of Geneva County, Alabama. He received his B.A. degree from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa and Bachelor and Master of Divinity degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia

## New Church Site Proposed

Action Housing, Inc. which owns the land in Pittsburg, Pa. where the East Hills Community Christian Church is striving to develop a new predominantly black congregation, has proposed a plan for securing a site.

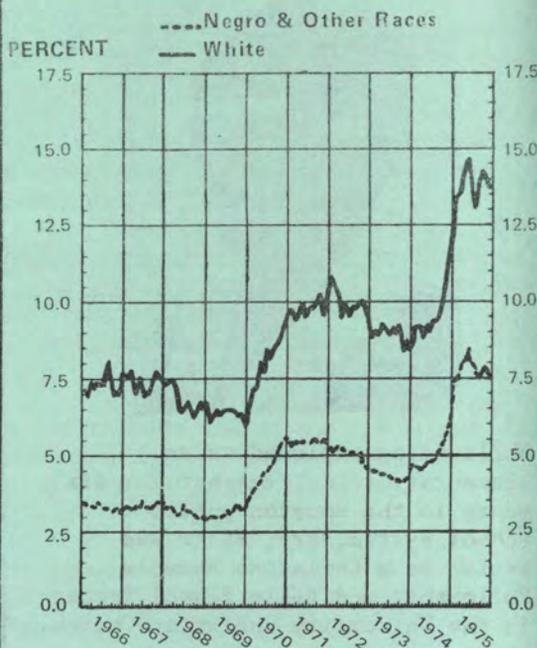
The company proposes to lease two acres of land at \$50 a month for five years with an option to purchase the land at \$5,000 an acre at the end of that time.

Leadership in the Regional Office and the congregation see possibilities in the plan.

East Hills church is located at 2320 East Hills Drive, Pittsburg, Pa. Brother Arthur L. Harris, II is the pastor.

## EMPLOYMENT- Unfinished Black Agenda Item

### 7. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



The graph above describes the current economic condition; while the labor force has continued to climb, employment fell off drastically in 1974, and is just

beginning to recover. This produces the high unemployment rates as noted above. Note that the **MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** continues to run twice that of the general rate, and is almost twice as high as in 1968. (From - **NEWSLETTER** Feb. 19, 1976 - National Office of **PROJECT EQUALITY**)

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
1/9/76  
Wall Street Journal,  
2/6/76



PLAN NOW FOR NASHVILLE

## Unfinished Black Agenda-- 1976 ff

A National Urban League summary of socio-economic conditions in the Black community, U.S.A. at the end of 1975 highlights several challenges to Black as well as institutions in the American system. The February 16, 1976 issue of the **AMSTERDAM NEWS** gave two column coverage to the League report on the "State of the Black Nation". Here is a partial listing of issues which contribute to the **UNFINISHED BLACK AGENDA** in this Bicentennial year.

1. **HEALTH**- White women are expected to live to be 76.7 years old and Black women 71.3 years. Black males have a life expectancy of 62.9 years as against the 68.9 average of white males.

The infant mortality rate for Blacks is twice the rate of whites.

Only 2% of the nation's medical doctors are Black; 2.6% of the dentists and 5.7% of the professional nurses.

2. **EDUCATION**- The federal government appropriated \$215 million in 1975 for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as compared to \$236 million in 1974. This Act is designed to assist school systems and community groups raise the quality of education and operate programs to reduce the negative effects of racial isolation.

The gap between the number of Black and white graduates is widening according to a report prepared by the National Association for Equality in Higher Education.

3. **LEGISLATION**- During the first session of the 94th Congress, legislators failed to pass legislation pertaining to socio-economic programs and policies that would bolster full employment.

The law-makers defeated the Administration's attempt to have recipients of the food stamp program pay more for the stamps.

Congress defeated three Presidential vetoes dealing with renewed funding authority for health services and nurse training programs; the amendment and extension of the school lunch and child nutrition programs; and the appropriation for education.

After much filibustering in the Senate, Congress affirmed its

guarantee of the right to vote for Blacks and expanded that guarantee to include Hispanic Americans when it extended the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to another seven years.

Several northern senate Democrats, considered to be liberals on civil rights issues, joined the ranks of conservatives to support an anti-school busing amendment.

4. CRIME- Blacks were four times as likely to be robbed as whites, twice likely to be assaulted, and four times likely to be raped. 51 percent of the murder victims in 1975 were Black.

A Race Relations Information Center survey revealed that in 42 states out of a total of 41,894 state police personnel, only 616 or 1.5 percent were Black.

In a city like Chicago where 32.7 of the population is Black, only 10 percent of the police force was Black.

The League concludes that "the experiences over the past year made it clear that in addition to monies, part of the new directions that must be followed in solving the crime problem is the broader participation of Black and minority communities in the planning, development and implementation of crime prevention programs."

The Report also urges the empowerment of "minority groups to recruit among their members in order to increase the number of minorities serving on the law enforcement agencies throughout the country."

# Scholarships for Disciple Students

Fifty-three annual tuition scholarships of \$1,140 each are available now on "a first-come-first served basis" at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. Young people who are either members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), gifted in music (voice and/or band) or have special abilities in athletics will be given preference.

The \$1,140 annual tuition scholarship may be renewed after the first year, dependent upon the maintaining of a "B" average.

In making the announcement, Jarvis President John P. Jones stated that these are United Christian Missionary Society Scholarships which "may be renewed for three years provided the student meets the set criteria."

Dr. Jones said "We are looking for above average high school scholars, talented students and young people who are members of the Disciples of Christ."

Interested persons should contact President Jones at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas 75765.

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PUT THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

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# Opportunities Multiply at Jarvis



PROGRAM AND FACILITIES IN THE MODERN MEYER SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS CENTER help Jarvis Maintain its accreditation with the Southern Association of College and Schools.



Above MISS KARLA KEY OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA a freshman at Jarvis, confers with national workers Raymond Brown, Clarence Johnson and William Fox in the Meyer Science and Mathematics Center. Like many of the more than 500 students, Karla is actively involved in all aspects of Jarvis' campus life.



The ACTIVE OIL WELL with the Olin Library and Media Center in the background symbolize the growing economic stability of Jarvis Christian College.



MODERN AIR-CONDITIONED DORMITORIES like these which are identical for men and women provide comfortable surroundings for campus living at Jarvis.

# Blacks Oppose Angola Involvement

A Washington, D.C. based organization called "The Black Forum on Foreign Policy" has urged that black American Vietnam veterans and other Afro-Americans "not be a part of the divide and rule tactics" in Angola - or anywhere else on the international or national scene.

In a Black Forum statement on "Angola Mercenaries" distributed in February, the Foreign Policy study group gave the following reasons for opposing the involvement of Black men and women in the Angolan conflict.

First -- it is increasingly believed that US government funds are being used to recruit and finance these black American mercenaries.

If that is the case, then black American men are once again being exploited by their own government to sacrifice their lives at the expense of a very questionable US foreign policy.

Both Houses of the U.S. Congress have voted to deny American aid to Angola. Yet, the Administration has doggedly advanced its insistence on furnishing arms and ammunition for the continued destruction of the people and the resources in that bountiful land.

Second -- no matter which party gains control of the New Angolan government, it is clearly not the business of the United States government to be intimately involved

in affecting that outcome. And, it is certainly not appropriate for black Americans to participate in that tragic war that has pitted black African warriors in a devastating battle against each other.

Third -- we take special note that the context of the situation in which black Americans are being solicited to participate is one that finds an identity of interests between the US and the racist regime of South Africa . . . .

Fourth -- black Americans have for too long suffered as powerless members of a society that has selfishly ignored the needs and the goals of oppressed peoples both here and abroad.

Thus, it is genocidal for black Americans to succumb to the misguided principles of an American administration that encourages the killing of Africans.

Tragically, economic conditions in this country make too many black Vietnam veterans see the offer of pay to fight in Angola as an answer to their financial problems . . . .

## Black Pastors Rejoice!

Continuing in the style of its forerunner, the Second Annual National Retreat for Black Ministers

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) provided ample opportunity for soul searching, personal reflection, pointed challenges and mountaintop rejoicing.

Eighty-eight Disciples' ministers, seminary students and church vocations college majors from twelve states gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio March 17-18 for a program emphasizing LET OUR REJOICINGS RISE!

Predominantly black congregations United, Bond Hill and Fifth were brought together as hosts by Pastors John Compton, Frank Garner, and J. Curtis Brooks. Clarence L. Johnson Jr., Director of Black Ministry, Indianapolis, was the coordinator.

Frederick G. Sampson, Jr., pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, delivered three soul-stirring Bible lectures on the theme. Supported sermons were rendered by Brothers Booker T. Dickason, co-pastor of First Church, Saginaw, Michigan; Melvin C. Dickson, pastor of Warner Avenue Church, Dallas, Texas; and Vice-Bishop Mordecci Johnson of the Goldsboro/Raleigh District, Wilson, North Carolina.

A 25 member "Steering Committee" was selected to develop retreat programs.

Group-wide discussions showed real concern for finding methods of providing recognition to leadership of fellowship groups in areas with dual regional structures and the creation of a major unit of the church to deal with concerns of the Black constituency.

Seminar groups reported that among the programmatic concerns were the

nurture and development of young ministers, crime in the black and urban community and certification and standards of ministers.

Other highlights included a report by Walter Bingham, Pastor of Third Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, on the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Nairobi, Kenya and a panel discussion on Restructure and the Organization of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which included William K. Fox, Administrative Secretary, National Convocation; Francis Craddock, Vice-President, Division of Homeland Ministry; Robert A. Thomas, President of the Division of Overseas Ministry, Thomas E. Wood, Executive Secretary of the Department of Ministry and Walter Bingham.

The choirs of United Christian and Fifth Christian Churches led singing in two services which provided the group with festive occasions for which to rejoice.

Mrs. Mozelle Chaney of Cleveland, Ohio, invited back a second time as pianist for the retreat sessions, electrified the ministers.

The participants voted the following dates and locations for future retreats:

April 12-14, '77 - Washington DC  
 March 7-9, '78 - Roper, NC  
 May 1-3, '79 - Jacksonville FL  
 June 4-6, '80 - Oklahoma City OK  
 April 15-17, '81 - Detroit MI

PLAN NOW FOR NASHVILLE

# Words from the Late Paul Robeson

The memorial service for the illustrious Paul Robeson held January 24, 1976 in New York City's Mother AME Zion church had a printed program with a statement Paul wrote in response to the "Salute to Paul Robeson" held at Carnegie Hall in New York, April 9, 1973.

Excerpts from that statement are printed here as a memorial to the Robeson spirit.

"Warmest thanks to all the many friends here and throughout the world who have sent me greetings on my 75th birthday. Though I have not been able to be active for several years, I want you to know that I am the same Paul, dedicated as ever to the worldwide cause of humanity for freedom, peace and brotherhood.

Here at home, my heart is with the continuing struggles of my own people to achieve complete liberation from racist domination, and to gain for all black Americans and the other minority groups not only equal rights but an equal share.

In the same spirit, I salute the colonial liberation movements of Africa, Latin America and Asia. . .

Together with the partisans of peace--the peoples of the socialist

countries and the progressive elements of all other countries-- I rejoice that the movement for peaceful coexistence has made important gains, and that the advocates of 'cold war' and 'containment' have had to retreat.

On this occasion, too, I want to say a warm hello to the many dear friends who have sent me encouraging messages during my long illness. I am deeply grateful to you all --

Though ill health has compelled my retirement, you can be sure that in my heart I go on singing."

"But I keeps laughing  
Instead of crying,  
I must keep fighting  
Until I'm dying,  
and Ol' Man River  
He just keeps rolling along"

Paul Robeson

## Black Methodist Women Meet

The first National Conference of Concerned Black Women in the United Methodist Church was held at the Georgian Terrace Hotel in Atlanta on January 16-18, 1976. This was the first meeting of this group of women since 1968 when the Controversial Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church was abolished. It was noted that

there has been a general decline in the participation of black women in the United Methodist Church since the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction.

The findings of a research survey project conducted by Ms. Annette Hutchins-Felder of New York provided factual trends for the consideration of the work groups. Among Ms. Hutchins-Felder's findings were the following:

65 to 75% of black United Methodist are women, making a total group of approximately 245,000.

Racism and white female domination rank among the major reasons black women do not participate beyond the local church.

Existing church structures and organizations are not concerned with vital concerns of black women, but with "tea and cookie" issues.

Racism among white women has emerged as the tide has shifted from minority concerns to women's concerns.

Black male domination has contributed to black women's lack of participation, particularly in leadership roles (beyond the women's society) in local churches.

While more leadership roles for women have opened up in the church, (denomination) white women are in them because they tend to have more time and money and influence to participate on boards and committees.

(From BEDROC NEWS, Dec-Jan. 1976)



## FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

*THOSE WHO HAVE CROSSED OVER.*

LEANETTA SIMMS of St. Louis, Missouri - 68 year old Church leader and retired Christian Board of Publication employee, February 12, 1976 in a local infirmary.

Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., pastor of Centennial Christian Church and president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church, conducted the memorial service.

Mrs. Simms had been a meaningfully involved church person in metropolitan St. Louis and Missouri for nearly 40 years. She had been a public school teacher prior to becoming the first Black Technician employed in the print shop of the Christian Board of Publication.

She was a skillful church school teacher, Chi Rho and CYF advisor and participant in various activities of District Seven in the Regional Church. Mrs. Simms became active in groups like the Board of Religious Organizations, Women's Crusade Against Crime, Friendly Visitors Organization, National Council of Negro Women, the Mother-to-Mother Club, League of Woman Voters and the Lincoln University Alumni.

She leaves to mourn her loss a husband, daughter, five sisters, three brothers, a granddaughter and many friends and other relatives.

ALICE MAE SIMMS MC LEAN of Vicksburg, Mississippi -- 55 year old Church leader and beautician, February 1, 1976 in a local infirmary.

The memorial service was conducted February 8 by Elder D. C. Griffin, minister of Central Christian Church in Vicksburg.

Mrs. McLean was a sister of Elder G. E. Lakes, minister in Wichita, Kansas. She joined the Christian Church in Port Gibson through the late K. R. Brown. After moving to Vicksburg, she became a member of the finance committee and board of trustees at Central Church and served as vice-president of the third district of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention.

Mrs. McLean was active in high school sports and was the president of the Local Vicksburg Beautician Club.

She leaves to mourn her loss a father, two brothers, two sisters and a host of distant relatives and many friends.



RICHARD ROBY of Shelby, Mississippi. Brother Roby was a local minister in the Church. Pastoral services to Mr. Roby had been provided by Elder Edward L. Griffin, minister for Christian Church congregations in Clarksdale, Shelby and Mound Bayou.

ELIZABETH GIVENS of St. Louis, Missouri died February 10, 1976.

Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., minister at Centennial Christian Church, conducted graveside rites at St. Peter's Cemetery and issued a printed "Tribute" to the high quality services to humankind by Miss Givens.

She had served Centennial Church and the church-at-large for more than 50 years as a church school teacher, church Treasurer, outreach Treasurer, and Christian Womens Fellowship worker. Her humility, devotion to duty and loyal devotion was undiminishing.

She served the community best through the public school system where for nearly 30 years she taught and worked as an administrator.

Ms. Givens leaves to mourn her loss a brother, sister and many friends and other relatives.



EDNA BRINKLEY of St. Louis, Missouri -- devoted member of the Centennial Christian Church, February 20, 1976. Mrs. Brinkley had been active as a member of the Board of Deaconesses and was in the Home Care Assistance Program of the National Benevolent Association - the social and health services of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, minister at Centennial, conducted the memorial service.

DECEASED MEMBERS in 1975 for the Woodland Avenue Christian Church of Columbus, Ohio who were listed in Pastor Ozark Range's year-end report as follows: January - Robert Taylor (deacon); March - Fredonia Carter (mother); April - Florine Hart (elder and mother of one of congregation's "First Families"); Robert Giles (elder); September - Louie Hurley (elder-emeritus, former church treasurer); November - Marie Lovett.

## "A Sound from Heaven"

The Theme "A sound from Heaven" claimed the attention of more than 100 eastern seaboard Disciples of Christ Black ministers assembled in the annual Goldsboro-Raleigh institute for pastors March 3-5 at Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Principal Bible lecturer was Dr. Kenneth E. Henry, Chairman of the department of church history at the Inter-denominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Rev. Lester D. Palmer, vice-president secretary of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), brought a major address.

A Minister's Wives Fellowship program was also a feature of the Institute.

Elder Karey E. L. Gee, associate regional minister for the Christian Church in North Carolina, joined presiding Bishop James L. Melvin in leading a discussion on "A Look

at the Full Time Ministry - What is the Meaning of Support?"

Other participants included Elders C. W. McLaurin, J. H. Beckton, George T. Sandlin, Gladys Brewer, and J. F. McLaurin.

## Disciples + Help Haitians

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will spend \$9,000 to help Haitian refugees in the United States settle their legal problems and to meet their daily needs.

The Haitians fled their country in small fishing boats and were imprisoned as illegal aliens in Florida instead of being granted political asylum, according to Miss Marilynne Hill, who heads the Disciples' relief and development fund.

The money, donated through the Week of Compassion offering, will be used by the Christian Community Service Agency of Dade County to secure the release of those imprisoned and to gain refugee status.

The refugees are in the 13-35 age range, 70 per cent unskilled, French speaking and 30 per cent women, according to Miss Hill.

Disciples contributed \$7,500 to the program last year.

Congregations also gave \$16,000 for relief and reconstruction in Guatemala. (Christian Church News)

# Northeastern Leadership Project Continues

A creative project in continuing education for Black and Hispanic Disciples of Christ ministers in metropolitan New York City and New Jersey is continuing in the St. Mary's Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ), Brooklyn, New York.

The program was initiated three years ago through the cooperative sponsorship of the Northeastern Region, Board of Higher Education Board of Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and New York Theological Seminary.

This year the Christian Church Foundation, Inc. provided a grant which has helped to continue the program.



St. Mary Church of Christ Disciples of Christ, Inc. Brooklyn, New York houses the regular study sessions for the Northeast Leadership Project.



Bishop J. W. Gardner, seated, pastor of the St. Mary congregation and presiding prelate for one of the eastern seaboard Assemblies, talks in his church study with Elder Roger Williams, minister of the Williamsburg Christian Church. Both pastors support the Leadership Project.



More than 50 ministers from metropolitan New York City and New Jersey regularly attend the Leadership Project.

# Jarvis Confab

A first "Consultation on the Ministry" was held at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas February 21-22 seeking to find ways in which the college could serve both interested students and nearby predominantly Black congregations through a program of ministerial preparation.

Dr. Emmett J. Dickson, college minister and special lecturer in religion at Jarvis, developed the event with the full support of Dr. John Paul Jones, Jarvis' president.

Twenty-two persons, including students majoring in religion, ministers serving nearby congregations, administrative faculty and national church staff were represented in the consultation.

Discussions revolved around ways to enrich curriculum and provide continuing education opportunities for both full-time students and ministers serving Texas churches.

The group assembled agreed to develop a program called JARVIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN MINISTRY which would mobilize resources through the Church and community to achieve those goals.

## HELP WANTED

Would you work for a salary paid by the Church? Do you have marketable skills and/or professions you would be willing to place in the ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

The Church needs creative writers, communication technicians, administrators, social service workers, higher education professors, congregational ministers, linguists, office stenographers and/or secre-

taries, accountants and maintenance engineers - just to name a few.

Would you move from where you are to serve in such positions? Are you willing to really get involved in the Church?

If you want to know more about such opportunities, fill out the following blank and send it to the office of the National Convocation of the Christian Church; attention - W. K. Fox.

National Convocation of the Christ Church  
CHURCH EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION REQUEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City, State Zip

Interest: Office Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Administrative Work \_\_\_\_\_  
(check as appropriate)  
Higher Education \_\_\_\_\_ Overseas Missions \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# VIGNETTES FROM THE FIELD

## AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

NEW YORK, BROOKLYN . . . Youth members presented a "Black History Week" feature during the February 15 morning worship service in the Williamsburg Christian Church. CYF counselor Delores Wright guided the young people in a presentation called "Out of the Mouths of Blacks". Elder Roger W. Williams is the minister at Williamsburg.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY . . . Mesdames Frances Jenkins and Mildred Critchfield, two of Central Church's most faithful servants of God, were honored with a Tea and tribute by the congregation February 15. Elder Claude Walker is the minister of Central Christian.

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE . . . Sparked by inspiring music from the Gospel Choir January 25, the Mt. Olivet Christian Church observed "Laity Sunday" lifting up the theme: "Christian Presence Beyond Ourselves". Lay persons participating were Donald A. Gibbs, Jr., Ms. Janie Saulsbury, Marcus Adams - all speakers; also Milton Bullock, Yvonne Montgomery and Melvin Bulkey.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO . . . The Chancel Chorale of the Parkway Garden Christian Church presented its first Annual Winter Vespers February 29. The Girls' Chorus from St. Thomas High School was the guest choral group. David Midloe, a Masters student in voice and opera at Northwestern University, was the guest soloist. (No tickets were sold.) Ed Pounds is the Chorale

Conductor and Elder John R. Faulkner is pastor of the congregation.

TEXAS, HOUSTON . . . Ms. Jeanette W. Smith of the Garden Grove Christian Church recently received a certificate of recognition from Southwest Regional executive minister Harrell A. Rea as a Commissioned Church Worker" in the Church. The Regional Office received the Smith recommendation from the "Presbytery Committee" of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship. Sister Smith's is employed as a primary school teacher.

NEW JERSEY, EAST ORANGE . . . The Park Avenue Christian Church with a present membership of 215 has set a goal of having 430 by the end of 1978. The roof and interior of the building is being rejuvenated and a high spiritual atmosphere is developing.

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON . . . The United Christian Church Choir presented a musical program launching the "National Black History Month" observance February 22. A unique script written by Brother A. F. Smith, faculty member of Jackson State College, used historical readings, duets, solos, choral renditions and featured appropriate spirituals.

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES . . . "The Church on the Move for Christ" was the theme for the 31st church anniversary for the 92nd Street Christian Church February 15-22. Elder Larry E. Taylor is pastor.

NEW JERSEY, EAST ORANGE . . . Brother Anthony and Sister Delores

Carpenter, ministers at Park Avenue Christian Church, became the proud parents of Susan Antoinette - 6 pound, 11 ounces, January 25, 1976.

NEW YORK, BROOKLYN . . . Ordination rites for serving elders and a minister was held at Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church February 15. Pastor R. L. Saunders coordinated the ceremonies.

TEXAS, GREENVILLE . . . Elder Charles Faulkner, pastor of the Clark Street Christian Church, was recently added to the Herald Banner Advisory Board. The Board was established in 1971 "to provide the Herald Banner with views and comments from a cross section of residents . . . to enable the newspaper to be more responsive to the readers . . ."

OHIO, CINCINNATI . . . Fellowship gatherings between predominantly Black congregations in the mid-west continued March 21 when nearly 100 members of United Church boarded a bus and journeyed to Columbus, Ohio and the Woodland Church of conduct both the morning and afternoon worship services. Elder John Compton is minister of United and Elder Ozark Range pastor of Woodland.

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES . . . The Los Angeles County Department of Senior Citizens Affairs sponsored a "Retirement Party for Carnella Barnes" at the University Hilton January 30. Mrs. Barnes had held a chief administrative position in the Department since 1962.

NORTH CAROLINA, DUDLEY . . . Elder Karey E. L. Gee conducted a winter revival at the St. Andrews Christian Church. Fourteen persons joined. All were baptized the following

Sunday by St. Andrews pastor Amos Artis.

MISSISSIPPI, JACKSON . . . Elder and Mrs. Robert H. Peoples were given a special Appreciation Service December 21, 1975 upon the completion of a successful interim ministry at United Church. The Peoples' administration began August 1, 1974. Among the achievements were an up-dated membership roll, financial records system, establishment of a day care center and a prayer study group. Elder and Mrs. Peoples returned to reside in their Indianapolis home.

## Black Disciples To Visit Africa

Five black Disciples of Christ leaders will be among the twenty-one member Church-to-Church Visitation delegation to Kenya, Zambia, South Africa and Zaire July 14 - August 5.

The black church leaders are Mrs. Alva Brown, associate minister, the Christain Church in the Southwest, Fort Worth, Texas; Dr. Raymond E. Brown, vice-president, Board of Church Extension, Indianapolis; Dr. Enoch W. Henry Jr., director of special congregational services, Indianapolis; Dr. Kenneth E. Henry, professor, International Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia; and Dr. Samuel W. Hylton Jr., pastor of Centennial Church, St. Louis, Missouri and president of the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

# SESSIONS '76 Launched



A campaign to draw at least 100 to the Disciple Men's gathering at Purdue University from the Capital area was launched recently by a group of laymen from Twelfth Street Church. The more than 150 men and women, representing five congregations, heard Frank T. Springer, Director of Financial Development, challenge them to better churchmanship and accept a new challenge by joining with some 3,000 Disciples June 18 to 22, 1976, to discover "Who's in Charge". Pictured left to right, are, Richard Gentry, Emcee, Oscar Haynes, Co-chairman, Mr. Springer, Rev. George W. Jones, Pastor, and Macon Williams, Co-Chairman, a third Co-Chairman not pictured was I. Q. Hurdle.

Cont. from Pg. 17

Disciples leaders made a similar "fraternal visit" to Asia and Asian churches four years ago.

The leaders will meet with their counterparts in the African churches to become acquainted with life and mission of the churches, and with secular leaders to weigh the social and political context.

They will try to demonstrate that Disciples see the church as a world community rather than a national one, that they understand mission as two-way exchange and that contacts must be broader than just through a foreign mission board.

Dr. James A. Moak of Lexington, Ky., the church's moderator, and Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Indianapolis, the general minister and president, will lead the delegation.

## The Pastor's Salary

The Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ issued a "Salary Guide for Pastors" which was adapted in its annual conference meeting June 6-8, 1975.

The twelve principles given have been drawn from the experience of several denominations. Thus the guidelines are broad-based.

Principle number six states that "A full-time pastor (sole pastor or senior pastor) serving a congregation of up to 400 members should receive, as a minimum, a salary equal to the median family net income of the community. This

figure would serve as a base of salary range . . .

"In addition, the church would provide the free use of a parsonage (or a housing allowance based on 30% of cash salary), pay its portion of the pension payment, health insurance, and provide adequate reimbursement for business expenses, including an auto allowance."

"Some churches provide additional fringe benefits."

Principle number ten advises "the base of the salary would be higher in more complex job situations, for example:

- a. Size of congregation -
  - 400 - 650 add \$ 500
  - 650 -1000 add 1,000
  - 1000 -1500 add 1,500
- b. Other complicating conditions - inner city church, new church organization, complicated multi-church, rural field, . . .  
Add appropriate amount."

## Resume Union Talks

The executive council of the United Church of Christ has authorized a team to meet with leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to explore possible union.

The general minister and president of the Disciples, Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, reacted positively to

the United Church action, indicating a meeting has been set to explore next steps.

In response to the United Church of Christ action, Dr. Teegarden observed:

"As far back as 1961, the predecessor body to our General Assembly authorized us to explore union with the United Church of Christ when it seemed appropriate. We've not been working on it for the last nine years because all our energies have gone into the wider possibilities of the Consultation on Church Union. Any revival of these two-way conversations would be done with full commitment to the continuing COCU developments.

"We feel very positive toward the United Church of Christ interest in re-opening union discussions, and look forward to meeting in September with United Church of Christ representatives to explore what ought to be the next steps."

\$\$\$\$

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# Nashville Registrations Received



Disciples of Christ members in Christian Church congregations throughout the nation are beginning to come into the Indianapolis office of the National Convocation for attendance at the August 18-22, 1976 meeting on the Fisk University-Meharry Medical College campuses.

The Local Arrangements Committee co-chairman John Carroll and Richard Patton stand in front of the Fisk Memorial Chapel with President

Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. and Program Committee Chairwoman Elizabeth Enix as they ponder the plans of nine sub-committees preparing to welcome Convocation attendees.

The Program Committee has secured additional modern facilities at Meharry Medical College which is just across the street from Fisk University. The S.S. Kresge Learning Center of this great medical school will make its main lecture halls available to the Convocation.

Among the several features of the assembly will be a youth activity program for young people 14 to 21 years of age. The activities will be led by young people in cooperation with appropriate resource persons. Youth oriented workshops will be open to all age levels.

Use the registration blank inserted in this issue of UP-DATE. Write the National Convocation office for more blanks.

Room assignments on the campus are being made by the Local Arrangements Committee.

## Plan NOW FOR NASHVILLE

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# Up-Date



ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

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

## "Going Back To Nashville" of Basic Values Last —

Thirty-four years ago Black Disciples of Christ were spurred on to go back to Nashville through a clarion call sounded by this typical C. H. Dickerson poem:

Were going back to Nashville, we're  
going back to Nashville  
Where we started 25 years ago.  
The Pioneers are falling, we hear the  
remnant calling,  
Our hearts turn back to Nashville,  
and we must go.

We're going back to Nashville, the  
home of Preston Taylor  
She broadcasts invitations and surely  
we'll not fail her  
Sister Taylor says "Ready", Crawford  
and Walton "Steady"  
Maloy and others beckon and we  
must go. . . .

We're going back to Nashville, 'tho  
some have crossed the river  
Echoing are their voices, cheering  
us on forever  
Our names are on the roster, with  
time's wheel turning faster  
Let's meet once more in Nashville,  
before we go. . . .

The Convocation event at Fisk University and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee can make this Bicentennial Year really significant for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The late C. H. Dickerson's poem of 1942 has continuing relevance in 1976.

"WE'RE GOING BACK TO NASHVILLE."



# Benjamin Introduces Carter

Front-running Democratic nominee, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, visited Second Christian Church of Indianapolis just prior to the May Primary in Indiana. The following is a version of Pastor T. Garrott Benjamin's introduction of the former governor. The description appeared in the May 17 issue of THE WASHINGTON POST with William Lee Miller, author of "Piety Along the Potomac" and faculty member at Indiana University, given the by-line—

Brenda, Carl, and Shirley were singing "There's no tomorrow" when Mr. Carter, for whom there evidently is a tomorrow, was escorted to the pulpit platform by the pastor, Dr. T. J. Benjamin Jr., and seated in a chair facing the alcove where the trio was singing. That meant he sat with a side view of himself fully visible to the rest of us through 20 more minutes of gospel music, clapping his hands, tapping his foot, and being whispered to by Dr. Benjamin. He turns out to be one of those persons who does not look as good in person as he does on TV. Seen thus in the flesh, close up, unprotected, unedited, and in profile he is not the glamour figure of his endlessly smiling photographs and TV appearances but a middle-aged ex-governor with undistinguished socks and a receding chin. I liked him better for that.

I also liked the way Dr. Benjamin introduced him. I had looked at some Carter propaganda in preparation for the evening and although I assume Mr. Carter's first name is James I certainly couldn't find that out from his leaflet. It came not from a mere Carter presidential campaign but from the *Jimmy Carter* presidential campaign; it is *Jimmy Carter* who "has not spent years in Washington"; *Jimmy Carter* who "doggedly fought special interests and selfish manipulators"; *Jimmy Carter's* campaign that "isn't supported by power brokers paying back political favors; *Jimmy Carter* 12 times in two short

pages of text; *Jimmy Carter* five times in a few paragraphs under his picture; *Jimmy Carter* every time the text itself refers to him. Somebody somewhere surely has made a decision about what he is to be called. So, having been Jimmy-ed almost into sheer Republicanism, I was glad to hear Mr. Benjamin introduce his guest as Gov. Carter.

He said he had first met the governor as an unscheduled speaker at a board meeting of the National Urban Coalition; sometimes, he said, you have to put up with an *in-troo-sion* in the agenda. At the subtly needling use of the word "intrusion" a murmur of amused comprehension went through the black congregation. Carter's eyes abruptly turned wary and his smile momentarily solidified. Dr. Benjamin clearly is his own man.

## Nominations Wanted

Nominees are being sought for leadership positions in the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Names of persons willing to serve as president, president-elect, vice-president, secretary and treasurer during 1978-80 should be sent to the convocation office by August 5, according to Dr. William K. Fox of Indianapolis, administrative secretary.

Elections are scheduled during the fourth biennial convocation to be held August 18-22 in Nashville, Tenn.

Mrs. Lydan Range of Columbus, Ohio, is chairwoman for the nominating committee. Serving with her are D. W. Heath, Rockford, Ill.; Clarence Johnson, Indianapolis; Frank Bradley, Hagerstown, Md.; Claudia Highbaugh, Claremont, Calif.; Mrs. Verona Rattin, Jackson, Miss.; and Mrs. Eli Wilbert, Dayton, Ohio. The committee has had one meeting.

(from Christian Church News).

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NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

# Organizers Score Repression

More than 400 representatives of community organized groups throughout the nation gathered in New York City at the International House of Columbia University June 25-27 to review the underlying causes of the economic crisis and protest "repression in America."

Ann Douglas, executive director of the Inter-religions Foundation for Community Organization, Inc. - The Conference sponsor - launched the meeting with an emphasis on the urgent and continuing need for an aroused and vigilant citizenry if the true values of economic justice, liberty and self-fulfillment were to survive.

A major background paper on "What is Happening in the Economic Crisis" was presented by Dr. Roy Sano of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Responses were given by Marxist Thinker, Michelle Russell of Detroit, Michigan and Joel Gajardo, the Chilean exile now professor at Cornell University, Ithica, New York.

The responders linked economic crisis with the realities of oppression in America and throughout the world.

Conferees plunged into energetic floor discussion.

Following a series of presentations on "Organizing Style and Ideology" on the second day, the more than 400 attendants became immersed in 18 workshops dealing with issues and strategies. One of the climaxing features was a drama entitled "S-1" - a take-off on the proposed Senate Bill which contains alledged national security measures. The play points out aspects of the bill which could lead to a police-state in the U.S.A. The play was written and directed by Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones).

The first National Organizers Conference ended on Sunday with a long list of recommendations for action passed on to the I.F.C.O. Board of Directors.

Marilyn Clement, Assistant Executive Director

for I.F.C.O., gave special coordination to the Steering Committee which designed and promoted the conference.

On the opening night Ms. Douglas and Ms. Clement were both given bouquets of flowers by the I.F.C.O. Board of Directors and staff in recognition of their resigning to assume "new opportunities to serve in the freedom and empowerment struggle."

# Stepping Stones To Survival

by Ernest Newborn

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34.

Three men approached the lake shore in a fishing boat. One of them dropped the anchor several yards from the shore. With four quick steps he was on the land. He was followed by one of his companions who took four steps across the water and landed on the shore. The third man rose from his seat and stepped into the water. Immediately he went down. There he was in the water up to his hips. With a desperate effort he pulled himself back aboard the boat. His face registered puzzlement as he tried it again. For the second time he went down. Again he climbed aboard the boat. His two companions watched him attempt for the third time. At this point one of the men said to the other, "We had better let our friend know where those stepping stones are before he drowns!"

As we approach the two hundredth birthday of our nation, let us consider the role of religion in our history. This nation has survived and endured many treacherous waters for two centuries. We have had the advantages of certain "stepping stones" which serve as sources of strength. . .

. . . Nearly two hundred years ago Thomas Jefferson stated the moral basis for the establish-

ment of an independent United States of America: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." This assertion of the equality of man was not in itself new. It had its roots in the Judeo-Christian attempts to control the more primitive impulses of man by identifying religion with man's responsibility for his fellow man. The concerns for justice, freedom and equality are rooted in our religious heritage. Concern for the unfortunate and respect for the inherent rights of the individual are rooted in our religious orientation.

The unique supports of the Constitution, education, economic abundance, and religion have fortified our nation in its struggle through the tragedy of civil war, a great depression, Watergate, and other crises. I am confident that religion has been and will continue to be a vital "stepping stone" as we tread toward our destiny as a nation.

from Missouri Messenger, February, 1976

## Vignettes From the Field Among the Congregations

**Kansas, Wichita...**The World Outreach Department of the North Heights Church recently asked every member to give 1 cent per pound of their weight to the Week of Compassion Fund to help meet world hunger needs. C. Ellison Lakes is minister.

**Ohio, Springfield...**Arthur Troy Miller, Sr., became minister for the Fair Street Christian Church April 4, 1976. He had been an assistant pastor in the United Church of Cincinnati and served as an interim minister for Summit Church of Dayton. Brother Miller a recreation program administrator and completing work on a seminary degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton.

**Missouri, Jefferson City...**Ernest J. Newborn,

associate regional executive minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Missouri, was recently elected president of the Jefferson City Clergy Alliance. The Alliance is constituted by Protestant, Catholic and other religious groups.

**Tennessee, Memphis...**Spring programs at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church was highlighted by "Mom's Day" (April 14) and "Woman's Day" (June 6). Featured speakers were Mal Goode for the men and Frances Kelley for the women. Chairpersons H. L. Jackson, E.T. Hunt, Bonnie T. Tillman and Elois Washington developed two enriching and inspiring programs. Lee Edward Koonce is pastor.

**Texas, Greenville...**E. J. Dickson of Jarvis Christian College brought the morning message and William K. Fox of Indianapolis, Indiana the afternoon "mortgage burning" address to highlight the Eighth Annual Building Fund MAY RALLY at Clark Street Christian Church May 16, 1976. Christian Church congregations within a hundred miles radius participated. C. L. Faulkner is minister.

**Ohio, Columbus.** . .The Chi Rho Fellowship (intermediate young people) of the Woodlawn Christian Church studied "Caring" and then sponsored a clothes mending project at the church for the elderly and those in nursing homes. Blanche Perkins is advisor and elder Ozark Range, minister.

**Ohio, Dayton.** . . A TALENT STORY PROJECT was launched at Summit Christian Church June 13. Worshippers were given church money on that day to invest for a 30 day period. The program was based on the scripture found in Mathew 25:16. Awards were given to the largest "increases." Joseph Saunders was chairman of the program. Elder J. Thomas Johnson is minister.

**Missouri, Kansas City.** . .Claude Walker, former president of the National Convocation and pastor of Central Christian Church, has resigned as senior minister. A Pulpit Committee is in search of his successor. Brother Walker has elected to work full-time at Baker University as Director of Student Services and Counselor of Minority Students.

# Nashville Monuments Still Speak To Present

Persons attending the fourth biennial meeting of the National Convocation in Nashville, Tennessee August 18-22, 1976 will tour this "Athens of the South" where monuments speak eloquently to the nineteen seventies.



Above, Convocation Vice-President Elizabeth Enix points to the prophetic words of the Christian Church founding father — Alexander Campbell — on the monument in front of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. More than a century ago Campbell pointed to the present concern for the Church's creative involvement in higher education. To the need for an open society then and even more so now he said: "The spirit and soul of all reformation is free discussion."



Standing on a slope in Nashville's elegant Greenwood Cemetery between memorial stones erected at the heads of college presidents is the graceful pillared stone over the grave of Preston Taylor — founder of The Cemetery — first president of The National Christian Missionary Convention — contributor to the work of the Church even until this day. On his left lies Dr. F. West, who was president of Meharry Medical College; on Eldon Taylor's right are the remains of Dr. Charles S. Johnson, imminent sociologist and scholar who was president of Fisk University.

The monuments of all three black national leaders still speak to the importance of courage, and excellence in performance.

You will see more of this while you attend the Convocation meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

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## Assembly "Suit" Settled

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Assembly, admitting no fault, has settled for \$3,000 with a San Antonio, Texas, catering firm that claimed last summer it suffered an \$86,000 loss on food service to assembled Disciples.

The settlement was said to be roughly equivalent to what would have been the assembly legal fees if the matter had gone to court. No suit was filed.

Rosemary's Catering claimed it lost money when a special cafeteria set up at the assembly was little used. Assembly officers maintained that the cafeteria was set up at the firm's own risk.

(from Christian Church News)

# Higher Education Decisions Critical

Policies on funding church-related colleges adopted by the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Chicago June 12-15 will have long-range effect on institutions like Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas and possibly Tongaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi.

A five member task force, appointed by Moderator James A. Moak, and chaired by C. C. Nolen, president of North Texas State University, presented the General Board with a major study document dealing mainly with funding undergraduate colleges which are related to the Church.

The Board voted to have the Board of Higher Education convene a church-wide task force to develop a covenant statement to be signed by all undergraduate colleges agreeing to be termed "church-related".

Those schools signing the covenant would then be granted financial support based on the following criteria:

1. Each school would receive a minimum of

\$30,000 a year from the basic mission funds of the Church.

2. Each college would receive an additional \$10 for every full-time undergraduate student (regardless of church affiliation).
3. Each college would receive \$100 for every full-time student who is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
4. Each institution would receive \$400 for every graduating student who enrolls in a seminary (to prepare for the ministry).

Any surplus money would be distributed to cooperating institutions in accordance with a special formula.

The General Board decision on the church's funding undergraduate college education will have a direct relationship to such enrichment and expended curricular programs as Jarvis College's proposed COOPERATIVE MINISTRY PROJECT and the "Jarvis Preacher Association" program.



Emmett J. Dickson (above left), retired general church leader, now College Minister and professor of philosophy at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, Texas, is the catalyst for the COOPERATIVE MINISTRY and "Jarvis Preacher Association"



projects. The group (above, right), was being led by Dr. Dickson recently in the development of these programs.

Similar programs are underway in other church related undergraduate institutions.

# The Macedonian Call in Chaplaincy

by Robert W. Tindall  
Director of Chaplaincy Services

Since January 1972 the office of chaplaincy services has endeavored to communicate with seminarians and ministers of our church concerning the opportunities and needs of Black ministers to serve as chaplains in various institutional settings and in the military services. Excellent support has been received from church leaders, as the message of opportunity and need was passed. Today we can report the sowing of the seed is bearing fruit.

In 1975 the Commission on Chaplaincy Endorsement and Services, of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) endorsed two qualified institutional chaplains, Chaplain Charles J. Williams, Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Chaplain Kay K. Joseph, Division of Mental Health, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Also, two Black candidates for military chaplaincy have been endorsed for active duty in 1976 in the United States Air Force — Chaplain James Brooks, Mt. Rainier, Maryland, and Chaplain Danny Ray Thompson, Philadelphia, Penna.

During recent meetings, the military Chiefs of Chaplains and institutional officials have reiterated the opportunity and need for more qualified Black clergy to serve as chaplains in the military services, and in hospitals, prisons and correctional institutions — have you heard the Macedonian call?

## First Black Disciple Air Force Chaplain

Danny Ray Thompson, a native of New River, Virginia and nurtured in the faith at First Baptist Church at New River, was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) April 24 in Third Church, Philadelphia,

Pennsylvania.

The ordination under the direction of Pastor C. Richard Taylor, climaxed Thompson's acceptance of active duty in the United States Air Force Chaplaincy.

Elder Thompson had served as assistant minister at Third Christian Church since 1973. He became the first black to receive an ecclesiastical endorsement from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for an appointment as an Air Force Chaplain.

Among the ordination participants were Clarence L. Johnson, Jr., General Church staff, Indianapolis; Dwight French, Regional Church executive, Pittsburg and Frederick Crawford, chairman of the Third Church Board of Elders.

Chaplain Thompson's family includes his wife, Mauricia Clayton and sons, DeWayne age 6, and Shawn age 2.



Danny Ray Thompson — laying on of ordination hands — air force chaplaincy — Philadelphia, Pa.

## New Church in Northeast

The 175 member French-speaking Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men congregation of Brooklyn, New York has been received as an approved church of the Christian Church (Disciples

of Christ).

Successful orientation of Pastor Philius Nicolas and members to the faith, life and work of the Disciples of Christ through the Northeastern Regions Metropolitan Commission on the Ministry, led to full acceptance. Members went to Bethany College and enrolled in study classes on Disciples doctrine.

## Ministers' Salaries Rise

The average salary of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministers for 1975 was \$9,250, a rise of \$2,342 over 1970 salaries.

The average salary plus housing allowance for 1975 was \$10,632 compared to \$7,944 for 1970, according to figures released by the Disciples' Pension Fund.

Although the salary plus housing allowance increased 33.8 per cent since 1970, compensation for Disciples ministers remains below average pay for other professional persons, according to Dr. William Martin Smith, Pension Fund president.

The 1975 average salaries include postal workers, \$13,400; policemen, \$11,800; teachers, \$11,600; and firemen, \$11,200.

"Ministers are dedicated and committed servants of Christ and his church. They are not overly-concerned with finances; they seldom feel free to ask for an increase. They depend on the Christian spirit and fairness of the church," said Dr. Smith.

He suggested congregations reimburse ministers for business expenses, including auto, travel and welfare; make an "offset allowance" for Social Security taxes; provide pension and health care benefits; and allow for inflation.

(from Christian Church Services)

## Black "Love Groups" Proposed

Dr. Nathan Hare of Berkeley, California has proposed the establishment of "black love groups" in order "to feel loved, to love ourselves, and therefore one another."

Hare is a psychologist and former professor at Howard, Virginia State and San Francisco State Universities.

According to the psychologist, "a black person in our society doesn't have to be sick in any way to experience problems in life and living requiring professional guidance."

The "love group" would operate like a psychological workshop or group therapy which would help resolve personal conflicts. There would be indirect contributions to the "general resolution of black-male-female conflicts so vital to the race as a whole in the crucial years ahead."

Dr. Hare is founder-publisher of THE BLACK SCHOLAR and a clinical psychologist at C.H.A.N.G.E., Inc., a black mental health clinic in Berkeley.

## Jones Succeeds Enix

Mrs. Don (Ricarda Jean) Jones, 23 of Indianapolis, Indiana has been chosen by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana to succeed Mrs. Elizabeth Enix as a Regional Staff Associate.

Ricarda Jones, employed on a two-third time basis, will share staff responsibilities for the Department of Christian Women's Fellowship and work with the youth. Both Ricarda and her husband, Don, are active members of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, and students at Christian Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Jones has a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University with a major in journalism and a minor in psychology. She is listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" and while in college worked in the office of Special Programs and Orientation.

# Black Congregations Hit Crime

A dozen projects aimed at "creating safer and more just communities" was launched by the Department of Church in Society of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this spring.

The programs, originated by congregations, will be pilot projects in Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Alabama and Washington, D.C.

A group of 21 Black and Hispanic ministers and lay persons plan to "sensitize congregations and communities to the correlation between drugs and crime," according to Gerald Cunningham, Indianapolis, director of human rights and criminal justice for the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries' Church and Society department.

Inflation and unemployment may create tremendous problems this summer, Cunningham predicted.

"Just like food in the supermarket, drugs are higher in the innercity — and less accessible. A \$35 a day drug habit two years ago now costs \$65-75. This inflates the incidence of crime in the community.

"With unemployment hitting addicts hard, the drug pusher is in a dangerous position from the addict, not the police," Cunningham said.

"The use of drugs creates serious problems for the community and the church has to find ways of dealing with them," Cunningham said.

A late-evening "pastors patrol" is one attempt at easing crime in Detroit. An ecumenical effort started by LeMar Clark of United Christian Church, the purpose is to be aware of trouble spots in the city and help with rumor control.

Black Disciples' congregations in the Washington-Norfolk assemblies of the church will hold a series of workshops reaching 64 congregations and educating them on ways to create safer and more just communities. Hopefully, specific projects will be tackled in 1977, Cunningham said.

A similar education and action program is antici-

pated in Hagerstown, Harrisburg and Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D.C. churches.

A neighborhood drug counseling clinic is anticipated in Pittsburgh, led by Arthur L. Harris, pastor of East Hills Christian Church.

East Fayetteville, N.C., also will get a drug counseling program, under the leadership of Pleasant Grove Christian Church and J. O. Williams Sr., pastor.

A community program in Bricks, N.C., supported by the Disciples and the United Church of Christ, will work on a host of problems of youth related to drugs, including malnutrition, lack of education and unemployment.

Hillside Christian Church in Indianapolis is working on a program aimed at juvenile drug users and Second Christian Church of Indianapolis is concentrating on youthful offenders and providing "alternatives to fear" for the community around the church.

Bethel Christian Church in Robstown, Texas, is spearheading a project to cut down on drug-related crimes, as well as vandalism against schools, churches and businesses.

Programs also are anticipated in Chicago; Cincinnati, Ohio; Gary, Ind.; New York City, and Birmingham, Ala.

Some projects will be funded locally, with others receiving support from division funds available, Cunningham said.

Programs initiated with the church action for safe and just communities seminar held here recently.

## Hannah First Black DHM Executive Head

William W. Hannah, pastor of Fifth Church in Cleveland, Ohio, a congregation which has averaged a 20 per cent growth in its membership per year during his 11 year ministry, will become the first Black executive secretary of

a divisional church unit September 1, 1976, when he heads the Department of Evangelism and Membership.

Brother Hannah will succeed Loyal A. Northcott who retires August 30. The Department of Evangelism is one of six departments making up the Division of Homeland Ministries. Kenneth A. Kuntz is president.

Dr. Kuntz asserted that evangelism is a priority for the Church. He further stated "I am confident we have a person of outstanding ability to lead us in this vital and necessary field".

Elder Hannah became pastor of the now Fifth Christian Church in 1964 while still a college student. He is a past president of the Ohio Black Minister's Conference and been an active leader in many community affairs.

He is a native of Stanaford, West Virginia with an undergraduate degree in religion from Hiram (Ohio) College, and a divinity degree from Pittsburgh (Pa.) Theological Seminary.

## City Leaders Honor Blackburn

Cleo W. Blackburn of Indianapolis, Indiana was recently given a testimonial dinner at the Indianapolis Hilton Hotel.

Recognition by representatives of government, higher education, social services and philanthropy was given to his 40 years of nationally acclaimed leadership of Flanner House in a variety of unique and trailblazing community services.

Speakers reminded the packed ballroom of diners that under Dr. Blackburn's leadership Flanner House had started a home-building project; neighborhood cannery, pre-school children's program; city-wide track meet; health care services; vocational education and training; a Rohab Housing Corporation, and the federally chartered Board of Fundamental Education.

While inspiring and administering such programs Blackburn served for a time as president of Jarvis Christian College.

Dr. Blackburn, who is a Disciple of Christ minister, was jailed for his civil rights convictions in 1929 while a student at Butler University. Though now retired, he has never given up the struggle. The black leader has five honorary doctorate degrees.

Blackburn responded to the occasion by admitting "there were some people who had the courage to take some risks. There were many failures — but there have been some little successes which have now become national policy... Can this agency (Flanner House) stop us from tearing ourselves apart and bring healing to the community?"

He urged support for Reuben B. Hill — the new executive director of Flanner House.

Among those paying tribute to Dr. Blackburn were: Mrs. Lionel F. Artis, secretary for Flanner House Board of Directors; Ray Crowe, director of Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation; Otto N. Frenzol III, president of United Way of Greater Indianapolis; Harry T. Ice, former president of Flanner House Board of Directors; Glenn Irwin, M.D., Vice-President of Indiana University; Johy Lynn, former secretary and general manager of Lilly Endowment; William T. Ray, assistant to the Governor; and James E. Hawes, Jr., president of the Flanner House Board of Directors.

T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., Blackburn's pastor, provided ministerial services for the honor banquet program.

## 1976-77 Scholarships Approved

Scholarships amounting to \$17,400 for 14 black Disciples of Christ seminarians and 8 undergraduates preparing for church vocations were approved recently for the 1976-77 academic year by the Black Scholarship (STAR SUPPORTER) Committee meeting in Indianapolis.

Two additional seminarians and 6 undergraduates are also eligible for scholarships when applications become fully processed.

Clarence L. Johnson, Jr., Administrative secre-

tary for the Black Scholarship Committee, announced a Committee recommendation that the scholarship awards "be increased to \$900.00 for seminary students and \$600.00 for undergraduate students effective with the beginning of the 1976-77 academic year."

Scholarship recipients for 1976-77 are: Jerry V. Anderson, Robert L. Stephens, James Smedley, William Lee, Timothy James, Claudia Highbaugh, Marvin Dortch, Deborah Thompson, LaTaunya Bynum, Donald O'Connor, Kenneth Dunk, Alvin Brown, Sanford Davis, Cynthia Hale.

## Florida Employs Snow

It is not what you think. Snow has not come to Florida. But when Flora Barrett, principal secretary for Regional Minister John Updegraff retired recently — after 17 years of service — Agnes Snow was employed to succeed her.

Agnes is black and a member of the Galilee Christian Church in Summerfield, Florida.

## Helen Minor To Zaire

Helen Pilgrim Minor of Indianapolis, Indiana — widely traveled Romance Language teacher and member of Central Christian Church — has accepted a position as member of the Communications staff of The Eglise du Christ au Zaire — the united church body with headquarters in Kinshasa.

Ms. Minor will be working under the direct supervision of I. B. Bokeleale, president of the United Church. Among her several duties will be editing a national church paper in French; developing a tape recording project radio programming and tutorial work in English for interested church persons.

The service-minded language teacher stated:

"I wanted a new and more continuing challenge than I was finding in public school classroom instruction. The Church seemed to offer those kinds of options."

Helen Minor had passed a successful year's screening process for being employed as a language teacher in the University of Algiers, but turned it down for the opportunity to serve the Church.

Before launching on her new venture, Ms. Minor went on tour to Mexico and Red China.

## Honorary "Doctors"

Philadelphia, Pa. — Thomas N. Jefferson, minister of the Fellowship Church, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree by the Baltimore (MD.) College of the Bible, May 22, 1976.

Hawkins, Tx. — Paul A. Sims of Fort Worth was given an Honorary Doctor of Humanity Degree from Jarvis Christian College, May 16, 1976. Dr. Sims has led the Community Church of Fort Worth in a unique and vital inner city ministry.

## Ann Douglas First Black DOM Executive

A United Presbyterian laywoman will become executive secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) September 1.

The appointment of Judyth Ann Douglas to the Division of Overseas Ministries staff concludes an 18-month search, according to Dr. Robert A. Thomas of Indianapolis, division president.

Miss Douglas, since 1972 executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization based in New York City, will become the first lay person to serve as an executive secretary in the division and its predecessor in the United Christian Missionary Society.

# I.F.C.O. Undergoes Changes

The Board of Directors for the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization meeting in New York City June 24, 1976 was confronted with major "Moments of truth" —there was the

- \*resignation of Executive Director Ann Douglas and her assistant, Marilyn Clement;
- \*plan for merger with the Division of Church and Society of The National Council of Churches.
- \*lean receipts and mounting office and programs operation costs; and the
- \*need for program reevaluation in the light of new fiscal realities.

Heading the new slate of officers elected was William K. Fox of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, Indiana, as president. Fox is assistant to The General Minister and President of the Church and assigned as staff director for the RECONCILIATION FUND and administrative secretary for The National Convocation — The Church's Black caucus body.

Other officers for 1976-1977 are:

**Vice-President**, Dorothy Spaulding, Young Women's Christian Association, New York City.

**Secretary**, Douglas A. Brian, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., New York City.

**Treasurer**, Negail Riley, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, New York City.

## WRITERS CONTEST

Racial minority writers are being challenged to win five prizes of \$500 each by submitting unpublished manuscripts in the children's field to the Eighth Annual Contest for Minority Writers.

Details can be secured by writing to the  
**CONTEST COMMITTEE**  
 Council on Interracial Books for Children  
 1814 Broadway  
 New York, New York 10023.



Lucius Walker, associate general secretary for The National Council of Church's Division of Church and Society in New York City and Minual Espartero of the United Methodist Board of Christian Social Concerns above, are among I.F.C.O.'s Board members who continue to guide the destiny of the unique ecumenically supported community service organization.



Jim West, I.F.C.O. —JASAC staff member for services to Native Americans stands along side Pat Bellanger of the St. Paul American Indian Movement, of St. Paul, Minnesota to speak on Indian concerns in the I.F.C.O. Board of Directors meeting. Matters relating to the empowerment of Native Americans are receiving increasing consideration by major church bodies.

#### Vignettes from Pg. 4

**Missouri, St. Louis.** . . Christian Woman's Fellowship Group No. 2 of Centennial Christian Church is sponsoring a round-trip bus project to the Fourth Biennial Assembly of the National Convocation in Nashville, Tennessee for \$30.00! Mesdames Mildred Griffin and Eureka Johnson are registrars. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., is president of the Convocation and pastor of Centennial.

**Maryland, Baltimore.** . . The Mt. Olivet Christian Church membership has become the basis for a permanent Blood Group in the Baltimore Regional Blood Program. Coverage for the congregation was effective May 14, 1976. Mt. Olivet was required to donate a minimum of 10 pints of blood for July and August. Elder Donald Gibbs is the pastor.

**Ohio, Cincinnati.** . . A six weeks seminar in the history and presentation of Black music is being conducted in United Christian Church this summer. Instructor Toni Hall has developed a curriculum around courses in 4 Music Theory, 2) Music of Black Americans, and 3) Seminar in Black Music. Elder John R. Compton is pastor.

**Indiana, Indianapolis...** Second Christian Church recently presented a \$1000 check to Christian Theological Seminary to establish a scholarship fund. The congregation expressed primary interest in having the fund aid racial minority students. T. Garrot Benjamin, Jr. is minister.

**Texas, Dallas...** "Key Woman" Miley Henry coordinated a series of workshops recently at Romine Avenue Christian Church for Christian Woman's Fellowship members. Samuel D. Pleasant is pastor.

**New Jersey, East Orange...** Five persons from the Park Avenue Church attended the annual Central Atlantic Conference meeting June 18-20 on the campus of the University of Maryland in Baltimore. This is a United Church of Christ regional meeting. Persons attending were Pastor and Mrs. Anthony Carpenter, Mrs. Cleo Hossic, Ms. Virginia Dowling and Thelma Washington. Park Avenue was originally a Disciples of Christ congregation now dually aligned with the United Church of Christ.

#### Ann Douglas from Pg. 11

She will succeed Dr. William J. Nottingham of Indianapolis who becomes East Asia and Pacific executive July 1 when he takes the position held by Dr. Joseph M. Smith since 1964. Dr. Smith will spend the year before his 1978 retirement engaged in a special education project for the division. Dr. Nottingham has been Latin America and Caribbean executive since 1968.

Miss Douglas, 36, was the unanimous choice of the division staff and its board of directors, according to Dr. Thomas who said she represents the ecumenical stance of the division and its work overseas.

"We are delighted she has agreed to come after several months of conversation and negotiation. She is recognized as a fine administrator and is deeply interested in Latin America," he said.

Miss Douglas, a former Spanish teacher, has done graduate study at Mexico City College, was a Hays-Fulbright scholar studying in Colombia, South America, universities and did graduate study in Caracas, Venezuela.

She also participated in a National Defense Educational Language Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in a Latin American Institute in New York City.

She is a 1963 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with an A.B. degree in Spanish. She also has studied at Ohio University at Athens.

Miss Douglas has been with IFCO since 1968. Before becoming director she was assistant director for two years and was responsible for financial and legal affairs and administration. She was grants administrator and administrative secretary from 1968-70.

She was a bilingual secretary with the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and executive secretary of the Committee on Resettlement Services of the General Council of the United Presbyterian Church during 1968.

Prior to that, she taught Spanish at Hook Junior

# Pulpit Supply on August 22, 1976 for National Convocation

(as of June 23, 1976)  
Nashville, Tennessee \*

## Convocation Guest Minister

Mrs. Carnella J. Barnes  
12202 S. Maple Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90061

Walter D. Bingham  
3900 W. Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40211

H. Bruce Bowser  
430 Ross Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

James C. Brooks, Sr.  
3203 Wold Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207

F. C. Carey, Jr.  
110-09 200th Street  
Hollis, New York 11412

Lamar Clark  
2415 W. Forest  
Detroit, Michigan 48208

John R. Compton  
1020 Clearbrook Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

S. John Compton  
2308 Arch Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

## Host Nashville Church

Eastwood Christian Church  
1601 Eastland Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37206  
Rev. Elliott Massey, Minister

Vine Street Christian Church  
4101 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
Dr. Charles L. Emerson, Minister

West Nashville United Methodist Church  
4710 Charlotte Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37209

First Christian Church  
535 Gallatin Road (or P. O. Box 479)  
Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075  
Rev. Robert L. Hayes, Minister

Bellevue Presbyterian Church  
Highway 70 South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37221  
Rev. Roger W. Jackle, Minister

Blakemore United Methodist Church  
3601 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
Rev. James Kannon, Minister

Central Christian Church  
Fifth and Oak  
Springfield, Tennessee 37172  
Rev. Joseph H. Bragg, Jr., Minister

Gay-Lea Christian Church  
2205 Osage Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37208  
Rev. William A. Dansby, Jr., Minister

Robert W. Dickerson  
12306 Soika  
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Downtown Presbyterian Church  
154 Fifth Avenue, North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Dr. Hogan L. Yancey, Minister

Emmett J. Dickson  
Jarvis Christian College Ch.  
Box 876  
Hawkins, Texas 75765

Brookmeade Congregational Church  
700 Bresslyn Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
Rev. Stephen Gray, Minister

Melvin C. Dickson  
1814 Peabody  
Dallas, Texas 75215

Christ Church Episcopal  
900 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
Rev. Eric S. Greenwood, Minister

Charles L. Faulkner  
4502 4th Street  
Greenville, Texas 75401

First Universalist-Unitarian Church  
of Nashville  
1808 Woodmont Boulevard  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
Rev. Bill Gardiner, Minister

John Foulkes  
6600 S. King Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church  
2334 Herman Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37208  
Dr. Dogan W. Williams, Minister

Major L. Fountain  
3048 E. Ledbetter  
Dallas, Texas 75216

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
615 6th Avenue, South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Enoch W. Henry, Jr.  
Box 1986  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Woodmont Christian Church  
3601 Hillsboro Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
Rev. Claire Berry, Minister

Lee E. Koonce  
978 Mississippi Boulevard  
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Lockeland Christian Church  
1700 Fatherland Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37206  
Felix C. Byrd, Board Chairman  
1305 Cheshire Drive  
Nashville, Tennessee 37207

Claude Walker  
3801 Linwood Boulevard  
Kansas City, Missouri 64128

Edgehill United Methodist Church  
1502 Edgehill Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212  
Rev. Bill Barnes, Minister

\*Charles L. Emerson, minister at the Vine Street Christian Church, is chairman of the Pulpit Supply Committee for the Local Arrangements Committee

Ann Douglas from Pg. 13

High School, Victorville, Calif., from 1965-67 and at Northwestern Senior High School, Miami, Fla., 1963-65.

In addition to her Latin American travels and studies, she has attended a World Council of Churches Faith and Order meeting in Salamanca, Spain, and has evaluated projects for IFCO in Tanzania, Africa.

She is vice-president of the Black United Fund and a member of the Association of Black Foundation Executives, Black Presbyterians United and Change Oriented Foundations.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, native is single. Her father was a United Presbyterian minister.

## Little Boys Become Men

Little boys and girls grow up to be men and women. Brian Tourner, son of Gregory and Katherine Tourner of Indianapolis, Indiana is typical of the pre-school children (e.g. 3 years to 6 years) who will be helped in their most important growing years by The Children's Activities program conducted during the Nashville

Convocation assembly August 18-22.

Pre-school children's activities will be carried on daily during the Nashville Convocation program at a cost of \$12 per child. Special rates for parents having two or more children.



Brian Tourner of Indianapolis, Indiana — they grow up.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**  
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# Up-Date

July - Aug  
76  
4:7/8

## ON THE BLACK CHURCH

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

## "TRAGEDY - something that could happen and never does."

— S. W. Hylton, Jr.

Last August in Nashville, Tennessee, Convocation President Samuel W. Hylton, Jr. of St. Louis gave a stirring challenge to more than 700 assembled representatives of 75,000 predominantly black Disciples of Christ in 22 states and regions.

"Tragedy", Dr. Hylton, Jr. said, "is not something that happens to you, but something that could happen and never does."

### Lighting Candles

Dr. Hylton — and the other Keynoters for the Fourth Biennial Assembly of the National Convention — challenged us to "light candles." The need for window breaking, cursing, picketing and protest has diminished. Candle-lighting, prayerful meditation and earnest justice and liberation effort (work) is urgent.

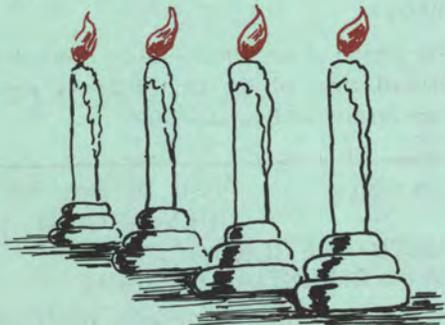
The whole Church and the whole world needs the light which God has given to YOU! Most black Christians and many predominantly black Disciples of Christ congregations have large portions of

- \* **Biblical faith** — expressed in personal belief, preaching and teaching — giving life a foundation.
- \* **Spirituality in celebration** — represented in individual testimony, corporate worship and style of Christian living — making life a joy.

- \* **Techniques for Survival** — born out of need to live within hostile environments; to develop leaness of living models in order to exist-out-lasting problems; leveling mountains.
- \* **Church as supportive community** — featuring the inclusive fellowship stressing sisterhood, brotherhood, and the expanded family-undergirding its people with love.
- \* **Church as the compassionate and serving Christ** — providing a harbor for the homeless; renewal and strength for those in the freedom struggle; a cup of water and a piece of bread for those thirsty and hungry.

You have been given a large measure of these blessings through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

You and your congregation are challenged to use the sparks to light the candles of the Church and the world.



## 2. Mellon Funds Black Church Study

Howard University's School of Religion in Washington, D.C. plans to do a "major study" on the black church, funded by a recent \$250,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

Major subjects are to be explored, according to Dr. Lovenger Bowden, professor of speech and principal investigator for the study, include a profile of the contemporary black church, its internal and external communication methods, and its social impact.

"The black church has long been a popular subject for writers and thinkers, but scientific documentation of its characteristics and contributions has been lacking," said Dr. Bowden.

Her study has already convinced her, she added, that the black church is the "Only black institution which started in the African forests, survived slavery and remains the most viable organization of the black community in the United States."

The study is planned in two phases. The first, a preliminary study of the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, already underway, will serve as a prototype. Its findings will be announced in August.

The second phase, a major study conducted in selected areas of the United States, extends from August 1976 to June 1977.

UP-DATE

VOL. IV. Nos. 7/8  
JULY/AUGUST, 1976

NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

## Finish 4 Year Course

June 21 through July 2, 1976 the annual Leadership Training Conference was held at the Goldsboro Disciple Institute. After two weeks of intensive Bible study and leadership training for four years the following seniors graduated: Michelle Lynette Chesnutt, Mary Anne Glover, Angela Lorraine Godwin, Janice Faye McDonald, Cassandra Faye White, Velda Denise Williams, and Tania Lanese Williams.

## Sims to Jarvis

Dr. Paul A. Sims of Fort Worth, Texas, an outstanding churchman and community leader, has been named coordinator of public relations for Jarvis Christian College.

Dr. E. W. Rand, the newly elected president of Jarvis Christian College in making the announcement stated that Jarvis was fortunate to have a man of Dr. Sims experience to fill this important function.

According to Dr. Rand, Sims is well known by churchmen, politicians and community leaders, not only all over Texas, but across the whole United States.

Dr. Sims is a native of Kansas, but has been a Texan for 24 years. He is no stranger to Jarvis. He served on the Board of Trustees when Jarvis received full accreditation as a four year college during those days of development.

Mr. Sims has served on the faculty of the Evening College at Texas Christian University, and as an Executive of the Regional Christian Church. Jarvis Christian College conferred the Doctor of

Humanities degree upon Mr. Sims in recognition of his outstanding work at Community Christian Church - Fort Worth, Texas. Community Christian Church under the leadership of Paul Sims, an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) developed a "parish ministry" program in a predominately disadvantaged neighborhood.

According to Dr. Rand, Mr. Sims will continue to direct activities at Community Christian Church on a part time basis, for an interim period, because of the nature of the ministry there; thereby enabling him to begin work at Jarvis immediately.

## Career Aid for Ministers

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministers who want to strengthen their ministries may apply for scholarships for career assessment programs in the U.S. and Canada.

Scholarships are available through the department of ministry, Division of Homeland Ministries, according to L. Eugene Brown, director of clergy development, Indianapolis, IN.

Career development counseling is available at 14 centers in the U.S. and in Canadian programs accredited by the ecumenical Church Career Development Council, Brown said.

An intensive three-day, on-site evaluation helps professional church leaders "identify their unique personal strengths and professional competencies in order to plan and build a more effective and satisfying career in ministry," he said.

The program is for "healthy ministers who want to become healthier, not for ministers

under emotional strain," he said.

Peak stress years for ministers are three-five, 10-12 and 18-20 years after seminary. "During these periods, ministers go through the process of asking questions about their vocations. This is healthy; this is in harmony with the Gospel," Brown said.

Since the counseling program was organized by 14 denominations in 1969, more than 20,000 pastors, Christian educators, missionaries, church executives, seminary students and ministerial candidates have participated in the program.

In 1975, 33 Disciples of Christ ministers and 13 spouses took part.

## Help for Retarded

Mentally retarded adults entering Woodhaven Learning Center, Columbia, MO., no longer will be required to pay an entry fee.

Dr. Charles Palmer of St. Louis, MO., executive director of services to the mentally retarded for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), said the only fee required will be the monthly cost of care charge.

The move to eliminate entry fees at Woodhaven, a facility of the Disciples' National Benevolent Association, is an effort to provide services to a wider segment of trainable mentally retarded adults, Dr. Palmer said.

No entry fee is charged for children under 18 years entering Woodhaven, nor is there a fee at Serra Center for Adult Mentally Retarded at Fremont, Calif., both NBA facilities.

Woodhaven and Serra Centers train mentally retarded adults in basic work habits and teach

skills such as silk-screening, upholstering, manual arts and kitchen, dining room, laundry and factory work.

The sheltered workshops have contracts with major corporations for assembly production.

The program is being expanded and facilities for mentally retarded adults are being planned in several states, Dr. Palmer said.

## Blacks Help Tougaloo

Two national black women's organizations recently made contributions totaling a quarter million dollars to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and in addition have pledged another half-million dollars, to be paid within the next two years. Tougaloo College is a member of the UNCF and will benefit from these gifts.

Christopher F. Edley, UNCF Executive Director, said the two gifts are "dramatic evidence of the interest and growing support blacks are giving to the UNCF."

One gift, of \$150,000, was made by the Links, Inc., at their biennial assembly in Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Pauline Ellison of Arlington, Va., President of the Links, made the presentation to Mr. Edley at a luncheon at the Seattle center attended by almost 1,000 persons.

The Links' 1976 gift brought the total they have given to the UNCF in the past four years to some \$350,000. In addition, the Links voted to continue the UNCF as their prime charity and to make a donation comparable to \$150,000 in 1978.

"Black funeral parlors, black banks and black businesses are all part of the new activity stirring on behalf of the UNCF, Mr. Edley said."

## First Year For Webb Jr.

A week of preaching July 11 - 18 with visiting ministers, their congregations and choirs, marked the end of Elder Charles Webb Jr's first year as minister for the Pine Street Church of Tulsa, OK.

A seven member committee led by Sam Griffin coordinated activities. Refreshments, fellowship and a "Gift of Love and Appreciation" for Pastor Webb presented by Board Chairman Ernest Walker were among the events.

The anniversary celebration was climaxed July 18 by a bus trip to Muskogee, OK for the members and friends of Pine Street Church.

Featured event in Muskogee was having Brother Webb's 96 year old grandfather, Mark Webb, and other Webb kin as guests. Grandfather heard his grandson preach for the first time.

East Sixth Street Church of Oklahoma City and the Shepperd Street Church of Chickasha closed the "Week of Preaching."

## Book Sales Record

According to Herbert H. Lambert on the Adult Publications of The Christian Board of Publication, book sales during the 1976 Assembly of the National Convocation in Nashville amounted to \$1,927 as compared with \$1,265 during the 1974 meeting in Atlanta.

# Dr. Rand Named President

Dr. E. W. Rand of Marshall was named president by the Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees and assumed duties August 5.

Dr. Rand, 64, is a native of Lodi, Texas in Cass county and his experience in the education field reaches back 46 years with his first teaching assignments in the Public Elementary Schools of Cass and Marion counties.

His appointment to the head position at Jarvis marks the fifth time in his career he will be affiliated with the college. The first contact was in 1931 when he was a student of Jarvis, then a junior college. His later positions included biology instructor and dean of the college, 1937-1942; professor of education and dean of men, 1945-1948 and executive dean, 1957-1959.

In announcing Dr. Rand as president, Hunter Brush, chairman of the board said, "We are privileged to have a man of Dr. Rand's caliber to assume the presidency of Jarvis Christian College. He is a man that is well known in educational circles and will bring a sincere dedication to the task of making Jarvis a leading institution of higher learning."

Dr. Rand vacated the office of coordinator of teacher education and administrative consultant to the president of Wiley College in Marshall to accept the Jarvis presidency.

The 64 year old veteran educator holds a B.A. from Bishop College, Marshall; a M.S. in biology, Atlanta University and a Doctorate of Education, Indiana University where he majored in administration.

In accepting the presidency Dr. Rand said, "It

is my hope to enhance the position of Jarvis as an educational institution in East Texas through the provision of programs of significant value to students who wish to attend".

He and his wife Verbie have two children and six grandchildren. Dr. Rand succeeded John P. Jones, who resigned the position July 10, 1976.

# Jackson Ordained

Ordination ritual was held for Alvin O'Neal Jackson September 12, 1976, at Loudon Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Roanoke, Virginia. The service climaxed his successful completion of four years of seminary preparation.

Representatives from state, regional and Piedmont District participated in the service. Dr. T. Garrott Benjamin, Jr., Minister of Second Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana gave the "Keynote Spiritual Message."

Alvin O. Jackson came to Loudon Avenue licensed to preach in 1973 to serve as student minister while matriculating at Duke University Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina.

Prior to coming to Virginia he had spent a semester in Chapman College's (California) "World Campus Afloat". He visited Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Ceylon, Tanzania, South Africa, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. After leaving Chapman, he attended Butler University in Indianapolis. He was Student Minister of Second Christian Church serving with Dr. Benjamin.

Mr. Jackson graduated from Butler University, entering Duke University in 1973.

He graduated from Duke - cum laude - in May 1976 with a Master Divinity degree.

# Report From NASHVILLE-1976

## WHAT SOME SAID-

"For 300 years and more, we were the creators of power, the instruments of power and the subjects of power -- for somebody else. It is time to seek empowerment for ourselves."

C. Eric Lincoln, Professor Fisk University  
Nashville

"We envision a world community in which each person is treated with dignity and justice. We need to discover whether we have moved or are moving toward fulfillment of the vision."

Kenneth L. Teegarden  
General Minister and President, Indianapolis

"Power in the church means having the capacity to achieve the goals of Christian mission. Having adequate power relates to being in control of the process by which the work of the church gets done."

William K. Fox,  
Administrative Secretary, Indianapolis

"I have difficulty with the fact that women can raise money in the church and not be allowed to help decide how to spend it. We can do everything in the church, but we cannot enter some pulpits."

Delores Carpenter, Minister  
East Orange, New Jersey

"Africans were concerned with economics, justice, social relationships and education. They are not asking us to tell them what to do -- merely asking help in doing what they have to do."

Thomas J. Griffin  
Church Finance Council, Indianapolis

"I met the people and saw the scars. The Japanese have been humbled but they have been made aware that the world is a brotherhood

and that we must live as such."

Carnella J. Barnes, International CWF President  
Los Angeles

"People have much to learn from each other and the church overseas does not care about our denominational differences. Christians in the west have got to learn to listen to Christians in other parts of the world."

Robert A. Thomas, President  
Overseas Ministries, Indianapolis

"Churches cannot remain on theological mountains. They must come down on the plains where ordinary people live."

Stotrell Lowe, Executive Secretary  
for Disciples, Jamaica

"One thing binds us all together -- our humanity. As humans we have realized we have the same needs. We want to love and be loved and we feel like crying sometimes."

Maldonia Jackson  
Short-Term Missionary, Haynesville, Ala.

"The church has the serious problem of getting the word of the 'good news' to people who are suffering bad times."

William Hannah, Executive  
Department of Evangelism & Membership;  
Indianapolis

## ELECTED TO SERVE -

Installed as 1976-78 officers were Oscar Haynes 12th Street Church, Washington, D.C., layman, president; Jackie Bunch, Woodlawn Avenue Church, Columbus, Ohio, laywoman, vice-president; George Tyler, Summit Church, Dayton, Ohio, layman, treasurer; and Marjorie Parker, Second Church, Indianapolis, laywoman, secretary.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Continuing Service through 1978 Convocation

Irving Allen, Austin, Texas; Lula M. Haynes, Washington, D.C.; Claudia Highbaugh, Los Angeles, CA; Lee Koonce, Memphis, TN.

Beginning Service through 1980 Convocation

T. Garrott Benjamin, Indianapolis, IN; Alvin Jackson, Roanoke, VA; Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS; Timothy James, Indianapolis, IN

Representatives from Church Units

Kenneth A. Kuntz, President, Division of Homeland Ministries; William Hannah, Executive Secretary, Department of Evangelism and Membership; Kenneth L. Teegarden, General Minister and President; William C. Howland, Deputy General Minister and President; William K. Fox, Administrative Secretary.

## NOMINATED TO GENERAL BOARD AS OFFICERS FOR 1978-1980:

Ozark Range Sr., Columbus pastor, president; Ruth Hobbs, Jackson, MS, laywoman, vice-president; Frank Bradley, Washington, D.C., pastor, treasurer; and Marjorie Parker, Indianapolis, IN, secretary, laywoman.

As Board of Trustee Class 1978-1982

Cynthia Hale, Roanoke, VA, laywoman; Titus P. Haynes, Roosevelt-LI, N.Y., pastor; Thomas Johnson, Dayton, OH, pastor and Robert Mosley, Nashville, TN, layman.

For 1976-1978: Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., St. Louis, MO, immediate past president.

Recommendations to the General Minister and President for Convocation Memberships on Committee on Black and Hispanic Concerns 1976-1980: - Samuel Hylton, Jr., St. Louis, MO; Mack Virgil, Fayetteville, N.C.; Festus Carey, Hollis, N.Y.; Zola Walker, Kansas City, MO; Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C.

## CONSTITUENCY GROUP OFFICERS 1976 - 1978

Ministers' Wives Fellowship

President; Lucile A. Compton, Cincinnati, OH vice president; Roberta Courts, Flint, MI; secretary, Jesse Mosely, Jackson, MS; recording secretary; Thea Haynes, Washington, D.C.; treasurer; Pamela Johnson, Indianapolis, IN; financial secretary; Georgia Lakes, Wichita, KA; cheer; Mildred Hilton, St. Louis, MO.

Ministers' Fellowship

Daniel W. Heath, Rockford, IL., president; Thomas Benjamin, Indianapolis, IN., vice-president; George W. Jones, Washington, D.C., Secretary; Melvin Dickson, Dallas, TX treasurer; Frank Bradley, Washington, D.C., parliamentarian.

Christian Womens Fellowship

Mary K. Harris, Kansas City, MO., president; Edna Brown, Indianapolis, IN., vice-president; Effie Burford, Indianapolis, IN., secretary. Convocation Youth Steering Committee Sharron Jarmon, Kansas City, MO., chairwoman; Edna Richie, Fort Worth, TX., Coordinator; Robert McCain, Martonsville, VA., Coordinator



NASHVILLE CONVOCATION  
MINISTER'S WIVES  
REPORTS BY STATES

August, 1976

Alabama . . . . .	\$965.00
Ohio . . . . .	719.50
Texas . . . . .	655.59
Michigan . . . . .	395.00
Indiana . . . . .	368.74
Missouri . . . . .	350.01
Mississippi . . . . .	314.46
Capital Area (Maryland) . . . . .	305.00
Tennessee . . . . .	85.00
Kansas . . . . .	60.00
California . . . . .	30.00
North Carolina . . . . .	25.00
Illinois . . . . .	23.60
Arkansas . . . . .	10.00
New York . . . . .	10.00
Capital Area (Washington) . . . . .	317.00

WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR STATE?

## Nashville Business Issues

- The Ministers' Fellowship, through the prime leadership of Daniel Heath of Rockford, IL, and T. Garnett Benjamin of Indianapolis, IN presented the Convocation Board of Trustees with a request that "the necessary funds" be set aside to "enable a task force to define, appraise, evaluate and project direction for the Convocation. . . and the black expression of The Christian Church."
- A proposal for the formation of a black church unit at the general church level with peer status to the other 17 national units was also presented to the Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees expressed gratitude for

the proposals and informed the sponsors and assembly

that the Board of Trustees accepted the responsibility for guiding the process and directing the dynamics as the Convocation deals with a proposal for the survival of the Black Christian Church, and that

The Board of Trustees would begin a study process which called for:

- a. Additional input from the Convocation on the subject
- b. Review of the articles of operation of the Convocation
- c. Performance of other related study and research functions and
- d. Design an action program setting for the target dates.

### WEEK OF COMPASSION

February 20-27, 1977

#### "More Than Bread"

When you share through your Week of Compassion offering, you are providing immediate relief in time of disaster overseas.

You are providing food, shelter, security and legal aid for refugees.

You are helping people to provide for themselves through numerous on-going development programs, revolving loan funds and job-generating ventures.

You are helping to feed the hungry -- but you are providing more than bread.

To promote Week of Compassion in your congregation -- poster, leaflets, offering envelopes available free. If your church does not have a standing order, write:

Week of Compassion

Box 1986

Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

# Nashville

## REMEMBERING

The 700 to 1000 persons attending were helped to remember the importance of Black Disciples of Christ history. Here Mrs. Green of St. Paul, MN. presents Samuel Hylton, Jr., right, and William K. Fox, Indianapolis, IN. on the left, a valuable picture of the noted black Alexander Campbell's wife.



## in pictures

### PLANNING

Program planning was key to successes in Nashville. Elizabeth Enix, Indianapolis, IN., vice-president and chairwoman for the program, coordinated the several program aspects.



### SUMMATION

Dr. William Hannah, Indianapolis, IN., new executive secretary of the department of evangelism and membership development, closed out the assembly with a message of "Summation". He reminded us that our basic purpose was to evangelize.

### WITNESSING

Sharing their feelings and insights received during overseas visits were, left to right, Carnella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, CA.; Robert A. Thomas, Indianapolis, IN.; Maldonia Jackson, Haynesville, AL.; and Thomas J. Griffin, Indianapolis, IN.



## CHALLENGING KEYNOTE

*Retiring President Hylton set the tone and challenge of the assembly with the opening keynote address.*



# It Happened

## WOMEN LEADING

*Black women have always been key persons in the church. Here, left to right, Mary Harris, Kansas City, MO.; Carnella J. Barnes, Los Angeles, CA.; and Cynthia Hale, Roanoke, VA. were typical of those leading in the Nashville Assembly.*



## THOUGHTFUL DEVOTIONS

*Claudia Highbaugh of Claremont, CA. (with Timothy James of Indianapolis, IN. in the background) guide a morning worship event.*



## INSPIRING LECTURES

*C. Eric Lincoln, noted sociologist of religion and author of many books on the Black Church, delivered two inspiring lectures on the theme followed by lively "Talk-Backs". Dr. Lincoln is now a faculty member at Duke University.*

## LEADERSHIP TRANSFER

President S.W. Hylton, Jr. of St. Louis (1974-76) passes on leadership responsibilities to 1976-78 officers, left to right: George Tyler, Treasurer, Dayton, OH.; Marjorie Parker, Secretary, Indianapolis, IN.; Jackie Bunch, Vice-President, Columbus, OH.; and Oscar Haynes, Washington, D.C., President. All are laypersons.



## in Nashville!

### LISTENING

Young adults like Cynthia Hale, right, and the associates nearby, listened attentively. They were there in large numbers.



### WATCHING

Drama, audio visual presentations and awards kept the main assembly hall at Meharry Medical College well filled.



### BLACK AND WHITE TOGETHER

Blacks and whites like William Smith, Indianapolis, IN. at the left, and the William Reed's of Chicago, ILL., right, joined in congregational singing together and attended the several events of the Nashville assembly.

# Festival of Choirs



**AN ALL AGE LEVEL CHOIR** from the church in Wichita, KNS. who came by bus early and served throughout the week. George Lakes minister and advisor.



**YOUNG ADULT "EVANGELISTIC CHOIR"** from the United Church of Detroit, MI. planned for months to participate in the "Festival." Pastor LaMar Clark guided their involvement.

## in Song

**THE ALL CONVOCATION YOUTH CHOIR** of more than 50 voices with Charles Webb, Jr., Tulsa, OK. directing. They were beautiful!



**AN ALL DAY DRIVE** the day before enabled the St. Mark Church of Christ in Dunn, N.C.A. to sing in the choir festival. Pastor Robert E. Williams led the way.

# Praising God



# Footprints and Shadows

by Joe Saunders, Dayton, Ohio

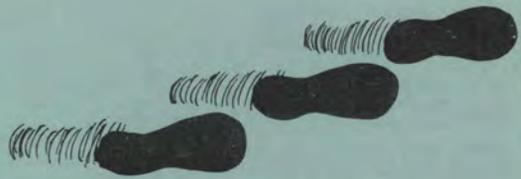
The National Convocation is a great family reunion with brothers and sisters coming from California and New Jersey, Michigan and Mississippi. Coming by plane, by bus and by automobile to renew old friendships and to make new ones.

The National Convocation is a gigantic evangelistic meeting with preaching and signing and teaching. There are Biblical books and wares to be hawked and sold; booths and displays to be admired; and pamphlets and leaflets to gather and take home and to add to the pile of unread pamphlets and leaflets from previous Convocations.

The National Convocation is a refugee camp, always with more to be housed and fed than accommodations will permit. There is the ever present crowd clamoring for service, so insistent and persistent that they seem to be speaking in unknown tongues. There are the long lines waiting at the cafeteria; the demands for towels or bed linen; the complaints about rooms or stairs or heat or noisy neighbors.

The National Convocation is a mid-summer vacation. It is an escape from the worries and cares of life at home. It is a visit to far-off places that may not have been visited otherwise. It is dining without cooking or washing dishes; souvenir hunting and shopping in strange stores. It is sightseeing and a chain of "wish you were here: postcards to send to friends back home.

The National Convocation is the main drag in Harlem while at the same time it is a small black southern town at train time. It is Black



America come together to show the nation its Blackness - to share that one thing we all have in common.

The National Convocation is a blind minister listening to a worship that he cannot see. It is a small child asleep in his father's arms as he hurries down the street to another session. It is an aged rheumatic lady slowly hobbling with her cane to her night quarters. It is the look of rapture on faces as they listen to the songs and the words of Zion. It is a warming friendly smile and greeting from a Disciple whom you've never seen before, and whom you may never see again.

The National Convocation is not a thing, nor a place, nor is it just an event. The National Convocation is an experience. It is a sense of the past, the present and the future - all come together to form an unforgettable interlude in Black History.

Yes, the National Convocation is all of this and something more. It is a feeling of belonging. It is the impression of arriving home after a long and tiresome journey. It is warmth and love and affection. It is family, it is brotherhood, it is a step toward oneness.

It is the ghost of black saints long departed. It is the spirit of black saints now marching in. It is the hope of the yet-to-be-born saints of tomorrow.

All that is what the National Convocation has meant to me.

# State Assemblies, Fellowships, Conventions

**BLACK SISTER WORKSHOPS** - Wilson, NC: Seven CWF Workshops held in seven North Carolina - Virginia Assembly churches last spring (March 6-27) reached 400 women. The study theme - "Water Without Walking" inspired Blessing Box offerings dedicated to developing wells in Third World countries. Luz Bacerra from the department of church women in Indianapolis and Maldonia Jackson of Haynesville, Ala. were among the leaders.

Blessing Box Offerings were as follows:

Sister Workshops:

Western Assembly . . . . .	\$ 73.75
Raleigh-Goldsboro Assembly . . . . .	\$ 66.00
Washington-Norfolk Assembly:	
Hyde County . . . . .	\$221.21
South Albemarle . . . . .	\$470.59
North Albemarle . . . . .	\$290.00
Unity Fellowship . . . . .	\$207.49
Total . . . . .	\$1,329.04

This offering combined with other C.W.F. Blessing Box Giving for 1975-76 totals \$5,828.69, a thousand dollars greater than last year's giving. Sister giving has tripled in the last four years.

North Carolina Associate Regional Minister Raye Feltner provided officer training for CWF leaders.



# Mid-Year Assemblies

**MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY** - Roper, NC: Presiding Bishop S.W.R. Keyes led Washington and Norfolk District Assembly congregations - of eastern North Carolina and Virginia in the mid-year assembly (May 28-29) emphasizing "Love in Action."

A christian education workshop period engaged more than 150 attendants. Ministers discussed the merit of "preaching for versus preaching to" people. Bishop Keyes led the District Board in reporting future work plans for use of the newly constructed headquarter's building.

**MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY** - Goldsboro, NC.: More than 250 members representing congregations in the Raleigh-Goldsboro District Assembly gave considerable concern for renovation and expansion plans for facilities at the Goldsboro Disciples Institute. Presiding Bishop James Melvin coordinated the business periods and supervised the general program of workshops and inspirational services.

**CONVENTION (FELLOWSHIP)** - Georgetown, KY: The Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention embracing the Bible School and Christian Womens Fellowship organization met for the 104th annual gathering July 14-16 at the historic Chambers Avenue Christian Church.

R. E. Hancock, Jr., the retiring president, Key-noted the convention by referring to the evangelistic effort and membership growth of Southern Baptists, Roman Catholics and Southern Presbyterians in Kentucky and the decline of membership among United Methodists and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Hancock noted that "The Long Run Baptist Association of Kentucky which is made up of 130 churches and missions most of which are in Jefferson county, gained 8,685 members in 1975 - a 9 percent increase. Total membership in the association was 100,788 at the end of last year.

"The Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, which takes in 31 Kentucky counties grew from 191,030 to 196,505 members in the one-year period. Membership in Louisville are Presbyterian churches rose from 16,300 to 16,500. Slight membership decreases were reported by local United Methodist and Christian (Disciples of Christ) spokesmen. United Methodist membership in the north and south districts (including Jefferson and several neighboring Kentucky counties) fell from 36,451 to 35,252 in 1975. Christian Church membership decreased from 6,742 to 6,516."

Brother Hancock called upon the Black Disciples of Christ in Kentucky to return to their evangelistic heritage which springs from the New Testament.

Six minister's wives collected \$2,258 for the state scholarship program. College students receiving grants were: Karen Stevenson, Fairview; Jacqueline Jones, Mt. Sterling; Douglas Johnson, Louisville; Regina Garrett, Mt. Sterling; Joseph Hayden, Nicholasville; Vickie Hines, Mt. Sterling; Anita Jones, Mt. Sterling; Tony Jackson, Louisville.

Graduate students were: Juanita Green, Lexington; Sharon Patterson, Paris; Cathy Ferguson, Mt. Sterling.

Convention officers elected for 1976 - 1977 were: George Frazier, Mt. Sterling, President; Bernie Garrett, Mt. Sterling, First Vice-President; Susan Elster, Mt. Sterling, Second Vice-President; Robert Thomas, Mt. Sterling, Secretary; Juanita Green, Lexington, Assistant Secretary; E. Sizemore, Louisville, Treasurer; Edgar Jones, Mt. Sterling, Parliamentarian.

FELLOWSHIP - Hawkins, Texas: The 95th assembly of the Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship was held here at Jarvis Christian College July 14-18.

Officers elected for 1976 - 1977. The Rev. M. C. Dickson of Dallas, vice-president; the Rev. Charles Faulkner of Greenville, president; Mrs. Aurva J. Perry Hooey of Houston, assistant secretary; and the Rev. W. D. Hines of Corsicana, secretary; and the Rev. Corrie Agnew of Houston, treasurer.

National Convocation constituency group president Mary K. Harris was the featured speaker for the 70 women attending to CWF Workshop Sessions.

Mrs. Cora P. Ward, out-going president, was given a plaque for out-standing service. She was not a candidate for re-election.

Officers elected were as follows: Giley Griffins, Dallas, president; Miley Henry, Dallas, Vice-President; Ruthye M. Jackson, Jacksonville, secretary; Carrie L. Fudgen, Greenville, treasurer; Lizzie Earl, Bay City, Study; Irene Quarrells, Worship; Corsicana, and Carrie L. Johnson, Dallas, Service.

All key women remained the same except in District No. 2. Ella M. Grant, Dallas, was elected to that position.

Giving for mission causes was as follows:

TCMF . . . . .	\$500.00
State Development Fund . . . . .	\$200.00
Scholarship Fund for Ministerial Aid. . . . .	\$350.00
(Jarvis)	
Star Supporter Fund . . . . .	\$ 25.00
Church Women United . . . . .	\$ 35.00
Total . . . . .	\$1111.00

The Service project was draperies for the boys dorm at Jarvis College. They were dedicated - Carrie Johnson, Service Chairwoman was in charge.

CONVENTION - Indianola, MS: The 89th annual assembly of the Mississippi Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) brought more than 125 representatives of Black Disciples of Christ congregations in the state together here to consider the theme: "Giving Life to The Church."

Workshops dealt with "The Lifeless Church and Courageous Christian Mission," "The CMF-CWF Galaxy of Stars," and "Attitudes of Thanksgiving."

Bessie Buck reported that cooperation by 15 congregations made it possible to hold the Leadership Conference in Port Gibson July 8-9. Sixty-eight attendants from these churches dealt with the subject of "The Renewal and Growth of Congregations."

Louise Allen, director for the Christian Women's Fellowship in the Regional Office in Jackson, was among the resource leaders.

The assembly was challenged with a presentation of congregational needs for the Central Church of Vicksburg. C. C. Mosley of Jackson urged cooperation for the "Mobilization of Support Sunday" effort scheduled for August

## Hannah Gets Doctorate

July 1976 Pittsburg Theological Seminary in Pittsburg, PA. announced that William Hannah had "completed all of the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Degree" and was therefore

"eligible to have the degree confirmed upon him."

Dr. Hannah assumed the position of executive secretary of the Department of Evangelism and Membership Development in the Division of Homeland Ministries of The Christian Church September 1.

## Wyneva Johnson Passes Bar

Wyneva Johnson, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Aaron Johnson of Greenwood, was admitted to the Mississippi Bar before the Leflore County Chancery Court and Mississippi State Supreme Court recently.

Her father is minister of the East Percy Street Christian Church and a past president of the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention.

Miss Johnson is a graduate of Threadgill High School, where she was chosen salutatorian of her graduating class and president of the student body.

She received her B.A. degree, cum laude, from Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., and her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pa. She is presently a graduate student at Georgetown University Law Center, where she is pursuing a LL.M degree.

# Open NBA Policy Announced

President William T. Gible of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has reaffirmed the open door policy held by all homes and institutions related to N.B.A.

Donald Legg, a special assistant to President Gible, distributed a "To Whom it May Concern" letter from Dr. Gible during the Nashville meeting of the National Convocation which read:

"This letter is to certify that it is the policy and practice of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church and of all Homes and institutions which it sponsors that the services which we offer to persons in need whether aging or children, youth or families, are available without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

This policy arises from our articles of incorporation and our present constitution and by-laws. It has been confirmed by action of our National Board, and has been conveyed as policy to each home and institution affiliated with the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church.

The same policy applies with regard to employment practices.

In any instance involving a specific application of this policy, I will be pleased to correspond with interested persons and give my personal assurance that every effort is made to carry out this policy in all relationships."

NBA employees 1,234 persons in approximately 32 Home Centers and 39 persons in its central office at 115 N. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

# Burford Succeeds Compton



Another woman has been appointed to an important post at the national level of life and work in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Effie Stamps Burford, an Indianapolis romance language teacher in the city public schools and member of Black Church Work Committee of the Christian Church in Indiana, has been appointed chairwoman of the General Church Reconciliation Committee. General Minister and President Kenneth L. Teegarden issued the announcement.

She will succeed John Compton of Cincinnati, Ohio who had held that appointment since the inception of Reconciliation in 1969.

Mrs. Burford is a member of Second Christian Church in Indianapolis; a graduate of Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Ms — a former mission school — and holds a masters degree in religious education from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

**Reconciliation  
is**



**BY  
and  
FOR PEOPLE**

# Vignettes FROM the FIELD

## AMONG THE CONGREGATIONS

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS. . . The following members of Centennial Christian Church are in colleges and universities working on degree programs: Patricia Fuller, Culver-Stockton College; Desiree Ellington, Northwest Missouri State; Diane Hart, Harris Teacher's College; Jennifer Hart, University of Missouri, St. Louis; Sheryl Hart, Fontbonne College; Janice Bosman, St. Louis University Medical School; Karen Hopkins, St. Louis University; Jackie Davis, University of St. Louis, St. Louis; Leonard Marshall, Forest Park Community College; Evert Marshall, Benedictine College; David Shelton, Bishop College; Samuel Hylton III, Texas Christian University; Bradley Hart, Florissant Valley Community College; Russell Hart, University of Missouri, St. Louis.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON. . . Emily Sandusky of the East Second Street Church was crowned "State Usher Queen for 1976" during its annual meeting held here April 25. Edwins Spaulding of Central Church in Louisville was runner-up and Sophia Walker of Fairview was third. Portion of funds raised went to the State-wide scholarship fund and the operational expense of the State Convention office.

NORTH CAROLINA, ROPER. . . Dedicatory services for the Union Chapel Church of Christ were held here August 15. Features included music by the Black Swamp Church Choir; message by Union Chapel Pastor Early Whitehurst; dinner in the Assembly's new headquarter's building; greetings from Roper Mayor E. V. Wilkins and the "Dedicatory Sermon" by Karey E. L. Gee from the regional church office of North Carolina.

OHIO, CINCINNATI. . . The 106th anniversary of Fifth Christian Church was held September 19.

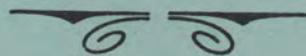
## Black Disciples Legacy Series



Order from  
NATIONAL  
CONVOCAION  
of the  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
P.O. Box 1986  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Black people have made an enormous contribution to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Here are eight sketches of Blacks whose lives are significant parts of the legacy of history in the Christian Church.

1. *James H. Thomas*
2. *William Albin*
3. *James Nelson Erwin*
4. *Mary Jamison Albin*
5. *Thomas Buchanan Frost*
6. *Rosa Brown Bracey*
7. *Preston Taylor*
8. *Deetsy Blackburn Gray*



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\$1 in quantities of five or more



# Return from Africa

Twenty-two American members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) returned from a fraternal visit to Africa on August 5 better informed about that continent and impressed with the vitality of its churches.

They had spent three weeks talking with African leaders in Kenya in the east, South Africa at the southern tip, Zaire in the heart of the continent and Liberia on the west coast.

The group, including 19 professional and elected Disciples leaders, was headed by Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden of Indianapolis, Disciples' general minister and president; Dr. James A. Moak of Lexington, Ky., moderator; and Dr. Robert A. Thomas of Indianapolis, president of the church's Division of Overseas Ministries.

Topics of discussions included African churches' determination to run their own affairs and stop depending on overseas churches, liberation, development, current social conditions, Africanization, Christian unity and church programming.

Arrangements for the fraternal visit were hand-

led by Dr. Robert G. Nelson of Indianapolis, executive secretary of the Africa department of the Disciples' Division of Overseas Ministries.

The Americans were shown church endeavors ranging from the Communication Training Center of the All-Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya, to a rural development project and hospital at Kimpese, Zaire.

The visitors worshiped with some congregations that still follow patterns introduced by missionaries and others that have adapted traditional African forms, including drums and dancing.

They saw major cities and thatch-roofed villages, up-to-date demonstration farms and manioc patches cultivated by women with short-handled hoes, modern air terminals and squalid slums, young independent nations and South Africa's rigid apartheid (racial separation) system.

En route to Africa, the group stopped in Geneva, Switzerland, for orientation in offices of the World Council of Churches.

Stressing that the fraternal visit was for increasing understanding, not decision-making, Dr. Teegarden said that participants will prepare no "findings" or recommendations.

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# Up-Date

4/9/12  
ON THE  
BLACK  
CHURCH

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



## "Upon The Midnight Clear..."

It takes piercing and hopeful eyes to see light in the midst of darkness. Yet that is one important meaning of Christmas - that the GOOD NEWS of God's love "CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR."

Every air traveler knows that while rain may be pouring down on the ground, the sun can be shining brightly two to three thousand feet above.

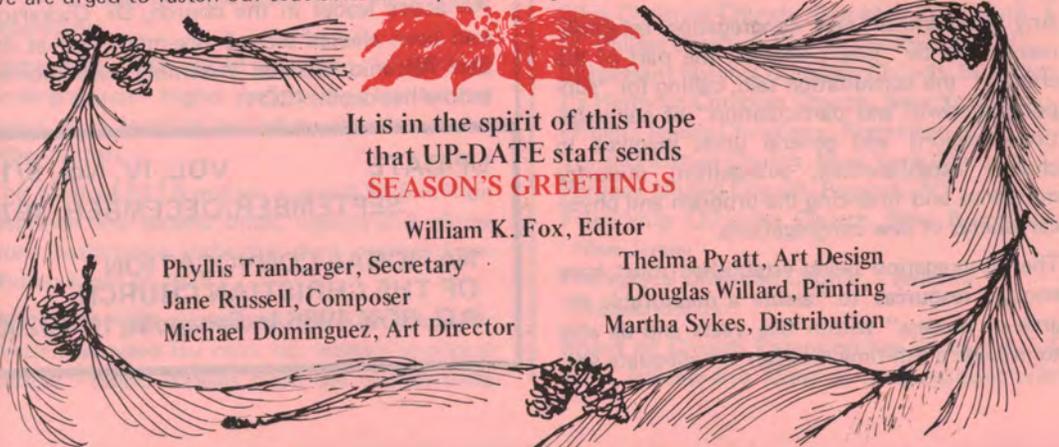
Aeronautical science enables us "to see through a dark glass." So if the radar screen shows a storm raging ahead, we merely fasten our seat belts and fly a little higher.

Fourteen year old poet Lynn Swisher of Spokane, Washington recently sent UP-DATE these lines:

"But now things look so sad.  
For all our prayers and promises  
Have washed up on the beach.  
They are in our sight and at  
Arm's length,  
Just not within our reach."

But Christmas which makes the Christ and His way central joins the New Year to bring new hope UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR.

We are urged to fasten our seat belts and fly a little higher.



It is in the spirit of this hope  
that UP-DATE staff sends  
**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

William K. Fox, Editor

Phyllis Tranbarger, Secretary  
Jane Russell, Composer  
Michael Dominguez, Art Director

Thelma Pyatt, Art Design  
Douglas Willard, Printing  
Martha Sykes, Distribution

## New Church Meet Held

The Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) recently approved a four-year program of establishing black, Hispanic and white congregations.

The committee, which met in Indianapolis November 14-16, heard a request from a consultation on new church establishment which suggests the program begin in 1980.

The consultation, in its recent meeting, said major emphasis should be placed on establishing black congregations, "but not to the exclusion of Hispanic or white congregations."

The proposal calls for three phases:

- Launching the necessary funding process by January 1, 1980.

- Establishing congregations in strategic areas determined by thorough research during 1981.

- Determining the number of black, Hispanic and white congregations to be established during 1982-83.

The consultation agreed that "if research indicates, Asiatic and/or native American congregations may also become a concern in congregational establishment."

(Congregations - whether black, Hispanic or white - would be established "where population density dictates such priority rating." Where possible, they would be integrated and bilingual.

Any program of new congregation establishment must be "intentional on the part of the church," the consultation said, calling for "support, goodwill and participation" of congregations, regions and general units involved in church establishment, evangelism, minority ministries and financing the program and physical aspects of new congregations.

The congregation being established must have enough resources to "assure a measurable degree of success" within five years and be able to provide a full-time minister, an adequate site,

a first unit and a congregation of "sufficient size as to manifest vitality and viability."

The consultation is recommending consideration of the Board of Church Extension as the organization responsible for coordinating church establishment programs with the Division of Homeland Ministries, regions and the Church Finance Council.

Participants in the consultation included representatives of general and regional units and black and Hispanic constituency groups. (CCN)

## Center Named for Ann

The Meharry Child Development Center in Nashville, Tenn. will be renamed for a laywoman active in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) until her death a year ago.

The center will be renamed the Ann Dickerson Child Development Center, according to an announcement by the Meharry Medical College Advisory Council, which cited Dr. Dickerson's many contributions to the school.

Dr. Dickerson, who died October 25, 1975, while attending a denominational committee meeting in St. Louis, Mo., had been assistant director of the center and assistant professor in the department of pediatrics at Meharry.

She also had been active in work with the mentally retarded and in public health. She was the author of many articles which appeared in professional journals.

An active leader in the church, Dr. Dickerson had been elected second vice-moderator at the San Antonio General Assembly two months before her death. (CCN)

UP-DATE VOL. IV. Nos. 9/12  
SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER, 1976

NATIONAL CONVOCATION  
OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

## More Money for Seminaries

The body which allocates funds to the world work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has announced an 18 per cent increase to seminaries in 1978.

The amount is more than three times the increase that will go to general program units of the church and is in response to a General Assembly resolution making ministerial education a major priority through 1979.

The church's Commission on Budget Evaluation has allocated \$803,378 to seven seminaries and seminary foundations in 1978. The \$676,861 allocation for 1977 was made two years ago.

Commission Chairman Dale A. Stitt, a Portland, Ore., pastor, gave as one of the reasons for the substantial increase the unavailability of foundation and government funds "in most circumstances" for seminaries.

He raised again the possibility - talked about for years - of "some consideration regarding possibly consolidating the current seminaries into larger and more productive units."

The commission allocated \$7,308,229 to 15 general units of the church for 1978, an increase of 6.2 per cent over the 1977 allocation.

The commission recommended \$4,552,079 of the available general funds in 1978 be sent to the 35 regional operations, though the precise amounts must be negotiated with each region separately.

Some \$930,000 would be given in 1978 to undergraduate higher education institutions based on a formula related to enrollment and other factors.

The total of \$13.5 million is about \$1.5 million less than the general units, regions and education institutions indicated they needed from church funds in 1978.

The 13-member commission - roughly equally divided between lay men, lay women and local pastors - heard appeals from the church units

September 20-21 and waded through a book of financial data two inches thick in making its decisions. (CCN)

## BCE Benefits Northeast Area\*

Ninety-three years ago the Board of Church Extension came into existence to provide capital financing for Christian Churches involved in facilities expansion and improvements. Since that time, the Board has granted more than \$159 million in loans. Of this amount over \$1 million has gone to Christian Churches and their organizations in the Northeastern Region to help purchase sites, parsonages and equipment; finance remodeling and construction of education worship and fellowship facilities; acquire and improve camping conference centers; and provide facilities for regional offices, campus ministries and church sponsored community service centers.

Currently, seventeen loans with principal amounts totaling \$578,900 are in effect in the five states of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut - comprising the Northeastern Region.

Interest bearing loans of \$428,500 are currently being held by the following congregations in the Region:

Antioch Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York  
 Sinai Christian Church, Brooklyn, New York  
 St. Philips Christian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
 Stuyvesant Heights Christian Church, Brooklyn,  
 La Hermosa Christian Church, New York City  
 Primera Iglesia Christiana, Rochester, NY  
 Third Christian Church, New York City  
 Pompey United Church, Pompey, NY  
 Friendship Christian Church, New Brunswick,  
 New Jersey  
 Evangelical Christian Church, Lawrence,  
 Massachusetts

Board of Church Extension has in the past offered interest-free loans to congregations with

special needs. More than \$7 million in such loans has been granted since the program was inaugurated in 1949. Of this amount, \$154,000 has gone to congregations in the Northeastern Region.

The Board has found it necessary to establish a moratorium on interest-free loans. This decision is due to the fact that when the need for such loans for new facilities was great, including those of minority congregations, the Board provided these funds even though it means using monies on which it must pay interest.

In the Northeastern Region the following churches currently hold \$109,000 in interest-free loans, granted before the moratorium was imposed:

Sina Christian Church, Brooklyn, New York  
Salem Church of Christ, Hempstead, NY  
Central Christian Church, Elmira, NY  
Primera Iglesia Christiana, Rochester, NY

At the close of 1975, fifteen requests for interest-free loans amounting to \$44,400 were on a "holding" list pending availability of funds.

Church Extension's principal source of income for the interest-free loan fund is gift allocations from churches and special regional capital campaigns. The Board feels that it is essential that this vital service be restored to the churches as quickly as possible. However, until outreach capital giving is sufficiently increased to clear up the overdraft, the interest-free loan moratorium will continue.

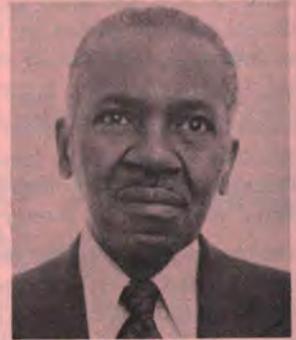
In addition to the scores of field visits by professional staff to counsel Northeastern area congregations on financial, architectural, fund raising, study and site matters, over \$88,049 in gifts from the Church Extension Development Fund has been granted to the Northeastern Region and to the Board of Higher Education of the Christian Church to fund the highly successful, four-year Northeastern Leadership Development Project to assist Black and Hispanic ministers in the improvement of their education and leadership skills. . . .

None of the aforementioned services could have been provided at all without the availability of

millions of dollars in funds invested with the Board of Church Extension by individuals and organizations across the nation. . .

*\*Prepared by: Donald E. Mitchell, Director, Public Relations, Board of Church Extension. (Excerpts)*

## Saunders New Staff Member



A former newspaper editor-owner and career government employee from Dayton, Ohio, joined the staff of the office of communication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in October.

Joseph S. Saunders, who has edited papers in Dayton and Rockford, Ill., is undertaking a special three-month assignment to write features, cover news and develop information pieces for the Disciples.

Saunders is a member of the advisory committee to the church's office of communication and has worked with the office on special projects.

He is on leave from the U.S. Postal Service during this period.

A long-time member of the Christian Church, Saunders has nearly 30 years of government service, first in the U.S. Army, then as a civilian in Army Reserve administration and presently as a postal clerk. He has edited postal worker union monthlies.

Saunders founded, edited and published the weekly Crusader in 1950-63 in Rockford, Ill. He edited and, for a time, was part-owner of the Dayton Express, a weekly, from 1965-69.

He was moderator of a weekly talk show on a Dayton radio station for a time. (CCN).

# Vignettes from THE FIELD (Among the Congregations)

**TEXAS, DALLAS.** . . . Denley Drive Christian Church honored four ministers in response to "The Week of Ministry," in 1976 the Elder & Mrs. L. B. Facen and "the Elder" Elbie G. Titus were presented diplomas of recognition for over 45 years of outstanding services to the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ). Other ministers honored were the Rev. Alva Brown, associate minister of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and the Rev. Sir Walter Scott, Jr. minister of Denley Drive Christian Church.

**CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE.** . . . The fledgling Community Christian Church at 80 South Fifth Street held its first revival in October. Dr. William W. Hannah of Indianapolis, IN, executive secretary for the Department of Evangelism and Membership was a featured speaker. Pastor Eugene James of the Mills Grove Church in Oakland, CA. was also a guest leader.

**TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS.** . . . Certificates of Recognition to all members of the Walker Memorial Christian Church holding membership for 10 to 21 years highlighted the 1976 Loyalty Month observances. The 22nd. anniversary of the congregation was held October 10 with awards to teachers for unusual teaching skills as a highlight. Other features included a Men's Day and Senior Choir Day with an "Anniversary Sermon" by Dr. Blair T. Hunt. G.A. Evans is pastor.

**PENNSYLVANIA, PITTSBURGH.** . . . Work started in October on the new building and community center for the East Hills Community Christian Church. Initiation of church school classes and a special series of afternoon services were features during this historic month in the life of the congregation. Pastor Arthur L. Harris brought messages on the theme: "Visions of the Promised Land."

**MARYLAND, HAGERSTOWN.** . . . Pastor Frank B. Bradley of Second Church reports that special grants to the congregation through Reconciliation and the Church Action for Safe and Just Communities has enabled Second Church to 1. reorganize the Sunday School with some new teachers and students; 2. organize another choir; 3. Increase attendance in the Sunday morning service and 4. Motivate new interest in the newly elected officers. Pastor Bradley adds: "I am very grateful for the support."

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS.** . . . The seventh annual anniversary celebration for Pastor and Mrs. T. Garrott Benjamin in October heralded "Seven Sensational Years" by pointing to ten specific areas of progress during this period. Dr. Benjamin was a major contributor to a recent stewardship emphasis study tape produced by the Disciples Information Service Cassette (DISC).

**OHIO, CINCINNATI.** . . . United Church recently recognized 23 of its members pursuing degree programs in 13 institutions of higher education in eight states. John Compton is pastor.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE.** . . . Congregations creating special banners used in the fourth biennial session of the National Convocation of the Christian Church were: Mills Grove Church, Oakland, CA; North Heights Church, Wichita, KN; Clark Street Church, Greenville, TX; Fifth Church, Cleveland, O; United Church, Detroit, MI; Park Manor Church, Chicago; and Gay-Lea Church, Nashville, TN.

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS.** . . . Special dinner-report events held recently in Burnham Auditorium of Missions Building enabled Helen Pilgrim Miner to relate the hair raising experience of being in an earthquake in Red China and Thomas Griffin to tell of his special study of LIBERATION while in Bosse Institute near Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Miner is now on special assignment in Zaire. Brother Griffin has resumed work here with the Church Finance Council Staff.

# Blacks and Browns Lead Crime Fight

Black and Hispanic (Brown) Disciples of Christ leaders, located mainly in racial minority communities, have launched major efforts to fight crime. The eighteen projects located in fifteen states is called "Church Action for Safe and Just Communities" and is coordinated by Gerald Cunningham on the Department of Church and Society Staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis.

The programs are designed to meet one or more of the following objectives:

1. Promote programs serving a high impact in a small segment of a given community.
2. Direct attention to a particular facet of the problem of crime in a minority community.
3. To increase citizen participation in anti-crime efforts in local communities.
4. Aim at pre-trial diversion and the release of juveniles or adults to volunteer persons in a local community.

Here is what Black and Brown (Hispanic) church workers are doing now:

**Iglesia Cristiana del Pueblo Church Action Project**, Dallas, Texas recruits volunteers from Iglesia Cristiana del Pueblo and the East Dallas Christian Church to develop alternative programs for juveniles, some of whom were involved in drug abuse, dropping out of school and other "non-status offenses."

**Franklinton Center, Inc.**, Bricks, North Carolina, a project sponsored primarily by the United Church of Christ, is a juvenile delinquency prevention program. A major feature of this project encouraged young people to be aware of their rights and responsibilities in the criminal justice system.

**La Hermosa Christian Church** project, New York City, involves the La Hermosa Christian Church in a program of providing services to prison inmates and their families, including transportation to prisons in the New York City

area to assist persons in visitation of incarcerated relatives.

**Project Alternatives to Fear**, Chicago, Illinois, provides an organization to combat fear and apathy to the problems of crime and the fear of crime on the southwest side of Chicago, an area referred to as the West Pullman District, a Black, Spanish and multi-ethnic community.

**Warren Area Clergy Task Force on Violent Crime** engages members of the Third Christian Church in a coalition effort through the Warren Area Clergy Task Force on Violent Crime to combat instances of violent crime and the problem of the lack of police accountability to the Black Community in Warren, Ohio.

**The Washington and Norfolk District Church Action for Safe and Just Communities** has sought to contact all pastors and churches in the Norfolk District to ascertain problems and awareness of criminal justice activity in this area. This project has also included voter registration as a strategy to enhance police accountability.

**Second Christian Church Action Project**, Indianapolis, Indiana, engaged two probation officers and an ex-offender in a series of meetings with young people as a juvenile delinquency prevention program measure. This project also engaged the Indianapolis Police Department public affairs office to conduct seminars on anti-crime techniques. This project has been carried out in collaboration with Youth Illustrates and Ex-felons and Community Together.

**Pastors on Patrol** was organized by the United Christian Church in Detroit, Michigan as an effort to assist local churches to patrol their neighborhood through the use of CB Band radios and walking patrols.

**Night Hawk** counseling service was also organized and sponsored by the United Christian Church in Detroit providing an emergency service to assist youth and adults. This Church Action project also provided a community recreation program to help fill a gap brought about by greatly diminished city recreational services.

**Pleasant Grove Christian Church Action Pro-**

ject, Fayetteville, North Carolina, making use of personnel from Ft. Bragg military post, conducted a program of recreation and drug counseling.

**Hillside Christian Church Action Project**, Indianapolis, Indiana organized young people around various work projects and provided drug counseling.

**Second Christian Church Action Project** of Hagerstown, Maryland, in collaboration with the First Christian Church and the Hagerstown Businessmen's Association, organized a Neighborhood Information Center and drug prevention program.

**Youth Illustrates**, Indianapolis, Indiana, provides the occasion for young people to educate the community through the use of drama, acting out problems of drug abuse and other forms of delinquency engaged in by many youth. This program also provides a telephone hot line.

**East Hills Community Christian Church**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Neighborhood Emergency Project is a concerted effort on the part of the East Hills Community Christian Church and the local groups in the East Hills community of Pittsburgh. This project attempts to develop a liaison system between local social service type agencies and the police department for the purpose of referral and action.

**Felons & Community Together**, Indianapolis, Indiana, is aimed at engaging ex-offenders as para-professional counselors providing guidance to youth with difficulty with the law.

**Segunda Iglesia Cristiana Church Action Project**, Bronx, New York, through the work of Angel Bonilla provides services to undocumented aliens.

**First Christian Church**, Kansas City, Missouri, provided GED (General Education Development) training for 80 persons to date for this year and couples volunteers with juveniles in trouble. This program also provides space and various services to the elderly, including a neighborhood community safety program.

It is anticipated that the Church Action Pro-

jects will need to be expanded by 3 to 5 projects in 1977, while projects in two communities might be consolidated.

A special donor plus contributors to **Reconciliation** help congregations perform these ministries.

## ECHOES ECHOES ECHOES

-- From General Meetings --

**GOLDSBORO, N.C.** -- The 104 Annual Session of the Goldsboro-Raleigh District Assembly for the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) held in October emphasized the theme - "The Sound from Heaven." Presiding Bishop James L. Melvin was joined in making major presentations by Deacon Emerson Peterson, Elders Kenneth Dunk, Carlisle Brenington, Ethel Sandlin, W. Cooper, R. T. Carter and A. M. Cogdell. Mrs. E. D. Garner directed the educational workshop and Elder Clarence Johnson from the Department of Ministry in Indianapolis gave the "Annual Educational Program" sermon.

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** - - In a fall letter to all Black congregations in Alabama, Executive Secretary Earl Murray for the Alabama Christian Missionary Convention, gave the following suggestions for Black Disciples of Christ" to get into the mainstream of the Church:"

- \* Attend all national and regional events
- \* Renew communications with regional board for the purpose of working towards a common goal
- \* Develop and retain an updated directory on members of the ACMC who are willing to work in national and state capacities
- \* Have a conference with officials of the General Church, General Ministers - Presidents, Representatives of Homeland Ministries, Regional Minister and Staff, and the Representatives of ACMC.

# Crime Fighting Church Leaders

*Left to Right:  
Gerald Cunningham,  
Indianapolis; S.O.  
Williams, Fayette-  
ville, N.C.; Frank  
Bradley, Washing-  
ton, D.C.; Robert  
Faulkner, Warren  
OH.*

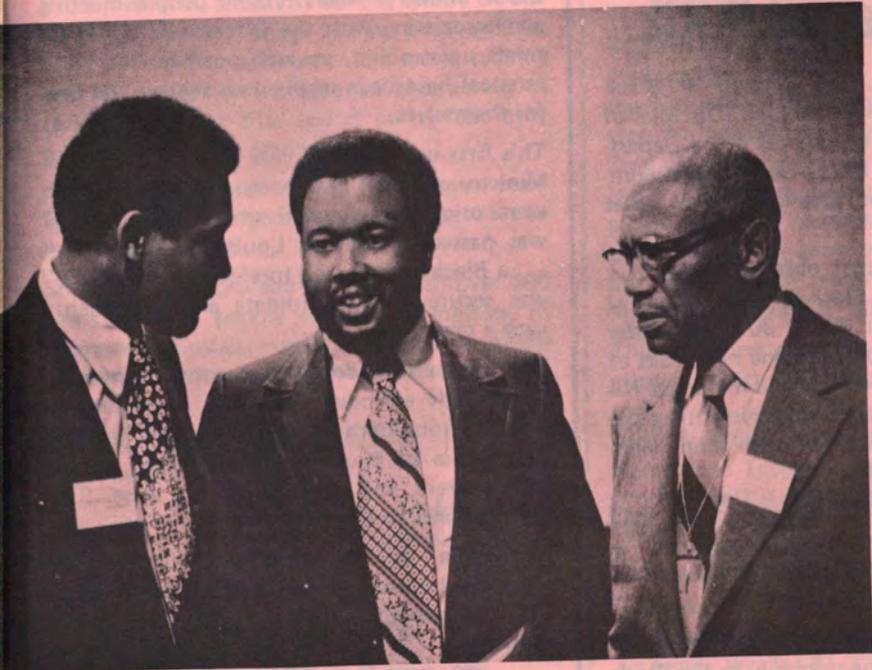
*Picture by  
Lillian Moir*



*Left to Right:  
Gerald Cunningham, In-  
dianapolis; Warren  
Burriss, Indpls.;  
Sherwin Barclay, Chic-  
ago, Ill.; Ray Radcliffe, Ind-  
ianapolis; Alice Warren,  
N.C.*

*Picture by  
Lillian Moir*

# Johnson Black Ministries Services <sup>9.</sup>



*At First Retreat:  
Greeting Bennie Thomp-  
son, Mayor of Bolton,  
Miss. and Moses Lambert,  
Riedsville, N.C.*

*Picture by  
R. L. Schafer*



*In Strategy Meetings:  
With Claude Walker,  
Kansas City, MO. and  
Lorenzo Evans, Indi-  
anapolis.*

*Picture by  
R.L. Schafer*

# On the Johnson Departure

by W. K. Fox

Clarence L. Johnson, Jr., Director of Black Ministry, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has concluded his services in the Department of Ministry. He left to accept opportunities for doing an even greater work in other parts of the Church.

According to competent observers who have followed staff serving Black Disciples of Christ ministers for the past 25 to 30 years. Elder Johnson successfully blazed some new trails of service to ministerial recruits and ministers. His two and one half years of employment by the Department of Ministry enabled some landmarks to be established.

There is now a new enthusiasm on the field among Black Disciple ministers and laity — much of it due to the work of Clarence Johnson.

Benefits coming to the Church from the Black Ministry program are due primarily to the Black Disciples of Christ Caucus group of the late 1960's who sensitized the Church to respond to these pressing needs in Christian ministry. Other leaders, of course, joined the Caucus and General Board in making the work a reality.

Through the Salary Support Program authorized by the General Assembly in 1971 and administered by Brother Johnson from 1974 through 1976 ten previously bi-vocational Black pastors are full-time salaried ministers and their congregations under high motivation.

Approximately 35 Black pastors have taken advantage of continuing education opportunities.

One has to go back to the days of the 1940's when Charles Webb and Emmett Dickson were national staff to find any significant response of Black pastor's to an institute which comes near approaching the program and attendance of the first two national retreats directed by Elder Johnson.

Approximately 100 seminary and undergradu-

ate pre-ministerial students have received scholarship assistance through the Director of Black Ministry. Many young people meeting and associating with the Director in youth retreats, assemblies, revivals, camps and conferences have been inspired to achieve the best for themselves.

This first two and half year phase of the Black Ministry program has borne the fruits which were originally intended when Resolution 47 was passed in 1971 in Louisville, Kentucky. " . . . a Black staff person (preferably under 30)" was secured "to coordinate and implement" such a program.

This program will continue to grow and become increasingly effective. Johnson's successor will benefit from both his successes and failures. The Cause of equipping the Saints to do the Lord's work will succeed in any case. This work belongs to God.

Meanwhile our blessings go with Brother Clarence Johnson as he begins another phase of what promises to be a long and fruitful ministry.

## Is There a Message in Your Song?

Excerpts by Joe Saunders\*

Perhaps today as we sit in our imposing church edifices of steel and stone and stained glass, not too many of us remember the old frame buildings in the country where we or our parents once worshipped. . .

Songs were simpler then. We didn't seem to need so many arrangements and parts for all of the different voices. Organs and pianos were not considered essential and there were no elaborate acoustics to control volume. But the songs seemed to be more meaningful. They seemed to carry a message. And the listeners heard.

I think in particular of some of the Negro spirituals - "Go Down Moses," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child." With themes mostly lifted directly from the Bible, the songs spoke fervently to both singer and listener. And they

were heard. . .

Today, as we compose in a relative atmosphere of unrestricted freedom, do the words of our songs still have meaning? Are we sending forth word of the Good News or are we just filling the air waves with a warmed over string of sharps and flats that sound pretty but only make a momentary impression?

Are we sending forth in song, a message of comfort and hope and promise that the world is so greatly in need of? . . .

Some of the Negro spirituals are well over 300 years old and people still find a message of comfort and solace in them. How long and how universally will our songs of today be remembered?

Is there a message in our songs?  
And Are the people hearing it?

\* Director of Information  
Office of Communication

## Black Song

(Ode to Black Poets)

by Pat Ford, Philadelphia, PA.

I am a song, A black song.  
A loud, wild, untamed song.  
I fly on the wings of the wind,  
My voice screaming at the sky.

I am as dark and mysterious  
as the night,  
Created out of the heart  
of my people,  
Nourished by their tears  
Like a flower is nourished  
by the rain.

I grew strong, proud, fearless.

I am a song  
A black  
beautiful  
song.

## Convocation Trustees Act

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Among the several actions taken during the recent first meeting of the National Convocations's Board of Trustees was the appointment of an Interim Steering Committee on Program Evaluation and Planning in compliance with a 1976 National Convocation assembly recommendation. The interim committee is to propose "the guidelines and proposals" to be considered by the Trustees March 31 and April 1, 1977.

This is a first step. The present interim committee consisting of Oscar Haynes, Alvin Jackson, Irving Allen, Effie Blair, Lee E. Koonce, and Timothy James will be expanded. Drs. Kenneth L. Teegarden and William K. Fox will provide staff guidance to the inquiry. Consultants will be added.

Other Trustee actions October 19 included:

- \* Receiving President Haynes' announcement that he had placed the National Convocation in his family will for \$1,000.
- \* Confirmed unanimous Trustee mail vote to help the NAACP in its fiscal crisis due to the Mississippi suit by making a \$1,000 grant and purchasing a \$500 Life Membership.
- \* Set August 2 - 6, 1978 as the official date for the Fifth Biennial Assembly to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- \* Appointed a three member task force to work with the Church Finance Council on "specialized promotion" among Convocation-related congregations.
- \* Approved requests from the Youth Steering Committee to be more functionally related to the Assembly program planning process.
- \* Approved 1977 and 1978 budgets.
- \* Suggested program emphases to the Program Steering Committee for the Fifth Assembly — **stressing evangelism.**
- \* Urged that the Board of Higher Education to make the Short Term Experimental Experiences in Ministry (STEEM) a part of the

# Brooks Ranked Captain

A former Chillicothe High School teacher was ordained last May the day following his graduation from Howard University School of Religion, Washington, D.C.

The Rev. James Brooks was graduated cum laude from Howard's Master of Divinity Program and then ordained as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Pastor of St. James Apostle Church, Washington, D.C., since March, 1975, he entered the U.S. Air Force June 26 as a chaplain with the rank of captain..

Chaplain Brooks is classified as a Disciples of

Christ minister and stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, Arkansas.

He was national assistant superintendent of Sunday Schools, Glorious Church of God in Christ (August 1968-August, 1970). In September, 1971, he was employed as a teacher by the Chillicothe Board of Education, leaving this position in September, 1973, to become youth choir director at the 12th Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Washington D.C. In addition to serving as choir director until March, 1975, he was the church's Christian education director from November, 1973 to March, 1975.

## WOMEN & WORK

In the United States:

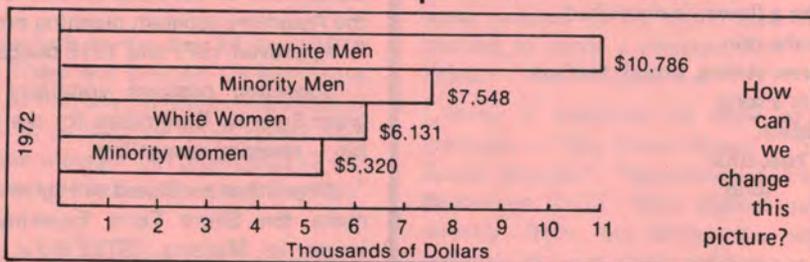
1. Nine out of ten women will work in paid employment during their lifetime.
2. Women make up 39 percent of the national labor force.
3. A majority of women work because of economic need. About three-fifths of all women workers are single, widowed, divorced, or separated, or have husbands whose earnings are less than \$7,000 a year.
4. Women workers are concentrated in low-paying dead-end jobs. As a result, the average woman worker earns less than three-fifths of what a man earns even when both work full-time all year round.
5. Half of all women workers are employed in only seventeen kinds of occupations; half of all men workers are employed in sixty-three kinds of jobs.

6. Women are 77 percent of all clerical workers but only 4 percent of all craft workers and 19 percent of all managers.
7. At age thirty-five, a married woman who has completed her family has a work life expectancy of twenty-four years.

While many women work, they continue to earn less than men.

Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor

The data and chart reproduced above is taken from a new publication, **In God's Image; Toward Wholeness for Women and Men**, edited by Lois Snook and LaVonne Althouse. Published by the Division for Mission in North America of the Lutheran Church in America, it is also being distributed by the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. (from National Office of Project Equality April 1976 Newsletter)



# Rand Inaugurated



The November 13th Inauguration of Dr. E. W. Rand as seventh president of Jarvis Christian College served as the highlight of a brilliant career and a sign of the beginning of a new role for Jarvis as an institution of Higher Education.

Dr. Robert Hayes, president of Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, delivered the address. A host of dignitaries from learned institutions, the church and community were in attendance.

Dr. Rand is a native of Lodi, Texas in Cass County and his experience in the education field reaches back 46 years with his first teaching assignment in the Public Elementary Schools of Cass and Marion Counties.

His appointment to the head position at Jarvis marked the fifth time in his career he will be affiliated with the college. The first contact was in 1931 when he was a student of Jarvis, then a junior college. His later positions included biology instructor and dean of the college, 1937-1942; professor of education and dean of men, 1945-1948 and executive dean, 1957-1959.

The 64 year old veteran educator holds a B.A. from Bishop College, Marshall, Texas; a M.S. in Biology, Atlanta University and a Doctorate of Education, Indiana University where he majored in administration.

# Judge Area Trustee



Judge Eugene N. Hamilton, a member of the Heritage church, is a trustee of the Christian

Church - Capital Area and a former regional vice president. A native of Tennessee, he holds degrees from the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois Law School. He has served in the United States army and as a member of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1970 Hamilton became an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia where he is known among members of the bar as a stern but fair judge. He has shown particular interest in reforming outdated criminal procedures, and he is noted for his rehabilitative approach to sentencing.

# Black Heads Writer Assoc.



William A. Reed, Jr., religious editor of the Nashville Tennessean, has become the first black reporter and the first Southerner to be chosen president of the Religion Newswriters Association since it was founded in 1948.

Mr. Reed, who was the first black reporter to be hired by the Tennessean, was named at the annual meeting of the association held here in connection with the general convention of the Episcopal Church.

The RNA is made up of more than 100 men and women who report the news of religion for secular papers, wire services and news magazine. Mr. Reed succeeds Richard N. Osling, New York, religion writer for Time Magazine. (RNS).

**Convocation Trustees, Cont.** from Pg. 11  
Board's on-going program.

\* Approved the purchase of certificates of deposit from the Board of Church Extension with \$60,000 paid by creditors on balance due on some Nashville property.

This was the first Board of Trustee meeting in the new biennium.

## Responses

On "The Untold Story"

Dear Dr. Fox:

I just completed reading "The Untold Story — A Short History of Black Disciples." It's great! I wish the black executives of the other Christian communions would tell the "untold story."

Since I do not know who sent me a copy of the booklet, I am sending my thanks to you. And I sincerely hope you will pass my thanks on and on. . .

Sincerely,

Rhoda J. Rhodes, Librarian, A.D. Magazine

Dear Bill,

Thanks for the copy of July/August 1976 UP-DATE; it is excellent! One of the most readable (and substantial in content) newsletters I've seen.

H. DeWitt Barnett, Coordinator, People-to-People Programs, Department of East Asia

## Clergy Congress to Meet

The Congress of Disciples Clergy, an organization of ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) interested in personal growth and development, will hold its second annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois January 25-27.

Cost for the three-day meeting, including six meals and two nights lodging, is \$30. Ministers planning to attend are requested to send \$10 registration fee to the Congress of Disciples Clergy, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206, before January 15. The registration fee is not refundable and the balance of \$20 is to be paid at the meeting, Zollars said. (CCN)

## Humbert to Succeed Howland

An Ohio pastor will become deputy general minister and president of the 1.3 million member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1977 with special responsibilities for structure and relationships.

John O. Humbert, 49, senior pastor of the Euclid Avenue Christian Church, Cleveland, will succeed Dr. William C. Howland Jr. who is leaving in January to be minister of Washington's National City Christian Church.

Humbert was elected by the church's Administrative Committee. He will begin his work in late spring. He will be one of two deputies to the chief executive officer of the church. The other is Dr. Howard E. Dentler.

Humbert will administer the Disciples' continuing restructure activity as well as relations of the General Office with clergy, educational institutions, congregations and regions. (CCN).

## Money for Poverty Race

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will fund 17 denominational, ecumenical and community programs dealing with issues related to race and poverty.

Allocations totaling \$113,400 were approved by the church's Reconciliation Steering Committee in its meeting here November 18-19.

Largest single grant—\$28,600—went to the Disciples' Change Through Involvement program which attempts to help volunteers "move from one-to-one helping ministries into systemic change efforts." The program is in 15 cities, with two new projects anticipated.

Other grants made were: Legislative Action - IMPACT, \$18,000; Criminal Justice Projects, \$12,150; Ministry to Farmworkers, \$10,800; Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, \$8,500; Agricultural Marketing Project, \$5,000; Black Congregational Development Staff, \$4,200; Rollingwood Pre-School, \$4,000; Senior Citizens Advisory Council, \$3,600; Youth Reading Project, \$2,500; Pilot Domestic Hunger Program, \$1,750; Hispanic Youth Project, \$1,500; Oklahoma Indian Ministries, \$1,500 and Partners in Ecumenism, \$500.

# College News

**JARVIS CHRISTIAN** -- Jarvis Christian College has just received \$5,000.00 in special grant through Eastman Kodak Company's 1976 Educational Aid Program, according to Dr. Earl W. Rand, College President.

Special grants are made by Kodak to help institutions revise and interrelate their academic programs to meet the challenge of changing times with new programs and specialized facilities. Jarvis Christian College is among 42 schools sharing \$3.9 million in Kodak special grants.

Commenting on Kodak's grant, Dr. Rand said: "Kodak's Educational Aid Program includes direct grants that help defray an institution's cost of educating college graduates now involved in the company's business success; research grants to help support graduate education and research at the master's and doctoral level; and contributions to selected organizations and associations that further the goals of quality education."

"The Philosophy of Shalom" was the subject of an address given this fall to the students and staff at Jarvis Christian College by Rabbi Eugene Levy of Temple Beth El, Tyler. Rabbi Levy's talk is being sponsored by the Jewish Chautauqua Society.

The Chautauqua Society, an educational project of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, seeks to create a better understanding of Judaism and Jews. Jarvis Christian College historically relates to the Judeo-Christian tradition.

## Tougaloo College

During the summer of 1976 Tougaloo selected staff met in Atlanta with staff from Parne Col-

lege, Augusta, Ga. and Xavier University, New Orleans, La. to discuss strategies for helping alumni giving match challenge grants being offered them by the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota. Presidents, development directors, alumni officers, and alumni fund-raising leadership of the schools consulted with Dr. Humphrey Doermann, the Foundation's executive director and with Henry A. Maly, Vice President for college relations of Saint Mary's College, Winona, Minnesota.

Tougaloo received an unrestricted grant of \$62,000 for the 1976-1977 school year.

Increasingly, these three colleges have had large numbers of black graduates taking responsible and leadership positions in business, industry, government, education and the professions, with a commensurate increase in their giving ability. Each of the Colleges has recently begun emphasizing the need for alumni gifts as a major source of basic institutional support, as has been the case with most independent colleges in America for generations. The challenge grants are expected to greatly accelerate this pace.

The foundation directors have further indicated that these grants may be the beginning of a series of such challenges to other private, black colleges.

The congregation of the United Church of Christ, Jackson, Mississippi, observed Tougaloo College Day last October.

Mrs. Thelma Sanders, A Jackson businesswoman, alumna, and trustee of Tougaloo College was the guest speaker.

All alumni and friends of Tougaloo College and Southern Christian Institute were urged to attend.

Several black Disciple Churches across the brotherhood are also observed a special day as Tougaloo Day during October and the month of November to aid in the financial obligations of this institution. Churches were urged to send checks directly to Tougaloo College.

Mrs. Ruth P. Hobbs, a member of the trustee board is responsible for launching this project.

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