

REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD
FROM THE
NATIONAL CONVOCATION
APRIL 18-20, 2010

TIMOTHY M. JAMES
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

To our Moderator, Larry Brown, our General Minister and President, Sharon E. Watkins and members of the General Board,

Life and activity in the National Convocation has been most eventful these past few months, to say the least. At first, let me thank you and the many areas of the church that have stood with us and encouraged the National Convocation on our decision to pull our 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation from the facilities of Charleston, South Carolina. Your support began with us the moment we announced our decision to the General Assembly. This action and consequent support demonstrates the value of the critical presence that the National Convocation brings to the life of the church. We are on this journey together as a whole church to participate in the encouragement of achievement, especially along the lines of the priorities and vision of the church. We want to realize and celebrate the reality of bringing wholeness in the midst of a fragmented world. We are also challenging the need for wholeness in a fragmented church. We truly want to enable the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to practice what we preach.

To this end we have encouraged our Board officers, Merger Staff and members to be proactive and participate by attendance and where possible resource committees and groups that are gathered for the growth and learning of the church. We continue to share and encourage new church planters at New Church Summits, assist pastors and congregational representatives to attend Transformation Workshops and church revitalization programs, support the Reconciliation Commission in their sincere efforts to keep the church focused on being Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist, understanding and appreciation for the development of the Pastoral Table, and continuing the conversation around ministry collaboration through the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council.

We are glad to report that the 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation will be at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma July 29- August 1, 2010. We thank and praise God that the Christian Church in Oklahoma has pledged their support and participation with the Local Arrangements Committee as we prepare for this event.

I am most thankful for the opportunity afforded me by the National Convocation and the Office of General Ministry to experience my first sabbatical. I did have some occasions for recreation and rest that were very fulfilling. I did come to the conclusion that a sabbatical is for rest, unless it is stated to be a study sabbatical.

It is now full steam ahead to the 21st Biennial Session of the National Convocation. There is much work to do and with your prayers and the commitment of our Board of Trustees, Merger Staff, Support Staff

and our Local Arrangements Committee, I believe that we will be amazed to see what God will do in the face of the circumstances and decisions that have brought us to this place. Thank you.