

**GB2613 – National Convocation of the Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Submitted by Rev. Dr. Delesslyn A. Kennebrew**

The National Convocation submits this report of the highlights from a more expanded report that was submitted to the National Convocation Board, December 2025.

**An Accomplishment from 2025**

In 2025, the National Convocation completed a broad, participatory discernment process that resulted in a renewed identity statement. Through open Zoom conversations, transcription, synthesis, and collective revision, the Convocation articulated a shared identity rooted in prophetic witness and commitment to the advancement of Black Disciples. This statement now serves as a theological and organizational foundation for future bylaw revisions, branding, and strategic direction.

*The National Convocation declares the transformative love of Jesus Christ as a prophetic witness that prioritizes uplifting, engaging, and advocating for the advancement of Black Disciples.*

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**A Hope for 2026**

Looking ahead, the hope for 2026 is that the National Convocation will experience worship, education, fellowship, and fun at the Biennial Session in Dallas, Texas (June 11-14,2026) —*Revive. Reset. Resist.* Additional hopes include deepening leadership development, strengthening financial sustainability, expanding diaspora connections, and continuing to offer formation spaces such as the Foundations Conference and the Lift Every Voice series that equip congregations for faithful witness in a changing world

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**Challenges Ahead**

The work ahead includes addressing capacity and sustainability challenges—particularly long-term funding strategies. The pace and scope of innovation require continued clarity, collaboration, and shared leadership, especially as the church navigates broader transitions and competing demands on leaders and congregations. It also requires consistent support from our constituency that we hope to generate in our upcoming initiative.

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## **A Story of Collaboration Across the Church**

The National Convocation continues to strengthen relationships across the life of the church through collaboration with General Ministries and partner organizations. Notable examples include a yearlong partnership with Disciples Home Mission's Green Chalice ministry, early-stage collaboration with New Church Ministries to engage African diaspora congregations, grant partnerships from Oreon Scott Foundation supporting leadership formation, and participation in broader church conversations through publications (Center for Faith and Giving) and podcasts (Pension Fund).

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## **What Board Members Are Invited to Share Locally**

Board members are encouraged to share that the National Convocation is actively serving as a *connector*—linking congregations to people, resources, justice-focused initiatives, and learning opportunities across the church. Through expanded communications, digital directories, conferences, and public witness, the National Convocation is strengthening networks that help congregations thrive and engage faithfully in God's transforming work.

For more information, future collaboration, and to stay informed, please visit our website [www.nationalconvocation.org](http://www.nationalconvocation.org) AND Like and Follow our Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/NationalConvoc2](https://www.facebook.com/NationalConvoc2)