



2021 SENT SEMINAR

69

Registrations

1.3x

Growth in
Registrations from
2020

19

Guest Speakers

18

Virtual Classes

960

Minutes of Video

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Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty and Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick speak at NBA events in St. Louis.

Voices of NBA: Black Women in Leadership

Over the summer, Dr. Norma Ellington-Twitty and Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick sat down to have a conversation about their work and experiences at the NBA.

Moderated by Senior Marketing Associate, Brittany King, the conversation spanned a variety of topics including NBA's history as a health and social service general ministry, issues of diversity and equity, and qualities in leadership. The conversation also served as a "passing the torch" moment between Ellington-Twitty and Kilpatrick. Ellington-Twitty joined the NBA in 1985 as the Vice President of Program Planning and Evaluation. At the time, she was the first Black woman to join the organization in an executive leadership role. Ellington-Twitty was moved to say 'yes' to this opportunity because she saw it as a way for the Black Disciples community to be included in the health and social service work of the denomination.

(continued inside)

INSIDE:

PEER GROUPS: Four New Peer Learning & Wellness Groups

NEW NBA STAFF: Meet Our Talented New Team Members

“My journey to NBA started in the 1950s. One day, I was walking past St. Louis Christian Home, NBA’s historic first agency serving children and youth, and I noticed this sign on the gate and our Disciples of Christ St. Andrew’s cross, yet the visual image that I had was one of white children playing in the yard. I thought ‘this is the church, but I don’t see myself represented,’” she explains. “Years later, in 1979, I was invited to serve on a joint NBA and National Convocation task force. To be honest, I didn’t really want to do it, but I remembered that moment outside of St. Louis Christian Home and thought to myself things haven’t changed since

the ‘50s, but maybe if I get involved change can happen.”

A ‘yes’ to being on that task force led to her joining NBA’s Board of Trustees, which led to an executive leadership position at the organization. Ellington-Twitty’s work focused on program quality and program development for NBA’s housing agencies across the country.

Thirty years after Ellington-Twitty’s arrival at the NBA, Kilpatrick joined NBA’s staff in 2015 as the Disciples Care Exchange and Affinity Group Director. Kilpatrick now serves on the NBA executive leadership team. Her first executive

leadership role was in 2019 as the Associate Vice President of Organizational Development. She now serves as the Vice President of Organizational & Leadership Development where she oversees and manages all of NBA’s mission programs. Kilpatrick is the second Black Disciples woman to hold this kind of executive leadership position at NBA, the first being Dr. Ellington-Twitty. During her conversation with Ellington-Twitty she acknowledged “If there was no Norma at NBA, there might not be a Monica... if you don’t see yourself represented, you don’t know if you can be it.”

The conversation concluded with the women sharing learnings and advice for those in the Black community interested in working within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The NBA is proud to have leaders and history makers in our midst like Dr. Ellington-Twitty and Rev. Kilpatrick. **To watch the three-part video series of this conversation visit NBAcares.org/Monica-Norma.**



Dr. Norma-Ellington-Twitty



Rev. Monica Wedlock Kilpatrick



Barbara Vega



Joselyn Spence



Rev. Rae Karim



Rev. Alexis Vaughan



Cindy Kim Hengst

NBA Welcomes Several New Staff Members

Recently, the NBA has welcomed a handful of dynamic new staff members with deep experience in their respective fields. Barbara Vega is the Associate Vice President of Development. She has 16 years of experience in faith-based, nonprofit fundraising. Joselyn Spence is the Director of NBA's Mental Health & Wellness Initiative. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Art Therapist, and Yoga and Meditation teacher. Rev. Rae Karim has accepted the role of Interim XPLOR/Young Adult Leadership Development Coordinator, assisting us in crafting the future of NBA's young adult programs. Rev. Alexis Vaughan holds the new role of Justice Coordinator, deepening our advocacy work and addressing issues of social injustice. Former NBA Trustee, Cindy Kim Hengst, joins us to lead the new Asian-American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Young Adult Peer Learning & Wellness Group. **Get to know our new staff by visiting NBAcare.org/about-nba/staff.**

NBA Launches Four New Peer Groups with a Focus on Justice

Four new Peer Learning & Wellness Groups will be launched at NBA. These groups include a cohort of health and social service ministry Executive Directors, both Hispanic and Asian-American/Pacific Islander young adult groups, as well as a cohort of Disciples leaders of color focused on addressing issues of social justice.

“We are crafting a multi-year justice training for all of our peer groups. The training will allow the groups to have deep conversations on anti-oppression, anti-racism, pro-reconciliation, and reflection on advocacy and activism in their own contexts. Our intent is to weave justice throughout the two years of each group's journey,” Director of Community Engagement, Rev. Héctor J. Hernández Marcial



NBA Activism & Advocacy Peer Learning & Wellness Group in 2018.

said. “One of the goals of the Community Engagement program is to create space for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and other marginalized groups within the Disciples church landscape. We are being intentional in connecting as many diverse voices and perspectives as possible.”



National
Benevolent
Association
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

733 Union Boulevard, Suite 300
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

NBA is a grateful recipient of Disciples Mission Fund support.
Your contributions help make stories and ministries like these possible. Thank you!

Give Generously to NBA Ministries!

It is commonly said that we are living in a new normal. But what is the new normal? For many, the new normal might still include feeling isolated and fearful. The new normal might involve living through substance addiction or mental illness. A new normal may involve losing one's job or home. There are countless organizations that seek to support individuals and families through these realities and more. And yet, even organizations need capacity building to make a difference. The National Benevolent Association is centered on organizational and leadership development. We partner with and support Disciples-affiliated health and social service ministries and nonprofits to promote compassion, healing, and justice for all humanity. We are called to make a difference in the lives of the overlooked and underserved. Please join us in this important work with your tax-deductible gift. **Visit NBAcare.org/donate.**



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MISSION STATEMENT

Following God's call, the National Benevolent Association exists to inspire and connect the people and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to accompany one another in the creation of communities of compassion and care, and to advocate for the well-being of humanity.



National **Benevolent** Association
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