

WIM Launches New 7th & 15th Episcopal Districts' Partnership

The vernal equinox, an astrological phenomena in which worldwide, for one day there is an equal amount of light and day. In America it is called the first day of Spring, but it marks the beginning of Autumn in other regions of the world. Either way, it marks the beginning of a new season. How fitting then, for a dynamic new partnership to be launched that will mark the beginning of a new season for the Women In Ministry (WIM). Time zones, geographical distances or even culture and language could not stop an initiative that will have lasting impact in the Connectional AME Church and more specifically, the Women In Ministry.

Under the guidance of the Rev. Dr. Monica Spencer, 3rd Vice for the Connectional WIM, Presiding Elder, the Rev. Betty Schroder, President of the 15th Episcopal district of WIM and the Rev. Dr. Mary Rhodes, President of the 7th Episcopal District WIM, sisters in ministry came together on March 20, 2021 in one virtual body under the umbrella of the 15th Episcopal District WIM Conference with the theme “Bruised, Broken and Bloody but God is Still Using Us”. Three days of worship, workshops and dialogue focused on the common bond of what it means to be a woman and a woman in ministry. Dynamic preaching that spoke to the heart of WIM issues ignited a fresh desire to walk out our calling despite setbacks, disparities, disappointments, and trials. On that Saturday (vernal equinox) sisters from across the ocean shared in a dialogue intent upon encouraging one another, sharing struggles and similarities as one body in the Holy Spirit. The WIM presidents unveiled the 7/15 Partnership after the initial dialogue with each District’s WIM. The Districts vowed that they would serve as mentors to one another, a partner in the work of the Cross, and stand ready to help each other in the future.

One step towards this goal was that participants were asked to exchange email addresses with someone they do not know and continue the dialogue beyond the Conference.

We are looking forward for more opportunities to expand on this partnership. May it set an example for Women In Ministry everywhere, to pursue and foster relationships with others, even within their Episcopal Districts, that will promote the mission and purpose of our organization to support and encourage one another.