



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



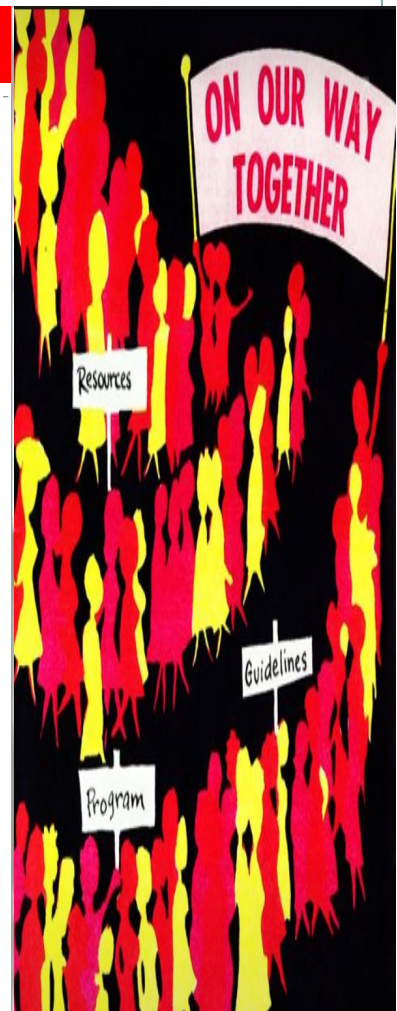
Claudette Rainey

Please help me Welcome the National President Elect of our Great Movement. She hails from Rochester, NY. She is a great communicator determined to shape the future of CWU through Social Media. President Elect Mira Washington informed me via FB of a Reception being held for her in Rochester and she invited my sister-in-law, Alice Gissendanner, to attend, I quickly decided to send Greetings:

*I Greet you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Members and friends of the Rochester Unit I appreciate this opportunity to be a part of your program today. As President of the very active Atlanta Unit of Church Women United I recognize that we are standing on the shoulders of giants who have brought us this far. I am delighted to welcome our President Elect, Mira Washington to this league of visionary giants who will Lead us into the future of this Movement. Her smile is warm and welcoming and it has already evoked confidence through, a fired up following on Social Media, which she has chosen as her communication vehicle. We have got to get on board the Social Media train even though it has left the station. It's the way of the future. I was so excited to read her post on Face Book a few nights ago because it gave me instant access to share it with other Church Women United units across the country. As a matter of fact that is why my sister-in law Alice could join you today. Responses came flooding in from our members in the South East and other areas of the country; New Jersey, Las Vegas, Indianapolis and others. On behalf of the nine active units in GA I congratulate you on achieving this elevation to lead this great Movement. We are looking forward to your Leadership in 2020. Madam President Elect: We love you!*



President Elect Mira Washington  
and Alice Gissendanner



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Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive, ecumenical Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

# WELCOME NEWLY ELECTED

Welcome to our newly elected women for the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023 term.

President Elect: **Elmira (Mira) Washington** (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 term)

Vice President: **Gwen Davis**

Young CWU Representative: **Jameka Redmon Matthews**

South Central Nominating Committee Member: **Henrietta Daniel**

SOUTHWEST NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER: **TERESITA BENIN-CURRIER**



*Greetings CWU Sisters & Friends!*

*As your incoming national president of CWU, I want to share with you my thoughts and ideas about our mission and vision for CWU and invite you to think and pray with me in what appears to be an exciting future for CWU.*

*Let me put it to you this way: I desire for our beloved CWU to grow from a mere organization to a movement from the legacy of our past to a major voice on solidarity for women's rights across the nation. And we can do it! In my house in Rochester, I use my study as my personal "war room" (a prayer closet) as a time to grow closer to God where I wrestle to understand God's will for my life and now CWU. In my prayer life with God, God shows me His will in my "war room." As part of my dialogue with God, I get a sensing as part of the leading of the Holy Spirit as to what it will take to re-imagine a revitalized CWU*

*Let me share with you my role as president-elect from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. I am going to use this site (Facebook) as a means, not exclusively, to communicate my thoughts and ideas to you and for a way to build cogent dialogues among our sisterhood about our clear path moving forward. I would like to begin a weekly-blog. In this weekly blog I will share news and information on a wide variety of issues and my soon coming platform for a revitalized CWU. The blog will promote weekly information, news, and advocacy and justice work. The blog will give enormous attention on rebuilding CWU as a movement and what does that mean. Additionally, we will continue to advance Young CWU as one of our major platform agendas with new plans.*

*As leaders and faithful members of your local units, you have a mission to engage the world by serving in your local communities to transform human conditions. You are called to not only make a difference in your respective communities and states, but to lead all women, regardless if she is a member of CWU or not to greater purpose. With that said, love is the centerpiece in all we do because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). Love is the centerpiece of our movement – our love for God and love for our neighbors – all growing from the love we experience in Jesus Christ. And at the center of Jesus is a relationship: Jesus desire to be in a restored relationship with a fallen, broken creation. this ministry of reconciliation, to bring women and all people together.*

# NEWS

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**May 23rd** AIB Network 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Southwest Performing Arts Center where one of our partners, Interfaith Children's Ministry, earned the Community Service Award.



**June 5th** Celebrating the life of Commissioner Emma Darnell at the Harriet Darnell Multipurpose Center.



**June** - Patti Polk CWU National President visited Atlanta to do a site visit of the location for the 2020 Quadrennial to be held June 11 - 14 in Atlanta. She met with Board members of the Atlanta Unit with Nat. Secretary Nicole Walker to discuss the possibility of moving the National Office from NYC to Atlanta and the need to find vendors and speakers for the program.



**July 4-10**—Taekwondo Championship - Chuncheon, Republic of Korea

**July 21st** 100 Women in White celebration at Faith AME Zion Church





**June 1, 2019** was the annual celebration of Everybody's Birthday. This year was extra special because of the birthday celebration of one of our long time, dedicated members, Kathleen Eidson. Kathleen was celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! She arrived spry and excited as ever, ready to just grace us with her presence and join in with all the fun. The highlight of the day was when the group Stayin' Alive, ran in to perform for Kathleen. This is a group of cheerleaders, all of whom are over fifty. They danced around Kathleen, and she was just elated. After their performance, Kathleen graced us with a spur of the moment poem. She has always been noted for telling stories and reciting poetry. Everyone was just thrilled and most of the cheerleaders stood in line for pictures with Kathleen. The celebration ended with games, food, and fellowship. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATHLEEN, WE LOVE YOU** Article submitted by Roberta Rhodes



Photo Credits: Claudette Rainey



**12th Annual Human Rights Luncheon**  
**Saturday, September 7, 2019** **11:30 AM—1:30 pm**  
**This is It! Corporate Office and Banquet Hall**  
**105 McIntosh Crossing, Fayetteville, GA. 30214**  
**Donation \$40.00 Tickets—Claudette Rainey (770) 969-5432**

**Honorees:**

***Elizabeth Omilami -Hosea Feed the Hungry***  
***Timothy McDonald—First Iconium Baptist Church***  
***Norma Joy Barnes—Community Council of Metro Atlanta***  
***The Time Is Now! Unite to Serve***

The Human Rights Celebration was instituted by CWU in 2006 as a means for Local Units to focus on the importance of Human Rights. The heart of the Celebration involves the presentation of the CWU Human Rights Award to local individuals who have worked for the cause of human rights. You don't want to miss this event.



For the past decade **Elisabeth Omilami**, with God's help, has been able to raise the consciousness of humanity about the plight of the homeless and poverty around the globe. Under her tutelage and leadership, Hosea Helps has expanded its year round services and enhanced its community engagement and influence, since the passing of her father. Hosea Helps operates the largest food bank in the region that supports families directly with food, clothing, wraparound services, and disaster relief.

Elisabeth Omilami has been featured in numerous television shows, magazines, and is the recipient of over 90 awards for her spirited work in the community and her continuing legacy of both Rev. Hosea L. and Juanita Williams. As an accomplished playwright with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Hampton University, the daughter of noted civil rights leaders Rev. Hosea L. and Juanita Williams is a second generation human rights activist, minister, and advocate for the homeless and working poor.



**Rev. Timothy McDonald, II** is founder of the African American Ministers Leadership Council and President of the African American Ministers In Action of People for the American Way and is Senior Pastor of the First Iconium Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where he has served since 1984. Rev. McDonald has taken First Iconium from 35 members to approximately 1500 members. He served three terms as President of Concerned Black Clergy of Atlanta, an ecumenical consortium of Black and White clergy and laypersons working on behalf of the poor. Rev. McDonald previously served as Special Assistant for community concerns for Mayor Maynard Jackson. As National Director of Operation Breadbasket and Special Projects for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Rev. McDonald dealt with issues around drugs, economic empowerment, South Africa, Central America, Middle East, homelessness, First Amendment Rights, the Death Penalty, and AIDS. Rev. McDonald has devoted his life to the service of others. He also served for six years as the Full-time Assistant Pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Rev. McDonald has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Good Morning America, The Bill O'Reilly Show, Nightline, The National Press Club and is often quoted in USA Today, New York Times, Washington Post, LA Times, National Public Radio, and other National Publications.



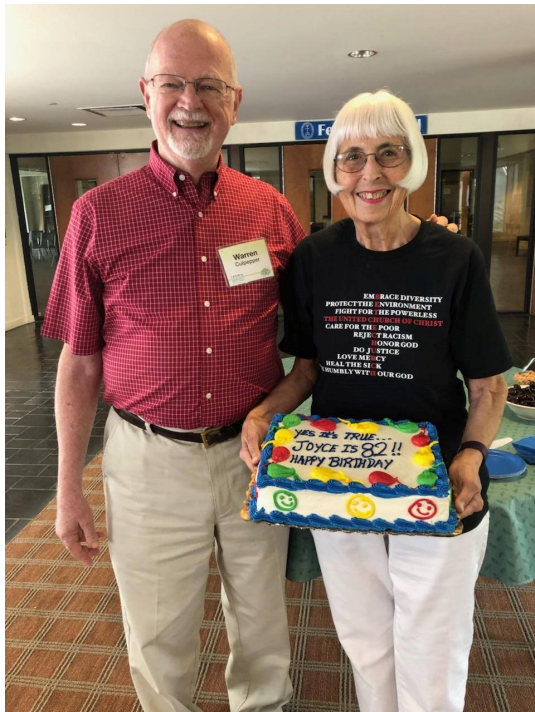
**Norma Joy Barnes** has a life-long legacy of service to humanity. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Norma graduated from Boggs Academy (Keysville, Georgia) and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Psychology from Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia. Her graduate studies include Georgia State University (Sociology) and Atlanta School of Law.

As a result of her concern about young black males, who she felt were facing seemingly insurmountable odds academically, vocationally, economically and personally, Norma retired from her position of Federal Mediator in 2008, and founded the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization and the Priority Male Institute, a life skills and job readiness program for young Black males, 18-28 years of age. Since 2008, Norma has worked tirelessly, without pay, contributing her time and her personal funds to provide empowerment workshops, a life-skills and job readiness institute, and other resources needed to run the unfunded programs. In eight years, over 3,000 persons have been served by the organization.



# HONORS

May 19th—Myrna Clayton performed for the Atlanta Jazz Festival at West Manor Park.



July 10th—Rev. Joyce Myers Brown celebrating 82 years!

July 18th - Sadye Potter, Odessa Huff, and Dr. Carolyn Hart received “A HEART FOR OVERSEAS MISSIONS” medallions at the AME Zion WH&OMS Quadrennial Convention.



## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Founded in 1941, Church Women United is:

A movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian women;

Biblically based, shared Christian faith;

Organized into more than 1,200 local and state units working for peace and justice in the United States and Puerto Rico;

Supported by constituents in state and local units and denominational women's organizations;

Impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world; and

Recognized as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations.

## CELEBRATIONS

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### **August 2nd** Summer Break

**August 27th** Planning Meeting 10AM—2PM Location: TBA

### **September 6th** Human Rights Event – Ecumenical Program

**October 4th & 5th** State Assembly & Leaders Council 2019 Hosted by CWU Athens Ga/Rev. Joyce Meyers-Brown Peace Demo

Hotel Room Reservations are due September 6, 2019 (Holiday Inn Contact person – Angela Oliver – 706-354-6405)

Hotel Room Rates: 1 person per room - \$123.00 + taxes / 2 persons per room \$62.00 + taxes Check in time – 3:00 p.m.

Registration Fee \$35.00 (to be sent to Faye Fikes- 511 Watson Bay Trail Stone Mountain, Ga. 30087) Make checks payable to CWU in Georgia—Deadline September 23rd, 2019

Schedule of activities and program will be forwarded at a later date.

### **Oct** Interfaith Children's Movement Prayer Breakfast TBD

**November 1st** World Community Day hosting Dekalb Unit at PCC Ecumenical Program \ Meeting

### **December 6** Annual Meeting 10:00am

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN ATLANTA

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**Submit News for our next newsletter by**

**November 26th** to [cwuatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:cwuatlanta@gmail.com)

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