



Our Story – 4 Voices Reading Script The Covenant Partnership / CCMR-CCIW

[Use this as a dramatic reading script, an alternative to the video recording if you are unable to play the video during the worship service. You will need FOUR readers. Ideally, they will have a chance to practice a bit before the service]

[text in {these brackets} should NOT be read – they are instructions only}]

[If possible, make a sign for Reader Four to wear, “Rev. Eugene James, Retiring Michigan Regional Minister”]

Speaker One: *{read with exuberance and joy}*

Today is a new day, and we have exciting news! Just like the wise men took a new route, so we are forging a fresh new path in regional ministry.

Speaker Two: *{Emphasize first sentence}*

A new path for a new day. Our story is an unfolding story of innovation and creativity. In 2019, the Michigan Region did an inventory of our toolbox; that inventory revealed that we needed to re-tool and reorganize.

Speaker Three: Our 2021 Vision Task Group wrestled with the best way to retool and reorganize.

Speaker One: We put the matter to prayer.

Speaker Two: We put the matter to prayer.

Speaker Three: We put the matter to prayer.

Speaker Four (as Rev. Eugene W. James, Jr): *{Energetic ... then last sentence glancing out at the crowd with a smirk on face and humorous voice}*

I had an Epiphany! A light went off in my head. My coffee turned into wine and my fried egg turned into bread. (That's not true...just a bit of epiphany drama.)

Speaker Two: Where were we? ... Oh Eugene's Epiphany.

Speaker One: If we were going to re-tool, we would need some help. We would need a leader, a co-laborer with us in a ministry Partnership.

Speaker Four (as Rev. Eugene W. James, Jr):

I consulted with the Disciples General Minister and President, other Regional Ministers, and our regional search committee, on who would be the best person for the job.

Speaker Three: We all agreed that Rev. Teresa Dulyea-Parker was the right person for the job. We contacted her and she said, "Let's put it to prayer."

Speaker Four (as Rev. Eugene W. James, Jr): *{Joyous voice}*

After much prayer...She agreed to journey with us.

Speaker Two: On September 11, 2021, the Michigan Regional Assembly voted unanimously to approve a covenant partnership.

Speaker One: *{Emphasize "NOT"}*

This is NOT a merger!

Speaker Two: *{Emphasize "THIS"}*

THIS is not a merger.

Speaker Three: It is a partnership between the Michigan Disciples and the Illinois/Wisconsin Disciples regions.

Speaker One: We live in a world where fear can sometimes cripple us. It can hold us in our place and keep us from imagining something new. Prayer acts as the antidote for all our fears. We pray, so that we can imagine God's love in a new and different way.

Speaker Two: Let us pray... Dear God, we thank you for leading us in prayer to this new way of working together as two regions in a covenant partnership. Guide us during this time of transition and lead us to new ways to share the Love of Christ with one another. We thank you for the gifts of our Regional Minister, the Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker. Give her strength and direction in her new leadership with our churches in Michigan. Amen.

[This skit could be followed by the Litany Reading and prayer – bulletin insert]