

### Sankofa Lives on Through Relationships

Since sponsoring a Sankofa trip every fall in the MWC, ongoing ethnically diverse relationships have developed and deepened. One group of Sankofa alums has been meeting together monthly to get to know each other and talk about next steps in their community. This group developed after two Sankofa friends who were already connecting monthly to share their lives thought there should be something more.

Vickie Guillot and Patty Thompson came together with the idea of gathering all those in the Salina area that have experienced Sankofa for conversation and brainstorming. The racially diverse group consists of 5-8 people who meet together monthly. A question about race is posed for conversation and some time is spent on next steps.

These gatherings have allowed honest, authentic conversation. One member of the group says, "The conversations are tough and poke us in necessary places to help uncover our ingrained biases and better understand life for a person of color."

The group recently met with the Salina Superintendent of Schools to share about Sankofa, hear what's happening in the school district with regards to race, and explore how we can partner to increase education and awareness. As a result, a date was confirmed for an expanded group gathering that includes the Superintendent, where challenging questions will be posed and conversation will continue. What will happen after that meeting? The Sankofa group is not sure but they are willing to take the next step to see where the Spirit leads.

### From the Superintendent

Friends,

Fall is a busy time in the life of the church, and this is true at the conference level, as well! In October alone, pastors and ministry staff will connect at fall retreats, women from throughout the conference will gather to explore a call to ministry, license and ordination candidates will present their papers, and 30+ individuals will journey together on Sankofa. Each of these opportunities provides connection and growth for the leaders and disciples among us. God is doing great things in the Midwest Conference, and we are grateful for your partnership in turning vision into reality!

To God be the glory!

Tammy



*Vickie Guillot, St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, Salina, KS, and Patty Thompson, MWC staff*

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Youth Worker Connection** | January 24-27  
**Children's Worker Connection** | Jan 24-27  
**Midwinter** | January 27-31

2020  
**midwinter**  
CHICAGO, IL

**Location:** Hyatt Regency O'Hare | Rosemont, IL  
9300 Bryn Mawr Ave, Rosemont, IL 60018



Have you noticed gifted young women in your congregation who may be called to ministry? Affirm them and offer them an opportunity to explore their call at one of our Exploring Call Retreats. We will be offering **Exploring Call for Students, February 14-16, 2020**, at Arvada

Covenant in Arvada, CO. Contact Patty Thompson at [mwcpatty@gmail.com](mailto:mwcpatty@gmail.com) with questions.

The MWC will host its first annual **Journey to Mosaic** out of Denver on **February 20-23, 2020**. The Journey to Mosaic experience looks at the history and legacy of racial injustice in our geographic region. It is similar in format to our Sankofa Journey, but rather than focusing on the African American/white experience, a Journey to Mosaic attempts to consider the broader spectrum of race relations in the Midwest Conference. We are pleased to announce that our guides for the journey will be Dominique DuBois Gilliard, Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation for the ECC and award-winning author, and Cheryl Lynn Cain, on staff at Church of the Good Shepherd in Joliet, IL. Pricing and registration coming soon!



Our **2020 MWC Sankofa Journey** is scheduled for **November 5-8, 2020**. Trip fee is \$450/person, and facilitators will be Nilwona Nowlin and David Swanson. Registration to open in early 2020.

Connect with us on Facebook and sign up for the monthly e-News!

[www.midwestcovenant.org](http://www.midwestcovenant.org)

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