From: Denise Page Hood

Date: November 16,2023

Re: Reports of the Sunday Morning Bible Study and Conversations with Women During the Pandemic

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

 The Sunday morning Bible Study is led by Walter Willis, Stephen Johnson and Denise Page Hood. During the past year and throughout the Pandemic we have continued to meet via ZOOM. We still meet from 10-11 every Sunday. We are a small group, but everyone is welcome. We have approximately 10-12 regular-ish members, including one out of state member. We generally use some text to guide us through our Bible Study and we have invited guest speakers. Right now we are studying Jeremiah, using a Wiersbe text. We also used Wiersbe to study Isaiah. This year we also studied a work of Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength To Love. Our leaders are resourceful and our members are thoughtful, insightful and seeking students of the Bible. We thank Rev. Hood and Evelyn Hudson Wright for their support of our Bible Study. We welcome everyone at Plymouth to join us Sunday morning between the services. Zoom 71571706193 Passcode- church.

CONVERSATIONS WITH WOMEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

 During the beginning of the Pandemic Rev. Hood asked me to start a conversation with women of Plymouth about life during the Pandemic. The conversations began with conversations about faith, physical and mental health, education, work life, working from home, attending school via Zoom, grief during Covid-19, the courts, the vaccine and its test trials and a Christmas Quilt Show-all topics close to home and led by members. These members included- Mamie Cokley, Brenda Tidwell, Dr. Jackie Roberson, Sage Johnson, Cyrisse Allen, Shekenia Mann, Dr. Andi Coleman, Judges Deborah Geraldine Bledsoe Ford, Noah Hood, and Dawn White, Jeanne Wardford, Patricia Millender to name a few, but not all. We also reached out to include others involved in addressing the pandemic, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and her Chief Medical Officer, Lt. Gov. Garland Gilchrist, Dr. Cheryl Moore, one of the Governor’s Task Force members, Renee Tabor who was working with funding during the pandemic. And then we realized that our interests extended beyond the pandemic, for instance Rev. Dr. Jimmy Womack had an audience of 46 or more when he spoke on the medical benefits of marijuana. Our gardening panel Barbara Wynder, April Campbell drew a lot of gardeners in the church and friends. This past year we heard from: Michele Roberts, former ED of the National Basketball Players Association; Mahogany Jones (a poet who led us in a poetry writing experience);Michel Marti, host of NPR’s Morning Edition; Renee Namakau of the Emmet Till Interpretive Center; LouAnne Jefferson an athletic trainer at MSU; Sharon Brewer of the Pink House the subject of the Supreme Court DOBBS case on abortion this year- Ms. Brewer had spoken to us from the Mississippi Pink House before relocating to the southwest; Tiffany Willis of Wifestyle; life coach Dr. Geneva Williams on goals and resolutions; Congressman Bennie Thompson of the Congressional Task Force on the January 6th attack on the Capital; and Rev. Hood led sessions on meditation and writing prayers. We had great conversations and I thank Patricia Ice, June Jefferies, Dianna Solomon, Dion Williams, and others for helping me secure guest speakers- it takes a village to have a conversation.

 Although we have not met since late May, we plan to start again in January. Keep your eyes open for our announcements. We welcome members and friends and men. I thank Rev. Hood for the idea of this program and his support.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Page Hood