

## NBA calls Rev. Rebecca Hale to serve as the Vice President of Church Ministries



Jan 6, 2012

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - The National Benevolent Association (NBA) is pleased to announce the calling of the Rev. Rebecca Hale to serve as the Vice President of Church Ministries. “I am ecstatic to welcome Rebecca to the ministry of NBA,” stated Mark D. Anderson, President and CEO. “Her gifts and enthusiasm will help lead our denomination in the caring of those in need.” Rev. Hale will be responsible for developing collaborative relationships with congregations and regions that further advance health and social service ministries. In addition, she will supervise the Chaplaincy Care Program. She will join the staff in February 2012.

Rev. Hale’s experience includes her recent tenure as the Transitional Regional Minister with the Christian Church in Florida, during which she led the region through a period of transition and refocusing. Prior to that position, she served as the Transitional Regional Minister & President of the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and worked to shape the *RISE Regional Transformation Journey* as it significantly re-envisioned and restructured its regional mission and ministry.

Rev. Hale served as the Associate Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee from 2001 to 2006, during which time she was responsible for an array of ministry areas including leadership development, congregational transformation, pastoral care and nurture, and camp and conference ministry. As part of her work in Tennessee, Rebecca developed, in partnership with the Center for Parish Development, the *Rise.Shine!Church . . . Congregational Transformation Initiative*.

Rev. Hale recently completed her tenure as the chairperson of the Week of Compassion Advisory Committee. Her other denominational commitment is serving as the Transformation Partner for the Christian Church in Indiana. She also held the position of the Pennsylvania Associate Regional Director for Church World Service with responsibilities for community organizing, fundraising, education and advocacy around hunger and justice issues.

Two core commitments energize Rev. Hale’s ministry. The first is her commitment to helping Disciple communities explore their current landscapes for ministry opportunities and develop contextually relevant and faithful missions based on assessment of those landscapes. This passion arises out of the theological commitment that “God so loves the

world” and that the church exists to advance God’s mission in the world. The second is partnership development that encourages communities to more clearly visualize and formulate a shared mission and to fulfill that shared mission in powerful life-changing ways.

"I am thrilled to be joining the staff of the National Benevolent Association at this moment of creative possibility as NBA lives into the mission of creating communities of compassion and care," Hale stated. "The position of Vice President of Church Ministries is an opportunity to bring together my passion for supporting congregations as they seek to be missionally centered and developing and nurturing new partnerships across the church."

She is a graduate of Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee and earned her Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where she received the Paul T. Gerrard Prize in Preaching and Pastoral Care. Rebecca also has a Masters in Sacred Theology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary with a graduate thesis titled, *“Women, Children and Welfare Reform – A Christian Perspective.”* Rebecca was ordained June 1992 at Trinity United Christian Church (formally First Christian Church) in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

Rebecca’s spouse, Jess Hale, is a Senior Legislative Attorney with the Tennessee General Assembly. She has three young adult children – Jeremiah, Melissa, and Hayley. In every minute she can find, Rebecca loves to garden, cook, and read.

The National Benevolent Association (NBA) is a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a mainline, Protestant denomination with over 3,700 congregations throughout the United States and Canada. The NBA traces its roots back to the 1880s when six women in a St. Louis-based prayer group gave birth to a local program designed to help the area’s widows and orphans.

For more information on NBA please visit [www.nbacares.org](http://www.nbacares.org).

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