



# International Association of Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Widows, Incorporated

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My Dear IAMWMW Sisters:

I greet you with the joy of the Lord and with the blessed assurance that God is still with us in the midst of this pandemic of COVID-19. We have been in pandemic mode for a whole year now and yes, with hope on the horizon, we still have to be extremely careful, precautious, and watchful. Normalcy has not returned.

Several weeks ago we sent out a survey trying to ascertain your attendance at our scheduled conference in June 2021 in Houston, Texas. More than 350 of you returned the survey and the results were sent to all members. It was very clear that most of you would not be attending the conference in June. Negotiations had already begun with the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston with regards to cancelling. As you are aware there are penalties for cancelling a contract when there is not a "force majeure" clause in the contract. We are requesting the hotel to let us move our meeting to 2024.

Last week I met via Zoom with the Texas Association and they are willing to move hosting IAMWMW to the year 2024. Tonight, I met with the Executive Committee (Vice President at Large, Regional Vice Presidents, Past International Presidents, Recording Secretary, Executive Board Chair, Parliamentarian (absent), Dean of Education, and Executive Board Secretary) and we agreed not to move forward with the 80<sup>th</sup> Convention in June in Houston, Texas. Considering all factors, it is not in the best interest of the sisterhood. Therefore, we will not meet in person in Houston in June 2021.

We will observe the 80<sup>th</sup> year of our sisterhood in two ways -- virtual and in-person. We will move the in-person segment of the conference to December 1-4, 2021. That's the week we always observe Founder's Day but just two days earlier. So please mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The scientists are saying by that time with most everyone having had the vaccine we should be immune to COVID-19. We will meet at the Omni Hotel in Richmond and celebrate 80 Years being united in faith, love, and prayer. The virtual segment of the conference will take place in June very much like what we did in June 2020. A full schedule will be sent to you.

For those of you who have been inquiring about the direction we would be going, I promised you would know by the middle of March. I'm a few days ahead of schedule! Nevertheless, it has been with much prayer that we have come to this decision. Not a time in our 80 year history have we encountered a pandemic of this magnitude. The enormity of COVID-19 has affected all of us in some manner and the effects are felt all over the world. We journey onward knowing that God is in control and all things work together for good. I believe, "Greater is Coming!" We only need to trust and obey.

You will hear from your Regional Vice President with all the details. Thank for your diligence in sending your membership renewals for 2021. Stay Tuned and Get Ready for a grand 80<sup>th</sup> Celebration in December in Richmond, Virginia. Stay safe, wear your mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing.

In faith, love, and prayer  
President Margaret Brown Payton

