

## LONDON DISTRICT WOMEN'S NETWORK INAUGURATED



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at Wesley's Chapel, the home of Historic Methodism, there was the induction service for the Revd Olufemi Cole-Njie as president for London District Women's Network in the Methodist Church and the commissioning of New Officers. The service was led jointly by the Revd Jennifer Potter and Deacon Jane Middleton, following warm words of welcome from the Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths. Many were present and more that sent greetings from across the District and beyond.

Mrs Judith Simms, Women's Network Connexional President in delivering the address, based on Scripture passages read by Kenneth Njie and Patsy Constantine, encouraged all to sing a new song for our God, who does not stand still, is doing a new thing as we continue to journey with the Holy Spirit. The days of "*this is how we have always done it*" should now be a thing of the past. We must be ready for the surprises God was going to bring our way.

'Femi's induction as president followed the address and this was done jointly by Judith Simms and Pam Stone Women's Network Area 1 Representative. 'Femi then commissioned the new officers - Mary Blincoe - Vice president, Abby Springer - Secretary, Barbara Southgate - Treasurer, Eve deGraft, The Revd Eleanor Jackson and Ms Blossom Jackson as sector co-ordinators.

Music was provided by The Leytonstone Methodist Youth Choir directed by Stanley Njie and set the tone for a most moving service. The Shern Hall Methodist Youth Steel Band provided music for a dance-up offertory which was taken in aid of Initiatives addressing Gun and Knife crime in London.

Femi in her response thanked the District Committee for the honour done her by electing her president. She indicated that she had come as a servant and invited all to join her in journeying on with the Holy Spirit - her theme for the two year term of office. She continued to say that the Holy Spirit will continue to encourage, equip and enable, but she requested permission in the addition of a fourth "e" and introduced the word "empower". Space was to be created within the Women's Network movement for the empowerment of women.

She also thanked all who had contributed to making the day a great success, including Wesley's Chapel for hosting. Personal thanks were offered to her husband Kenneth and children Stanley, Jainaba, David and Olive for their prayerful and practical support of the ministry to which God had called her.

The service was attended by Women's Network groups and others from across congregations in London and beyond as well as friends from the Gambia, living and working in the UK.

*Adapted from a fuller article by Revd Olufemi Cole-Njie which will appear in the Methodist Recorder.*