



CANACOM UPDATE

JULY 2023

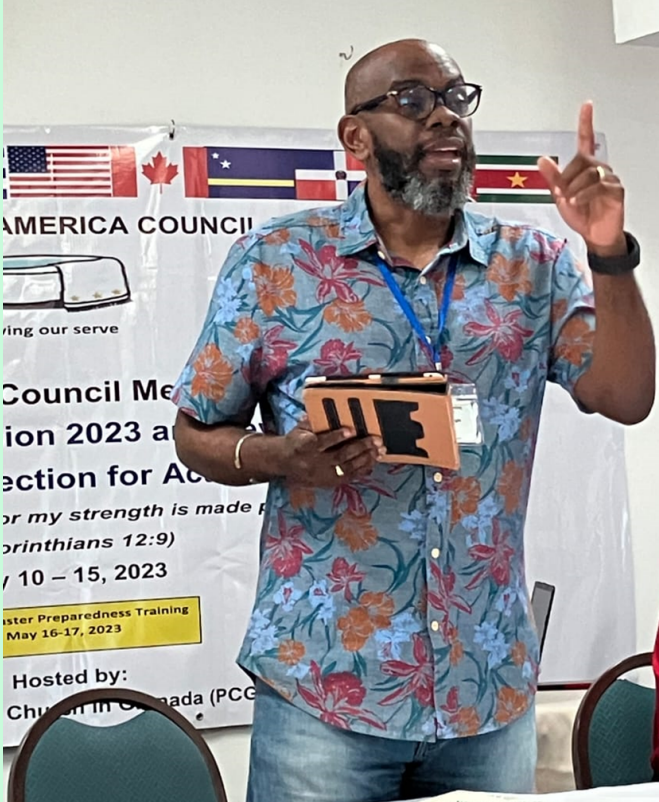


Opening Service - St. Andrew's Kirk Church - Grenada

Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) held its Biennial Council Meeting and a Disaster Preparedness Training in Grenada from May 10th to 15th and May 16th to 17th 2023, respectively at the Allamanda Beach Resort in Grand Anse, St. Georges. This meeting should have been held in 2020, however had to be repeatedly rescheduled because of COVID-19. The Presbyterian Church in Grenada was the honoured host and the Local Planning Committee was headed by Rev. Dr. R. Osbert James.

This Council meeting was held under the Theme: "Mission 2023 and Beyond: Reflection for Action" and the scripture reading taken from 2nd Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 9, which says 'My Grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness'. This passage was further undergirded by the story of 'Valley of Dry Bones' found in Ezekiel 37: 1-10.

KEY NOTE/BIBLE STUDY PRESENTER



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Rev. Carlyle started by setting the context in which the church operates. He reminded us that the church has to be the agency that helps in the performance of God's work. He also shared that he is very privileged to be a part of the church and to be engaged as a Minister.

He highlighted that the church is called to do ministry in an extreme time. The church is now a VUCA church. This term he noted, was coined at the end of World War 2.

OUR GOALS THIS WEEK

BIBLE STUDY

Presentation was done by Rev. Astor Carlyle
The Scripture was taken from Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14 and read to us by Mrs. Martin.

Rev. Carlyle reminded each of us that we are dealers in hope. This is very important for all around us are dangers in this 'VUCA' world.



The words of Mr. Angus Martin stayed with him. "Somehow I feel like things won't change but still I have hope". These words clearly express the essence of Ezekiel 37.



Visit to NEWLO & Adult and Teen Challenge Vocational Inst.



Lunch at the Maria holder Hospitality Centre



The Community immersion comprised, meeting organizations that are actively working within the community especially with the young adults to ensure that they become empowered mentally, physically and spiritually.

The organizations visited were NEWLO which provides quality vocational and life skills training for young men and women and people of all ages who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Adult and Teen Challenge, programme assists persons to recover from drug abuse. On the ground of the St Andrew Kirk there exists a facility which provides accommodations for the relatives of patients in the hospital.

Visit to:

THE DR. DOREEN MURRAY
GOOD SAMARITAN
HOSPITAL MINISTRY



ELECTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE: 2023 - 2025



From left to right:

Ms. Ominell Boyce, Caribbean Young Adult Rep. - Guyana Congregational Union;
Rev. Diana Thomas-Jones, Caribbean Rep. - Guyana Presbyterian Church;
Mrs. Merle Buchanan, Treasurer - United Church of Jamaica and Cayman Islands;
Rev. Diana de Graven, Chairperson; Ms. Farida DaCosta Gomez, Secretary -
Verenigde Protestantse Gemeente van Curacao; Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri,
North American Rep. - Presbyterian Church USA; Rev. Alison Infante Zamora,
Deputy Chair - Iglesia Presbiteriana - Reformada en Cuba; Mrs. Jennifer Martin,
Education in Mission Secretary - CANACOM

COLLABORATIVE WORK: PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) AND CARIBBEAN AND NORTH AMERICA COUNCIL FOR MISSION (CANACOM)



The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in partnership with the Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) jointly sponsored a two-day Disaster Preparedness Training Programme on May 16 and 17, 2023 in Grenada. The PDA is the emergency and refugee programme of the Presbyterian Church USA. The core budget is funded through the 'One Great Hour of Sharing' and additional funding is realized through designated gifts.

As set out in our webpage, PDA works in a number of ways:

- Focuses on the long-term recovery of disaster impacted communities.
- Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods.
- Works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith-based responders.
- Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response – United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.



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COLLABORATIVE WORK: PDA AND CANACOM (CONT'D)

Since we work collaboratively with church partners, among other groups, it was natural for PDA to have co-hosted this Disaster Preparedness Workshop with CANACOM.

PDA PROGRAM

Our programs are responsive to the recent and ongoing challenges posed by tornadoes, flooding, and other natural disasters as well as continuing issues of racial justice, the tragedy of mass shootings and other human caused disasters.

In all of our virtual programs, PDA team members facilitate and offer materials on maintaining self-care and building personal resilience through relationships, storytelling and spiritual practices.

Participants have the opportunity to share their experiences and wisdom with one another. This program is designed for those who have been immersed in disaster responses or who could benefit from a resilience-focused retreat.

This interactive program is designed to increase participants' understanding of their own signs of stress and to teach in-the-moment strategies to handle stress. Those attending will build on their experience while practicing new tools that have been shown to be effective in sustaining an individual's capacity to serve.

PDA was very happy to work in partnership with CANACOM.



SELF-CARE TRAINING

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for participants to be relaxed throughout the training, learn new tools, and take home a personalized self-care plan that can be used in everyday life. It can be offered in a half-or full-day format.

Rev. Edwin Gonzalez

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PCUSA

In recent news of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) mandated by the 225th PC(USA) General Assembly (2022) is working to unite two of the six agencies of the denomination. Both agencies are based in the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky. According to the commission's website, the General Assembly tasked this commission with overseeing and facilitating the union of the two agencies into one, “revise the Organization for Mission to reflect this change, and work to align the entities, boards, committees, and constituent bodies of the General Assembly toward long-term faithfulness and financial sustainability of its mission within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)”. Presbyterian World Mission is part of one of these: The Presbyterian Mission Agency. For more information, visit <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/committees/ga-special-committees-and-taskforces/commission-unification-oga-pma/>. As the denomination moves toward the unification of these two agencies, the Rev. Bronwen Boswell joins the Office of the General Assembly staff at this important time being named Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Rev. Boswell, who is currently the general presbyter/stated clerk at Shenandoah Presbytery, will serve until the election of a new stated clerk and his last day was June 30.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PCUSA CONT'D

Rev. Nelson steps down after seven years as the chief ecclesial officer of the PC(USA). We thank God for Rev. Nelson's ministry and the vision he cast for the PC(USA), leaving behind a legacy rooted in the call to serve others with love and justice following the example of Jesus Christ. For more information visit <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2023/4/25/j-herbert-nelson-to-step-down-asstated-clerk-of-t/and>

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2023/6/22/bronwen-boswell-named-acting-statedclerk-gen-asmb/>. Lastly, the Latin America & Caribbean region office is celebrating the naming of Ruling Elder Tracey King-Ortega as Co-Area Coordinator for the Latin America & the Caribbean region. Elder Tracey joined the Rev. Dr. Valdir França in this ministry on June 5th, 2023. We welcome Tracey as she takes on this new role after serving as a PC(USA) mission coworker —including as Regional Liaison for Central America— for over two decades. Our prayers are with this amazing coordinator team in the Latin America & Caribbean area office of PC(USA) World Mission!

CONGRATS!!



DR. ANNIYA TOMLINSON

Dr. Anniya Tomlinson Roberts has successfully completed the Bachelor of Science in Medicine and Bachelor of Science Surgery.

Additionally, she also gained a Bsc in Basic Medical Sciences and served as the class President for the MBBS Class of 2023.

"God called and I answered - He did the rest."



REV. CARLENE WALFORD

Rev. Carlene Walford, Chair of the Finance and Administrative Support Group of CANACOM has successfully completed the Master of Arts in International Community Development..

CONGRATS!! (CONT'D)



REV. NORLENE JACKSON

Rev. Norlene Jackson has successfully completed the Masters of Arts in Religion with concentration in Practical Theology.

She also served as Student Assistant and Committee Member of the Black Church Studies Program and Frontline Assistant at Bass/ Sterling Library.



MR. CHRISTOPHER LATCHMAN

Mr. Christopher Latchman was appointed Assistant to the Deputy General Secretary, Dr. Sudipta Singh of CWM. He is a former participant in CANACOM's Young Adults in Mission Programme.