

# CANACOM UPDATE

January – August 2025  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) is a partnership of 12 member churches in 10 countries, exploring the endless possibilities of mission engagement among the partners. The council boasts a steadfast commitment to mission education and transformational leadership within the region, and in collaboration with its global ecumenical partners. The entity is a charitable organization which maintains its primary fiscal holdings in Jamaica.



## **Meet the Administrative Committee (2025-2028)**

L to R: Mrs Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, Rev. Diana de Graven, Chairperson, Rev. Carlington Keen, Immediate Past Chairperson, Rev. Denyse Rattansingh-Atwarie, Deputy Chairperson, Mrs. Merle Buchanan, Treasurer, Ms. Farida Da Costa Gomez, Secretary, Rev. Diana Thomas Jones, Caribbean Representative, Rev. Jose Manuel Capella-Pratts, North American Representative, Miss Ominell Boyce, Caribbean Youth/Young Adults Representative and Miss Lisett Cruz, North American Youth/Young Adults Representative.

## Message from the Chair of CANACOM

### Rev. Diana de Graven

Dear CANACOM members, Ecumenical Partners and Friends,

My prayers are with you.

We are happy to share the latest edition of the CANACOM Update with you. Let me take this opportunity to thank our members for the wonderful and fruitful time we spent together during our Council Meeting held from May 15-21, 2025, in Georgetown, Guyana. We came together under the theme: "Creation Laments: Journeying with a Liberating Hope towards Peace". Romans 5:1-5 was the reading that led our deliberations and Bible studies.

We were hosted by not one, but three member churches: the Guyana Congregational Union (GCU), Presbyterian Church of Guyana (PCOG), and Guyana Presbyterian Church (GPC).

We came out of the Council Meeting with two documents, which will be shared along with this edition.

1. A Mission of Lament for the Salvation of All of Creation
2. Resolution to Establish a Justice and Witness Action Task Force to Strengthen CANACOM's Prophetic Engagement in the Public Sphere for Salvation of All of Creation

We hope that we all make sustainable contributions to a better climate and better living conditions on our planet.

Please keep well.

## Message from the Secretariat of CANACOM

### Mrs. Jennifer Martin

### Education in Mission (EIM) Secretary

Kindly accept greetings from the Secretariat.

The summer is hot, but we continue to thank God for all seasons!

Since returning from Council Meeting 2025 we have put much energy into planning ways of continuing working on our mission priorities as agreed:

- Addressing Sexual and Gender based Violence
- Challenging poverty and inequality
- Addressing Climate change (Faith and Climate)

In our usual manner, some programming will be organized through the Secretariat. As always, we look forward to receiving information from each member church to highlight the ways in which you are promoting our mission priorities in your local contexts.

Please support CANACOM's UPDATE by sending information for inclusion. Mrs. Anissea Bremmer Reid, YAMMER and Friend of CANACOM is now assisting the Secretariat with the production of the Update. Do Join me with expressing thanks to her.

We are so pleased to share Grenada's update on the presence of our mission partner, Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan in the context. In this and the next Update more information will be shared. You will also be happy to learn that initial discussions have started with Earth Medic/Earth Nurse about ongoing ways of collaborating.

Indeed, CANACOM is at an exciting juncture towards marking 40 years in 2026 empowered by the Holy Spirit. This boldness will help us to hear creation lament and to journey with many in our contexts towards liberation, hope and peace.

Blessings!

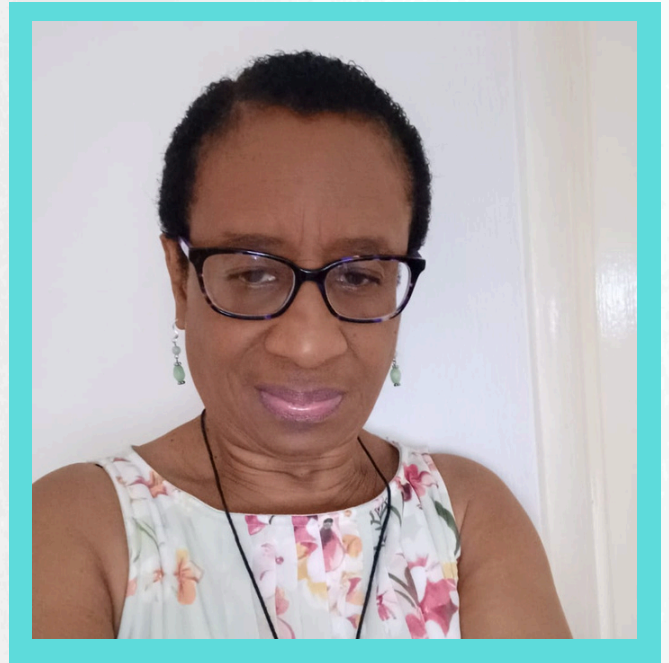
# FRIENDS OF CANACOM

## Inaugural Meeting January 09, 2025

We are grateful to have Ms. Faithlyn Stephens serving as Chairperson of the Friends of CANACOM. With her extensive experience in the mission field in Guyana, she brings a deep understanding of the vital role support groups play in advancing the Lord's mission.

During this period, three exploratory and planning meetings were held, resulting in two key proposals:

- A Soft Launch of the Friends of CANACOM group on the afternoon of May 20 during the Council meeting.
- The production and launch of a video [Documentary] to mark CANACOM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



**Want to be a friend  
of CANACOM?....  
Contact us to learn  
how!**

## KNOW THE FRIENDS OF CANACOM

Ms. Faithlyn Stephens, Chairperson  
Rev. Carlene Walford, Deputy Chairperson/Treasurer  
Mrs. Debesha Grant-Roberts, Member  
Mrs. Anissea Reid, Member  
Mr. Stephen Usher, Member  
Mr. Jean Gabriel, Member

## Ex-Officio Members

Rev. Diana de Graven, Chair of CANACOM  
Mrs. Jennifer Martin, EIM Secretary  
Miss. Shelley Ann Brown, Administrative Assistant



# WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



A visit to Jamaica in January by a World Council of Churches (WCC) delegation saw them conducting workshops. On January 16th & 17th, 2025 the workshops were held at Ridgemount United Church in Mandeville and focused on Social Justice Advocacy. This covered areas including combating Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Racism and fighting for Climate Justice with faith driven strategies.

On January 20, 2025 CANACOM hosted their workshop via zoom platform. The subject was **Climate Change and Litigation**. An article summarizing the event was published in the WCC News on February 6, 2025 under the heading [*WCC, with Churches in the Caribbean and North America, debuts training on Climate Litigation*]. The full article is shared on CANACOM's webpage or via the link below. Some remarks given by the EIM Secretary include the fact that all CANACOM member churches are aware of the issues, but more action needs to take place. She also mentioned that a handbook on Climate Litigation will soon be published by WCC.

**<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-with-churches-in-caribbean-and-north-america-debuts-training-on-climate-litigation>**



# Earth Medic/**Earth Nurse**

A webinar collaboration on **“How to build Alliance between Health Professionals and People of Faith for a better Climate”** was held on March 12, 2025 at 5pm Jamaica time. The purpose of the webinar was to raise awareness, foster collaboration, inspire action and build capacity.

The moderators were Dr Carl James Hospedales and Rev. Kimberly Ramlochan. Rev. Diana de Graven, Chair of CANACOM made a presentation

The poster features a central illustration of a globe with a stethoscope draped over it. Below the globe, several stylized human figures are shown interacting with the globe. The background is a light blue sky with a white wind turbine on the right. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with key information highlighted in blue and green boxes.

**WEBINAR**

**PRACTICAL CLIMATE ACTION FOR CARIBBEAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: A HOW-TO SERIES**

## How to Build Alliances Between Health Professionals and People of Faith for a Better Climate

 **MARCH 12, 2025**  
5:00–6:30 PM EST  
**VIA ZOOM**

**REGISTER NOW**

**IMPORTANT INFO:**

- CME/CPD CREDITS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PROFESSIONALS FROM THE REGION.
- NOTE: THE EMAIL USED FOR ZOOM REGISTRATION MUST BE USED FOR ALL COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING CME CREDITS.

 **COLUMBIA**  
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
GLOBAL CONSORTIUM ON CLIMATE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

 **EarthMedic EarthNurse**

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**

 **Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM)**  
*Improving our Serve*



# HYDROPONIC PROJECT

The idea of implementing a hydroponics system at the Christoforus Internaat was agreed during a discussion between Rev. Denyse Rattansingh-Atwarie, Minister, Church of Scotland in Trinidad (COST) Ms. Ayanna Leacock, Young Adults in Mission (YAM) representative from COST, Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary. CANACOM embraced the idea, and the relevant approvals were granted from the Administrative Committee. The intention was to have the system installed during the YAM camp, July 2024. However, emerging from consultations among CANACOM, the Reformed Church in Suriname (RCS), Ms. Leacock and Christoforus Internaat, it was decided that Ms. Leacock would return to Suriname in April 2025 to spearhead the construction of the system.

The project team included Rev. Diana de Graven, Chair of CANACOM, members of the RCS, Mrs. Monica Biljhout, Director Christoforus Internaat, boys and girls from the institution and Mr. Helmond Proeve, a local hydroponics specialist. Everly Jade, granddaughter of Mrs. Henriette Pierpont Wijnaldum, Treasurer of the RCS, was the youngest member of the work team. Her presence brought a refreshing boost to the team's morale.





Mr. Proeve started the repairs to the greenhouse ahead of Ms. Leacock's arrival, to ensure that the project stayed on track for the scheduled completion timeline of two days. The entire system consists of approximately 624 lots (the individual growing areas or plant locations within the overall system) for plant production. Throughout the construction process the children were taught how to use the tools – assisting with hole drilling, smoothing the pipes, and cutting and placing the mesh cloth around the shed.

The director and children of the institution were trained in the effective use of the system and were presented with Certificates of Participation.

Mr. Kenneth Vasilda installed the electrical unit for the hydroponics system and assisted with explaining the complexities of the system to the users, as well as, how to guarantee its stability.





# COUNCIL MEETING

## May 15-21, 2025

Hosted by: Guyana Presbyterian Church  
Guyana Congregational Union  
Presbyterian Church of Guyana



The Council Meeting was convened in Georgetown, Guyana, May 15-21, 2025, under the Theme: ***“Creation Laments: Journeying With A Liberating Hope Towards Peace.”*** The undergirding Scripture was Romans 5:1-5.

The Opening Worship Service was held at Burns Memorial Presbyterian Church, Georgetown. Rev. Dr. Brenda Kirton Harewood, General Secretary of the Guyana Missionary Baptist Union, was the Guest Preacher. The Service was attended by delegates from CANACOM member churches, Honourable Priya Manickchand, Minister of Education for Guyana, Mrs. Janet McConnell, Mission Secretary-Social Justice & Caribbean Region, Council for World Mission (CWM), other specially invited guests and members of the host churches.

Ms. Konyo Addo presented the delegates with an introduction to Guyana through a brief historical and geographical sketch of the country. The presentation commenced with an invitation to explore Guyana beyond conventional historical accounts, embracing its rich oral traditions, folklore, poetry, and music. Hilton Hemerding’s folk song, “Beautiful Guyana” was used to set the tone for understanding the nation’s unique identity.

Dr. Chetwynd Osborne delivered a presentation on the ***Extractive Industries/Climate Change And Their Effects On The Guyana Context.*** Dr. Osborne is a lecturer in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Guyana. He has special interest in biodiversity, conservation and sustainable land management, and actively engages in research in these fields.



# COUNCIL MEETING Cont'd.

## DR. CARL JAMES HOSPEDALES KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Carl James Hospedales was the Keynote Speaker for the Council Meeting. Dr. Hospedales was a delegate from the Church of Scotland in Trinidad and has more than thirty (30) years of experience in Public Health. His presentation revolved around the following sub-headings:

- Grasp The Big Picture Of Climate Change And Planetary Health.
- Appreciate The Health Impacts Of Climate Change.
- Integral Links To Climate Justice.



## BIBLE STUDIES LAMENT, JUSTICE & PEACE, HOPE



The daily Bible Study series dissected the topics of Lament; Justice & Peace; Hope. Rev. Carlene Walford, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Rev. Cornelia Marielle van Waardenberg, Verenigde Protestantse Gemeentee Van Curacao, and Rev. Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago, led the study on the topics, respectively. The Bible Studies can be read in full on CANACOM's website.



# PARTNER IN MISSION

The Presbyterian Church in Grenada (PCG) made an appeal to CANACOM for an Ordained Minister to serve in a short-term engagement, July 01-August 31, 2025. We thank God that, with the help of the Rev. Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) we were very quickly able to put the wheels in motion for making the necessary arrangements. CANACOM and the PCG thank Rev. Joy Evelyn Abdul-Mohan (retired Minister of the PCTT) for her quick and positive offer to serve.

The Immediate Past-Chairperson of CANACOM, Rev. Carlington Keen, and Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, made a preparatory visit to Grenada, June 16-19, 2025.

They held discussions with Rev. Dr. Osbert James, Moderator, and other leaders of the PCG, and viewed the manse where the Partner in Mission (PIM) would be accommodated. The Samaritan church, where the partner would be based, was also visited.

Our Partner in Mission's service in Grenada started on July 1st. The placement is expected to last for two (2) months ending August 31, 2025. She has been stationed in the Samaritan context and will provide ministry support to the Belaire and Samaritan congregations among other duties.



## ROGER WILSON IN SURINAME

During the last week of July 2025, Mr. Roger Wilson created a novel but useful way of spending one week of his summer vacation. Having spent time in Suriname on the Young Adults in Mission program July 2024, he had a desire to return and contribute to a project.

The terms of his visit were agreed with Rev. Diana de Graven of the Reformed Church in Suriname. Roger, along with other volunteers as shown in the photograph helped to beautify and transform a wall at the "Ons Huis Church Hall" of the Centrumkerk.

CANACOM is very pleased to be associated with this delightful and refreshing project.





# CANACOM

Caribbean and North America Council for Mission

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### **International Day of Climate Action October 24, 2025.**

CANACOM will mark this significant day by hosting of a webinar. We shall collaborate with Earth Medic/Earth Nurse and the Christian Connections for International Health. More details will be shared in due course.

### **CANACOM at 40!**

CANACOM will commemorate our 40th anniversary on September 11th, 2026. A number of activities will be highlighted.



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[canacom.org](http://canacom.org)