Information

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC-EWI PROVINCE

November, 2010



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman of The Eastern West Indies Province

Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Genesis 32 vs. 26 [NIV]

Message to the EWIP from the PEC

The PEC held its final meeting in the Tobago Conference from October 22-24, 2010. Members of the PEC were graciously welcomed by the warm hospitality of the Church family in Tobago.

In the midst of the busy schedule, the PEC found quality time to meet with the Executive Board, the combined Joint Boards of all congregations and the Grenada Missions Committee. We were heartened by the wonderful report of the state of the Grenada Mission and the zeal and enthusiasm shown by the Missions Committee and all those concerned. It is hoped that a staff will be called to Grenada by 2012. In addition, we were encouraged by the 2 building projects, presently

on the way in Tobago. They are the Buccoo Moravian Sanctuary and a Manse being built at Signal Hill. The Manse is expected to finish during the first quarter of 2011.

A great deal of time was spent looking at the growth or non growth of our Church. It is the PEC'S belief that the growth of the Church depends heavily on the Social Ministry of the Church. The Church has to connect and reconnect to the Community and create <u>the empowering environment for growth</u>. The proliferation of gangs, the rise in the spread of HIV/AIDS is great cause for concern. <u>The Teaching Ministry of our Church; House to House visitation; the use of technology; the provision of literature to educate our members;</u> the crucial area of Research by which we can make informed decisions, are some of the ways that will make our Church relevant and prepare the way for growth.

The PEC is pleased to present the Audited financial statement for 2009 for the Eastern West Indies Province for dissemination within each conference. The 2011 Provincial budget will also be forwarded. As has been since 2006, there has been no increase in Quota from Conferences.

The PEC would also like to record its acceptance and approval of the audited financial statements of the Tobago Conference for 2006, 2007 and 2008 which is consistent with our efforts to promote greater transparency and accountability. The PEC takes this opportunity to urge the other conferences to comply with the requirement to submit audited financial statements for approval.

There has been much progress in the preparation of the Caribbean hymnal and the review of the Book of Order. It is hoped that the Book of Order will be completed by February 2011.

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VISION STATEMENT

A Church - Transformed, United, Victorious in Christ

MISSION STATEMENT

By the grace of God, we seek to be faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ; without distinction, we use all that we possess to call all peoples to the truth of the Gospel through worship, evangelism, discipleship and service

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Two resolutions were passed at the meeting:

(a) <u>A Staff Member who is on Leave</u>

Any member of Staff who is on Study Leave/Leave of Absence should be called from the place, from where the member of Staff proceeded on leave, within the EWIP, and not from anywhere outside of the Province. The Staff member should be responsible to transport himself or herself back to the Province and then it would be the responsibility of the Province to transport the individual to the place of call within the EWIP.

(b) <u>Removal and Travel Expenses</u>

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- That all travel and relocation expenses of Staff Members be done at the most cost effective way,
- That only the Staff Member and immediate family, to include Spouse and dependent children, will be the responsibility of the P.E.C, with regard to travel and removal expenses,
- That personal effects to include the following items will be the responsibility of the PEC to fund: clothes, books, linens, cutlery, crockery, computer, television, radio/ music system and other minor items,
- That any other item shipped is the responsibility of the Staff member concerned,
- That before any shipping is done that a Performa Invoice be forwarded to the P.E.C through the Superintendent of the Conference where the items are being shipped from.

The PEC also agreed that a <u>Cap</u> needs to be placed on Funeral Expenses of a Minister in Active Service, a Spouse or Pensioner who dies. Conferences will be asked to provide pertinent information, so that a Resolution can be framed and passed. The Provincial Men's Conference will be hosted by the Barbados Conference from July 4 - 8, 2011. The Theme is, "**Redeemed, Delivered, Covered**."

The Staff and Spouse Retreat will be held in St. Maarten from July 14 - 19, 2011. The Theme is, "Living with Boundaries."

The PEC commends the following Members of Staff:

-Sis Onita Samuel, one of our Ministers in Training is spending this Semester (September – December) at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. She was selected from the student body at UTCWI. We wish her well.

-The Rev. Winelle Kirton-Roberts, graduated from the Cavehill Campus of the University of the West Indies on Saturday October 23, 2010, with her Ph.D degree. We applaud and congratulate Dr. Kirton Roberts.

-The Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer for being elected as a member of the "Unity Standing Committee on Theology" representing the Caribbean Region.

Condolences were extended through the Barbados Conference to the Family of the late Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. David Thompson and the Barbados people. One Minute silence was observed at the Montgomery Moravian Church, where the PEC assembled for its meeting with the combined Joint Boards in Tobago. This took place at 10.06 a.m. on Saturday October 23, 2010.

We thank God for His Spirit which continues to empower Moravians throughout the Eastern West Indies Province to reach out to our neighbours with the good news of Jesus Christ. We pray that you will join us, as we seek to be faithful servants of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Message to the Unity from the Unity Board

The bi-annual Unity Board meeting was held near Calgary 1-8 October 2010.

Members of the Unity Board were graciously welcomed by the warm hospitality of the Canadian District of the America North Province of our worldwide unity. We bring you greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour,



Jesus Christ, whose presence we experienced powerfully throughout our deliberations.

In the midst of Bible study, prayer, and the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, we prayed for the people of the worldwide church, and sought to be led by the Holy Spirit into God's future for our church. The theme of the meeting was: *In All Things Love: Mission as our Common Heritage*. The deliberations gave witness that we are a church of mission, and when all things are conducted in love, our common heritage will continue to inspire to bring forward the work of the Chief Elder.

After holy conversation and heartfelt testimony from two brothers of the Czech Province, the Unity Board officially removed all sanctions imposed on the Czech Province and welcomed our brothers and sisters back into full relationship with the Board as a Unity Province. Our brothers acknowledged, with contrition, their part in the discord that has separated the province from the Unity Undertaking in the Czech Republic. Amidst tears of celebration, we received promises of communication between the two groups, and recognition of the rightful place within the unity of both expressions of the Moravian Church in the Czech Republic.

We also heard witness of the painful and ongoing division within the Honduran Province and the Unity Undertaking in that country. Leaders of both the Honduran and Nicaraguan provinces were present to share their perspectives about the need for open communication and the hope for ministry activities that would promote mutual participation. We clarified that the American Board of World Mission was particularly responsible for the Unity Undertaking, now known as A Ministry of the Moravian Church in Honduras. However, it was also noted that the Board of World Mission would encourage ministries in both the Honduran Province and the Ministry. After careful deliberation and with a deep sense of respect for widely differing opinions on the issue, a resolution was passed clarifying the action of Unity Synod in 2002 and 2009 regarding homosexuality. The moratorium on legislation imposed in 2002 was lifted. The board will ask the Standing Committee on Theology to map the differing views on the issue, their theological and cultural background as well as the legal considerations within the provinces and to provide resources for provinces to hold conversations on pastoral care to homosexuals. This Committee will be directed to offer a report to the Unity Board meeting in 2012.

These resources will be offered to provinces to do with them as they see fit. To allow provinces an opportunity to absorb this information, the Unity Board is asking all provinces to refrain from making any legislation on the issue until after the Unity Board meeting in 2014.

It is with joy that we report that the following areas were officially recognized as Mission Areas: Sierra Leone, Zanzibar, South Asia (formerly North India), and Ruvuma and Njombe (in Tanzania). The following Mission Provinces requested to be identified as full Unity Provinces: Eastern Tanzania, Lake Tanganyika, Malawi, Northern Tanzania, and Zambia. Delegations from the Unity Board will visit these mission provinces and bring a report and recommendation back to the Unity Executive Committee meeting in 2011, whereupon decisions will be made. The Province of D. R. Congo was officially recognized as a Unity Province.

A number of other important issues, including the finances of the Unity, reports from all Unity Provinces, Mission Provinces and Mission Areas were on the agenda. Follow up on the resolutions of the Unity Synod 2009 was also discussed.

Brother Paul Gardner (Jamaica, Caribbean Region) was elected to his second two-year term as President of the Unity Board and Brother Frieder Vollprecht (European Continental Province, European Region) was elected to his second term as Vice-President of the Board. Sister Elisabeth Miller (American Northern Province, North American Region) was elected as member of the Executive Committee. The election of the member of the Executive Committee representing the African Region will take place shortly.

Further, the following members were elected for the Standing Committee on Theology: Caribbean Region: Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, EWI and Rev. Gary Gardiner, Jamaica, North American Region: Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman, America North and Rev. Dr. Worth Green, America South, from the African Region:

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Rev. Elize Thienssen, South Africa; one member from Tanzania is still to be elected. The European Region will be represented through Rev. Benigna Carstens, ECP and Rev. Philip Cooper, British Province.

For the Unity Mission and Development Board, the list of members is still in-complete, but it will be announced shortly.

We are thankful to God as the Lord's Spirit continues to empower Moravians throughout the world to reach out to their neighbours with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We pray that you will join with us as we seek to be faithful servants of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Submitted on behalf of

The Unity Board

HAULILA Land

Paul Gardner (Rev. Dr.)

President



Back I to r Denfield Anthony Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Hazelmay Anthony, Kisson and Lorna Massiah

ALL Antiguans who met at Good Shepherd Moravian Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on October 03, 2010 (Unity Board Meeting)



A Path of Destruction by Hurricane Tomas

As a Province, let us remember the people of Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, who were hard hit by Tropical Storm Tomas and hurricane Tomas respectively over the last weekend. In Barbados Tropical Storm Tomas crept up on them at about 2 am on Saturday October 30 and brought flooding, downed large trees and power lines and tore off the roofs from many buildings. Many houses were totally destroyed. The Strong winds tore off a section of roof of the Moravian Manse at the Sharon Moravian Church.



Sharon Moravian Manse in Barbados



Dwelling houses Totally destroyed



Uprooted Tree



Trees Uprooted and wall & power-lines down

In St. Vincent and St. Lucia, the tropical storm developed into hurricane Tomas and devastated the Agricultural Industry.

In particular, the Banana Industry in St. Vincent suffered untold damage. It is reported that the Banana Industry which is the main Industry of the country was almost totally destroyed. Two workers were hospitalized after being blown off a roof by high winds.



Roads damaged by Mud slides in St..Vincent

Widespread flooding triggered landslides that cut off as many as 30 roads, marooning hundreds of residents.



Flooded areas in St. Vincent

St. Lucia was the hardest hit, many areas of the country have been completely cut off and are not accessible by road from massive landslides, while in other areas rivers have cut off the roadway and destroyed bridges. At least 12 persons have been reported dead.



Landslides destroyed houses in St. Lucia



collapsed bridge preventing access from one area to another by road.



I encourage us to remember them, not only in our prayers, but by our tangible support through our financial contributions.

PROVINCIAL THEME 2010: PURSUING THE BLESSING



The Provincial family express sympathy to the Rev. Glenvil Gregory on the passing of his father, Mr. Edmead Gregory, who passed into the nearer presence of God on October 03, 2010. The Funeral Service was held at the Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall in Gambles, Antigua on October 25, 2010.



Leave of Absence

The Rev. Angela Roberts requested and has been granted (2) two months Leave of Absence from October 11—December 11, 2010.



Birthday Greetings for the month of November is extended to:

Sis. Patricia Nicholas	15
Bro. Rowan Simmons	19
Bro. Ezra Parris	21
Sis. Myrtle Miller	21
Sis. Geraldine Roberts	23
Sis. Joyce Walters	24
Bro. Nevin Lewis	27



Anniversary Greetings for the month of November is extended to:

Bro. Alban & Sis. Cynthia St. Hill

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Fun Corner

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Two sisters, one blonde and one brunette, inherit the family ranch. Unfortunately, after just a few years, they are in financial trouble. In order to keep the bank from repossessing the ranch, they need to purchase a bull from the stockyard in a far town so that they can breed their own stock

They only have \$600 left. upon leaving, the brunette tells her sister, 'When I get there, if I decide to buy the bull, I'll contact you to drive out after me and haul it home.

The brunette arrives at the stockyard, inspects the bull, and decides she wants to buy it. The man tells her that he will sell it for \$599, no less. After paying him, she drives to the nearest town to send her sister a telegram to tell her the news. She walks into the telegraph office and says, 'I want to send a telegram to my sister telling her that I've bought a bull for our ranch. I need her to hitch the trailer to our pickup truck and drive out here so we can haul it home.'

The telegraph operator explains that he'll be glad to help her, then adds, 'It's just 99 cents a word.' Well, after paying for the bull, the brunette only has \$1 left. She realizes that she'll only be able to send her sister one word.

After a few minutes of thinking, she nods and says, 'I want you to send her the word 'comfortable.'

The operator shakes his head. 'How is she ever going to know that you want her to hitch the trailer to your pickup truck and drive out here to haul that bull back to your ranch if you send her just the word 'comfortable?'

The brunette explains, 'My sister's blonde. The word's big. She'll read it very slowly .

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.. com-for-da-bull.'