

ATLANTIC UNION

# GLEANER

SEPTEMBER 2022

## UNITED WE WILL GO

Atlantic Union Conference  
31<sup>st</sup> Constituency Session Report

BERMUDA CONFERENCE  
COMMISSIONS ITS FIRST  
FEMALE PASTOR

PARADIGM SHIFT IN  
EDUCATION ACROSS THE  
NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

STEPS TOWARD ONGOING  
YOUTH MINISTRY IMPACTS

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# This is Our Moment to Shine

The 31<sup>st</sup> Atlantic Union Conference Constituency Session is history. Delegates made their decisions about who will serve for the next five years. They also received reports concerning the work in the union territory for the past six years. Now that all has been said and done, the question is, “What is next?”

If we have decided to become comfortable thinking that things are all set for the next five years, we have missed an important message. In his devotional “The Window is Open,” G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, reminded us that we have an opportunity to be like Jesus and get the word out to the world because “the window of God’s grace is open.”

The question “What is next?” was answered as far back as when the commission was given to Jesus’ disciples while He was with them on earth. “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’”—Matthew 28:18-20.

If “United We Will Go,” the theme for the Atlantic Union session, is any indication of what is next for the members in this territory, then I believe it is safe to say that we should be more determined than ever to focus on being ambassadors for Christ. The promise from God is that “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”—Matthew 24:14. One thing is certain, the gospel will be preached with or without us.

Watching the news on television or the Internet is becoming increasingly difficult and sometimes heart-

wrenching. In our church, school, and home circles, our families, friends, and neighbors are facing challenges such as never before. Scripture reminds us that, “There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation”—Daniel 12:1. This is why we need to “Be sober, be vigilant; because [our] adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”—1 Peter 5:8. We need to stay constantly in prayer and focused on our Savior and Friend.

Take a look around. Most of us know people who are in need of hope. We know people who need help to meet their basic needs. God is looking for people who are willing to let Jesus be seen through them and who are willing to be His hands and feet. That is us—you and me.

While the “window of God’s grace is open,” we need to take the opportunity to share the gospel message with family, friends, those in our community, and beyond. We have no guarantee when the window will close, but we know that “He who endures to the end shall be saved”—Matthew 24:14.

The opportunity is available now for each of us. We should seize this moment and let God use us for His honor and glory. Remember, as we go forward in the name of the Lord, He reminds us: “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”—Isaiah 41:10. As ambassadors for Christ, this is our moment to shine. ☺

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*Ednor A. P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference.*

*Scripture texts used in this article are from the New King James Version (NKJV). See the bottom of page 2.*



*“While the ‘window of God’s grace is open,’ we need to take the opportunity to share the gospel message with family, friends, those in our community, and beyond.”*

# UNITED WE WILL GO

## A Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Atlantic Union Conference Constituency Session



The five Atlantic Union Conference administrators elected at the constituency session are, from left, Henry Beras, Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president; Ted A. Huskins, executive secretary; Pierre Omeler, president; Elias F. Zabala, Sr., treasurer; and Jose Joseph, Haitian and African ministries vice president.

The 31<sup>st</sup> constituency session of the Atlantic Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened on Sunday, August 14, 2022, at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Boxborough, Massachusetts. The session, originally scheduled for June 2021, was held slightly more than one year later than planned because of health concerns related to COVID-19 and the indoor capacity limitations imposed at the

time. Under the theme “United We Will Go,” more than 500 delegates from the six conferences in the Atlantic Union gathered to elect officers and committee members, and to receive reports about the work of the church in the Atlantic Union territory for the quinquennial term plus one year (2016-2021).

G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, was the devotional speaker for the session.

He presented a message titled “The Window is Open.” Using Romans 5:8-10, he focused on the relevancy of the Adventist message for today. “The window of God’s grace is open,” he urged. “Go tell the world!”

### Officers and Departmental Directors Elected

The delegates elected Pierre E. Omeler to serve as president, a position he has held since November 17, 2021, when he was elected by the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee to succeed G. Earl Knight, who retired. Ted A. Huskins was elected to serve as executive secretary, a position he has held since February 15, 2022, when the executive committee elected him to succeed Omeler. Delegates elected Elias F. Zabala, Sr., to serve as treasurer, a position he has held since he was elected at the June 19, 2016, constituency session.

Six other individuals were also elected to serve the Atlantic Union for the next five-years. Delegates elected Jose Joseph to return as Haitian and African ministries vice president, a position he has held since he was elected at the 2016 constituency session. New to the



Marlene Alvarez, education director



Trevor S. Forbes, undertreasurer



David McKenzie, youth ministries director



Theresa Rubidoux, assistant education director

administrative team is Henry Beras, who was elected to serve as the Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president. Beras previously served as president of the Greater

New York Conference. He succeeds Dionisio Olivo, who is retiring.

Delegates elected Trevor S. Forbes to serve as undertreasurer, a position he has held since 2000. Marlene Alvarez

## ATLANTIC UNION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022-2026

Committees elected to serve during the 2022-2026 quinquennial term.

### Executive Committee

Pierre E. Omeler, chairperson  
 Ted A. Huskins, secretary  
 Henry Beras, Union  
 Gary Blanchard, NNEC  
 Bethany Brown, NEC  
 Brad Cauley, NNEC  
 Jane Chung, GNYC  
 Will Comley, NYC  
 Cathy Coulanges, NEC  
 Miguel Crespo, NYC  
 Nicardo Delahaye, NEC  
 Frantz Delias, NEC  
 David Dennis, SNEC  
 Andrii Dyman, GNYC  
 Carolyn Francis, NEC  
 Vincent Goffe, NEC  
 Claudio Gomez, NYC  
 Kleber Hernandez, SNEC  
 Kyle Howard, NNEC  
 Mary Jones, NEC  
 Jose Joseph, Union  
 Abraham Jules, NEC  
 Eldeen King, NEC  
 Kenroy Malcolm, SNEC  
 Joyce Malin, SNEC  
 Kenneth Manders, BDA  
 Ainsworth K. Morris, NEC  
 Abigail Osei, GNYC  
 Cesar Perozo, SNEC  
 Benjamin Powell, GNYC  
 President, GNYC  
 Hector Ramos, NEC  
 Clovis Ribeiro, SNEC  
 Alanzo Smith, GNYC  
 Sheena Smith, BDA

Joyce Stewart, NEC  
 Herode Thomas, GNYC  
 Maria Thomas, GNYC  
 W. DeJaun Tull, BDA  
 Donald Webb, NEC  
 Linda Williams, NEC  
 Elias F. Zabala, Sr., Union

### Association Board

Pierre E. Omeler, chairperson  
 Ted A. Huskins, secretary  
 Daniel Battin, NNEC  
 Robert Chandler, NEC  
 Priscilla English, NYC  
 Trevor S. Forbes, Union  
 Ysaias Javier, GNYC  
 Thomas Murray, SNEC  
 NEC (to be chosen by EXCOM)  
 Lloyd Scharffenberg, GNYC  
 W. Aaron M. Spencer, BDA  
 Elias F. Zabala, Sr., Union

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Ted A. Huskins, chairperson  
 John Ashmeade, NEC  
 Eddy Benoit, GNYC  
 Lloyd Caesar, NYC  
 Claudio Gomez, NYC  
 Brian Holdipp, BDA  
 Doug Holway, NNEC  
 Eldeen King, NEC  
 Victor Perez, SNEC  
 Kelvin Rivas, GNYC  
 Ronald Rojas, SNEC  
 Nathan Stearman, NNEC  
 W. DeJaun Tull, BDA

was elected to serve as education director. She previously served as associate education director, a position she was elected to at the 2016 constituency session. Alvarez succeeds Jerrell Gilkeson, who is retiring. Theresa Robidoux, the associate superintendent of schools for the Southern New England Conference, was elected to

serve as the associate education director. Delegates elected David McKenzie to return as Youth Ministries director, a position he has held since the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee elected him in 2018.

The newly-elected Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee, at its first meeting, will consider all other

departmental positions that were not voted at the constituency session.

### Reports Presented

The delegates received reports from the president, secretary, and treasurer highlighting the work in the Atlantic Union for the past six years. Delegates completed all agenda items, includ-

## OUTGOING LEADERS RECOGNIZED

**A**s a new five-year term begins in the Atlantic Union, we take time to recognize the outgoing administrators and directors for their leadership and service in the Atlantic Union during the past term (2016-2021).

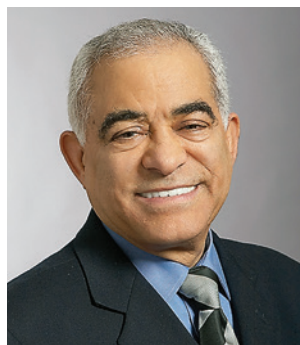
**Dionisio Olivo**, who is retiring, served as the Atlantic Union Conference Hispanic and Portuguese ministries vice president for 16 years, beginning June 2006. His other responsibilities also included serving as director for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, Family Ministries, Men's Ministries, Single Adult Ministries, Medical Cadet Corps, and Sabbath School.

**Jerrell Gilkeson**, who is retiring, served as director for the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education for six years, when he was elected by the delegates at the June 2016 constituency session. He previously served as associate director of education for 11 years from September 2005. His responsibilities included serving as Children's Ministries and Early Childhood Education director.

**Yvonne Knight** served as Prayer Ministries and Women's Ministries director for six years from September 2016, when the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee elected her to serve. She previously served as the Greater New York Conference Women's Ministries director. Knight has relocated outside of the Atlantic Union territory.

**Charlotte L.V. Thoms** was elected by the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee to serve as the director for Disabilities Ministries and Women's Ministries from June 1997. She served as Women's Ministries director for 14 years until late 2011, She served as Disabilities Ministries director for 25 years from 1997 to 2022. Thoms has relocated outside of the Atlantic Union territory.

The Atlantic Union Conference staff have been blessed by the presence of these individuals and their contributions as a part of the office and as representatives to the constituents in the field. There is no doubt that wherever Dionisio Olivo, Jerrell Gilkeson, Yvonne Knight, and Charlotte L.V. Thoms go from here, their ministry and witness will inspire others to look for the soon-coming Savior and King. They will be missed!



Dionisio Olivo



Jerrell Gilkeson



Yvonne Knight



Charlotte L.V. Thoms

ing electing members to serve on the Atlantic Union Conference Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Association Board.

The Atlantic Union executive officers presented a special report concerning the status of the closure process and selling of the Atlantic Union College properties. After discussion on this item the delegates voted to recommend that the Atlantic Union College administration establish a committee to study the mission possibilities for the college property and report to the college constituency in six months.

### Other Agenda Items

The Atlantic Union Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee brought several recommendations to the delegates. Included among the voted actions was the addition of language to allow delegates, when designated by the executive committee, to participate virtually in constituency sessions. Previously, delegates were required to appear in person, which resulted in the need to delay the 2021 session because of health concerns due to COVID-19.

### United We Will Go

Over the next five years, the team of administrators and departmental directors will move forward with the work in the Atlantic Union which is made up of six conferences, with more than 129,189 members who worship in 608 churches and 96 groups; 51 schools (43 elementary schools and eight academies); numerous community-based ministries, summer camp programs geared to accommodate children, youth, young adults, adults, and the entire family; and several van ministries.

In his remarks at the culmination of the meeting, Omeler thanked the delegates for their patience and vote of confidence in all of those whom they elected. He thanked the North



The newly-elected Atlantic Union Conference administrators, their spouses, and the departmental directors line the stage at the 31st constituency session.

Debra Banks Cuadrio

American Division representatives G. Alexander Bryant, president, and Desiree, his wife; Kyoshin Ahn, executive secretary, and Randy Robinson, treasurer; and General Conference Office of General Counsel representative Karnik Doukmetzian, general counsel, who served as parliamentarian, for assisting with the meeting.

Omeler expressed special thanks to the guest musician Jared Fischer, the entire staff, including the office staff, Medical Cadet Corps, and the technical team.

“We pledge to you as officers that we will work day and night, night and day, to keep this union conference, where we have the cradle of Adventism, focused on mission and evangelism so Jesus can come back and take us home,” Omeler said. “But always remember that this church has only one foundation. As long as we continue to lean on the Lord, we will be fine.” ☺

*Ednor A.P. Davison is the editor of the Atlantic Union GLEANER and communication director for the Atlantic Union Conference.*



Members of the Medical Cadet Corps assist during the voting process.

Elias Zabala, Jr.



Delegates from around the Atlantic Union participate in the 31st constituency session.

Ednor A.P. Davison

## 40 Baptized During Medical Missionary Trip to the Dominican Republic

Forty-three volunteers from the United States, Canada, and Spain participated in the July 11-18 medical missionary trip to the Dominican Republic. The medical personnel included pastors and people of all ages, along with 12 other medical personnel from the Dominican Republic. The specialties included general medicine, OB/GYN, psychiatry, naturopathy, ophthalmology, dentistry, nursing, technicians, and pharmacology. The team provided care for about 2,000 patients.

Additionally, the Adventist Community Services team also distributed clothing to those in need. All the services were completely free of charge.

In the evening, the pastors preached for evangelistic meetings held in seven local churches. With the help of the Dominican Union and two associations, volunteers distributed bags of food in the churches.

On Sabbath afternoon, church members, along with conference and union administrators and the medical team, gathered together in a large church



Building Committee members from the Haitian Central church of Santiago meet with union and association supporters who are assisting with the building project.



The medical missionaries stop to take a photo before boarding the bus to the location where they will provide medical care for the patients.

for a baptismal service. They baptized 40 people and 18 others joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church by profession of faith.

Those served expressed their appreciation and referred to the medical-missionary team as angels sent from heaven to satisfy their needs. The Atlantic Union Conference Haitian Ministries and the North American Division Haitian Advisory sponsored the trip. All glory goes to God for providing the inspiration, the protection for the medical missionary team, and for the financial support of the Atlantic Union Conference administration.

—Jose Joseph, vice president for Haitian/African Ministries, Atlantic Union Conference



# Family Led to Christ and Hartsdale Church Through an Online Search

The Carrera family—Selvin Sr., Mayra, Selvin Jr., Cynthia, and Liliana—searched online for a Seventh-day Adventist church after watching Bible study programs hosted by evangelists Doug Batchelor, Mark Finley, and Juan Surroca. For more than two years, the family took in the presentations and desired to be baptized. “We loved what we learned and heard from them,” says Mayra.

The search ended when the Carrera family found the Hartsdale church in Hartsdale, New York. “Once we found this church, we looked no more,” Mayra says. “We loved it and decided to stay at this church.”

Christian Genao, associate pastor, worked with the family to prepare them for baptism by using online Bible studies. Hartsdale pastor Steven Siciliano baptized all five family members on May 28, 2022. “We wanted



Following the May 28 baptism at Hartsdale church, Steven Siciliano, Hartsdale church pastor, left; stands with newly-baptized members Noraida LeBron, second from left; and the five members of the Carrera family—mom and dad, Mayra and Selvin, Sr.; son, Selvin, Jr., and daughters, Liliana and Cynthia, all who found Christ and the Adventist church while searching the Internet; standing in front of Mayra is Zabrynna.

to be baptized since day one. We wanted to accept Jesus [because] we believe in [Him], accept Him as our Lord and Savior, and love Him,” Mayra says.

—Information provided by Martha Covi, Hartsdale church member, Greater New York Conference

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the fourth regular quadrennial and fifty-seventh regular Constituency Session of the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at 9:00 a.m. (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, NY 12594.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and departmental directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization, and one for every 75 members. Each church is entitled to elect alternate delegates who may be seated at the Conference Session in place of any regular delegate not present. (Article III, Section 2:1, 2)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of the Organizing Committee is being called for Saturday evening, October 2, 2022, at 8:30 p.m., at North Bronx Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3743 Bronxwood Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469. All members of the Organizing Committee should plan to be present.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of the Nominating Committee is being called for Sunday morning, October 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Greater New York Conference Office, 7 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset, NY 11030.

Henry Beras, President  
Alanzo H. Smith, Secretary

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the fourth regular quadrennial and fifty-seventh regular meeting of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in conjunction with the fifty-seventh regular Constituency Session (fourth regular quadrennial) convening at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, October 23, 2022, (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, NY 12594. The delegates to the fourth regular quadrennial session of the Conference are also delegates to the fourth regular quadrennial session of the Greater New York Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of trustees for the coming quadrennial period, to receive reports, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Henry Beras, President  
Lloyd Scharffenberg, Secretary

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Adventist Home Inc.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the regular quadrennial meeting of the Adventist Home Inc. will be held in conjunction with the fifty-seventh regular Constituency Session (fourth regular quadrennial) of Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convening at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, October 23, 2022, (registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.) at Camp Berkshire, 680-1 Berkshire Road, Wingdale, NY 12594. The delegates to the fourth regular quadrennial session of the Conference are also delegates to the fourth regular quadrennial session of the Adventist Home Inc.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports and to transact such other business as may properly come before the delegates.

Henry Beras, President  
Claude Morgan, Secretary

## Bermuda Conference Commissions Its First Female Pastor

At 6:30 p.m. on July 2, Michelle Hill, pastor of the Pembroke church, became the first Seventh-day Adventist woman in the history of the Bermuda Conference to receive a commissioned ministerial credential. Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, officiated at the commissioning service, and W. DeJaun Tull, executive secretary, presented Hill as a candidate.

Hill received many video expressions of greetings and affirmations from supporters, including her mentor, Brenda Billingsy, retired North American Division (NAD) Ministerial Association associate director; Heather Crews, NAD Ministerial Association associate director; Elizabeth Talbot, director of Jesus 101 Biblical Institute; Jeffrey Brown, General Conference Ministerial Association associate secretary and *MINISTRY* magazine associate editor; G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, and Desiree, his wife, NAD Ministerial Association associate director - ministerial spouses; Kirk Simmons, a Pembroke church elder; and Lola Moore Johnston, senior pastor of the Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Maryland.

James Yansen, Jr., pastor of the Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts, delivered the sermon using Colossians 4:17 (NIV) as his theme text: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.” He urged Hill to guard her ministry, which is service, and to remember that her commission and ordination come from God and God alone.

“When you understand that this mighty God who called you also equips you, lean on His everlasting arms. . . . You are called to win souls for the Lord Jesus Christ; give yourself to the anointing of God.”

He encouraged the church to “serve as spiritual cheerleaders, and as witnesses to what God is doing in an age where ministry is debated rather than prayerfully executed.”

Yansen ended with a quote from the *SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST BIBLE COMMENTARY*, vol. 6, p. 1088, “Paul did not depend upon man for his ordination. He had received from the Lord his commission and ordination. He regarded his ministerial labor as a privilege. To him it was not a duty performed in return for money. He labored for the souls of men. ‘For though I



Michelle Hill, Pembroke church pastor, holds her Certificate of Commissioning that Kenneth Manders, Bermuda Conference president, presented to her.

Ricardo Clarke

preach the gospel,’ he said ‘I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!’ He studied constantly how to make his testimony of the greatest effect. He sought the approval of God.”

Hill said she was overwhelmed by what the Lord had done in her life. “He called me to this journey (ministry), and when I heard the voice of God . . . I said, ‘God, what you are asking of me; how will these things happen?’ And God said, ‘Put your hand in my hand, and I will lead you through the water. I will take you through the fire, and I will cover you in the valley.’ . . . I bless God today.”

Hill also expressed gratitude to the Bermuda Conference, the administration, and Jeffrey Brown, former Bermuda Conference president, who assigned her to the Pembroke church, her church family, colleagues, and husband, Dwayne, whom she described as a man of God.

As Manders read the Ministerial Oath to Hill in the form of nine questions, she responded in the affirmative that she would follow with all of her heart the

mandates God has placed within His Word.

As ordained pastors surrounded Hill and laid hands on her, Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker/director and pastor of the Oakwood University church in Huntsville, Alabama, offered a prayer of commission that God would place a Pentecostal anointing on her, give her great success, and do a special work in, through, and for her.

Tull led the Commissioning Charge using Paul’s words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:1-5 followed by various charges from Bermuda Conference leaders and pastors. Cyril Millett charged Hill to minister as a servant; Carlyle C. Simmons as a shepherd; Ulric Hetsberger as a teacher; Richard Martin as a pastor; and Kenneth Manders as a soul-winner.

Manders welcomed Hill into the ministry, and Tull presented the Certificate of Commissioning and gifts from the Bermuda Conference, the NAD, the Pembroke church, and the women of WCIP (Women Connecting in Prayer), a ministry Hill founded.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference



Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker/director and Oakwood University church pastor, offers a prayer of commission that God would place a Pentecostal anointing on Michelle Hill.

## Bermuda Conference Camp Meeting Resumes After Two-Year Pause

After a two-year pause because of COVID-19, it was an absolute delight to attend the 35th annual camp meeting at the Bermuda Institute auditorium and the Hamilton and Southampton churches from June 24 to July 2. Under the theme “Living with Hope,” services were also broadcast live on ATV (Adventist Television) and streamed live on the conference’s YouTube channel. This camp meeting was phenomenal! The speakers were holy-ghost-anointed, and the music, particularly the theme song, “Believe for It,” was a beautiful declaration of God’s power.

Early morning manna, which was virtual, except for the last Sabbath, featured James Yansen, Jr., pastor of the Hyde Park church in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. He focused on the life and journey of the prophet Elisha to demonstrate that “faith is the primary currency in the kingdom of God,” and faith provides opportunities to experience the power of God.

Lola Moore Johnston, senior pastor of the Restoration Praise Center in Bowie, Maryland, and Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker/director and pastor of the Oakwood University church in Huntsville, Alabama, were the keynote speakers for the adults. They reminded attendees that the most significant thing that faith affords is the unmerited faith of Jesus Christ. To build, reestablish, and revive our faith, we must go back to the cross, God’s unchanging evidence of His love for His children.



Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker/director and pastor of the Oakwood University church, speaks to the adults at the Bermuda Conference camp meeting.

Youth and young adult speakers included the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries director, David McKenzie, and the Southern New England Conference Youth Ministries associate director, Teddy Williamson. Evelyn Fordham Goodman from Columbus, Ohio, was the featured soloist.

Each evening, a young person received a gift copy of *LIVING THROUGH CRISIS, YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL AND PRAYER JOURNAL* written by the Atlantic Union Conference Youth Ministries Department leaders and pastors during the height of the pandemic.

“Splash,” the theme at the children’s camp, took them on a wet and wild trip through the Bible while pointing to Jesus as the Living Water. Spotlights were characters such as Jonah, Noah, and others whose experience with water reflected God’s power over the water.

The Pathfinders sold dinners to raise funds to attend the International Pathfinder Camporee to be held in Gillette, Wyoming, in August 2024. To encourage them in their efforts, McKenzie offered two free tickets to the International Pathfinder



James Yansen, Jr., Hyde Park church pastor, presents the early morning manna message in person on the last Sabbath of the Bermuda Conference camp meeting.

Camporee per night to the Pathfinder who brought the most youth or young adults to the meetings. He also gifted scarves and T-shirts, the design which represented conferences within the Atlantic Union. On the lighter side, McKenzie promised \$1,000 from his department to the Bermuda Conference Youth Ministries sports initiative if department director David Steede II, associate director Damon Hendrickson, or Pathfinder director Dwayne Hill made at least 50 runs in the July cricket match between the churches.

Government officials in attendance on the last



Lola Moore Johnston, Restoration Praise Center senior pastor, speaks to the adults during the Bermuda Conference camp meeting.

Sabbath, July 2, included Her Excellency Rena Lalgie, the Governor of Bermuda; the Honourable E. David Burt, Premier of Bermuda; the Honourable Dennis Lister, the Speaker of the House; the Honourable Wayne Furbert, Minister for the Cabinet Office; and the Honourable Dennis Lister III, member of Parliament.

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual camp meeting ended with a conference-wide picnic on July 3, organized by the Youth Ministries and Sabbath School departments.

—Joi Tyrrell, communication director, Bermuda Conference



“Splash,” the theme at the children’s camp, takes them on a wet and wild trip through the Bible while pointing to Jesus as the Living Water.

## Joy of Troy Church Honors Retiring Pastor

**H**ugh A. Langley, Joy of Troy Community church senior pastor, retired on May 28, 2022, after ministering to Joy of Troy since its inception 25 years ago. Langley was one of the six founding members of the church. He was instrumental in ministering to members and visitors of Joy of Troy and to the mission of the Quadrant (a mapped neighborhood around the church targeted for intentionally sharing Jesus) and surrounding community.

To celebrate the mission and ministry of God through Pastor Langley, the New York Conference visited Joy of Troy with several members of the pastoral advisory committee to offer words of thankfulness and a special prayer. The New York Conference also dedicated an equipment fund to lay pastors in Langley's name.

Langley's legacy of ministering to everyone in need was reflected that day by church members and visitors alike who attended in honor of his ministry. Two visitors from the

community joined the choir to sing in appreciation.

Joy of Troy served lunch after the services complete with a special cake made by one of the church members that reflected the front of the sanctuary and an edible Bible with Langley's name inscribed in it. An afternoon program included a video montage from friends and members appreciating Langley, a toast, a bulletin board full of photo memories, as well as a number of gifts, including a quilt made by a church member with squares that represented the various members of the church.

God accomplished many things through Pastor Langley's ministry. Below is a partial list:

- Established Men's Ministries at Joy of Troy church and encouraged the men to be men of God,
- Held weekly nights out with the young men of the church,
- Conducted a daily devotional ministry for past 23 years,



Joy of Troy church elders and associate pastors, surround Hugh Langley and his wife, Deborah; back row, from left, are elders Jarad Maratas, Ray Baun, and Annette Barnes; Anthony Whitlow, associate pastor; and elders, Jen Mamitag, Mel Sunga, and William Moody.

- Developed the three-year-plan vision for the church; the church is working on its fifth three-year-plan,
- Participated in the 2012 Lay Pastor Commissioning,
- Participated in the 2019 Senior Pastor Commissioning,
- Conducted numerous baptisms,
- Was a champion for getting work done on the church building,
- Developed and promoted the mission work of the Quadrant,
- Wrote the "miracle letter" to get the church in Lansingburgh,
- Formed and chaired the District Council in the Capital Region,
- Served as a member of the New York Conference Executive Committee, New York Conference Personnel Committee, North American Division Executive Committee, Atlantic Union Conference Constitution and Bylaws Committee; delegate to numerous union and conference constituency meetings,
- Exercised the faith to know that God will supply all our needs, but not presumptuously. God has given him the wisdom to know when to move forward and when something should be tempered. He constantly praises the Lord.
- Met with, visited, listened to, encouraged, and prayed with each and every member and visitor that walked through the doors of the church and many others who have not, and
- Has great amounts of energy and passion devoted to the relationships he developed within the church.

Joy of Troy honored the Lord and His servant by naming their fellowship hall the Hugh A. Langley Fellowship Hall. The



New York Conference administrators, standing, from left, Miguel Crespo, president, and Claudio Gomez, executive secretary, join Anthony Whitlow, the church's associate pastor, to honor Hugh Langley, seated with Deborah, his wife, Joy of Troy church clerk and treasurer.

inscription on the plaque is as follows: “This fellowship hall is dedicated to the service of God through Pastor Hugh A. Langley by virtue of his selfless

service to the Joy of Troy Community Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Greater Troy community, especially the Quadrant. Since the establishment of

this congregation in 1997, Pastor Langley has been instrumental in leading by serving, developing friendships, and compelling others to do the same

through God’s grace. For ‘grace creates a messy place called church.’ ”

—Annette Barnes, elder, Joy of Troy church

## AAFCN Celebrates Health Sabbath

The first Health Professional Sabbath sponsored by the New York Conference Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing (AAFCN) was held on Sabbath, May 7, at the Skantz Pavilion at Union Springs Academy in Union Springs, New York. Church members and friends related to the healthcare field participated in the meeting as they were motivated by the speakers to use their skills to advance the gospel.

The health Sabbath was designed to honor all healthcare professionals who have worked intensely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the attendees have been actively working in hospitals since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The guest speaker was Angeline Brauer, North American Division Health Ministries director. Special guests who participated in the “blessing” of the health professionals were Ted A. Huskins, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary; Joshua Deonarine, Northeastern Conference Health Ministries director; and Miguel Crespo, New York Conference president.

—Joan Payne, Faith Community Nursing co-coordinator, New York Conference



Healthcare professionals from across the New York Conference are recognized by the New York Conference Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing.



Ted A. Huskins, Atlantic Union Conference executive secretary, speaks to the health professionals during the health Sabbath sponsored by the New York Conference Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing.



Joshua Deonarine, Northeastern Conference Health Ministries director, presents during Health Professional Sabbath at the Skantz Pavilion at Union Springs Academy.



Angeline Brauer, North American Division Health Ministries director, is one of three guest presenters at the Health Professional Sabbath, sponsored by the New York Conference Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing.

## Paradigm Shift in Education Across the Northeastern Conference

A transformational work has begun across the territory of the Northeastern Conference (NEC).

Earlier this spring, the Northeastern Conference Executive Committee voted a restructuring plan to redress, reset, and rebuild Adventist education. The institutions across NEC have steadily declined in enrollment for the last 14 years.

In a special June 2, 2022, video report about the future of Adventist education in the NEC, Abraham Jules, president, said in his introduction, “Christian education has eternal value and ramifications. As such, we’ve been working very hard behind the scenes to make our system much more affordable and accessible to all.”

In the same report, Warner Richards, NEC’s assistant to the president, unveiled the conference’s “education redress and reset.” Richards emphasized key elements that are being implemented to create a sustainable model. He reiterated that “no change of core values or philosophy of Adventist Christian education is being considered.” He added that the conference is “enacting a systemic change as opposed to values change.” He also stated that the conference would change the way the system operates, as well as “the way the product of Adventist Christian education is delivered, promoted, and prioritized in and for our families and congregations.”

According to Richards, NEC schools will no longer “function as semi-independent, localized entities, but as constituent institutions.”



**NORTHEASTERN**  
ADVENTIST ACADEMY  
BUILDING SOMETHING BETTER

The new logo and tagline for the Northeastern Conference education system were introduced following the Teacher Commissioning Service at the Northeastern Conference Camp Meeting on July 2. The logo was designed by Duddley Francois, Northeastern Conference communication director.

In addition, all NEC churches are counted as constituent churches of the restructured educational system.

The NEC executive committee also voted a change in how Christian education is funded and is calling on all NEC churches to contribute 2.5 percent from their monthly combined budget (local giving) for education. The conference encourages churches already contributing a regular amount that exceeds the 2.5 percent to continue giving their fixed amount. “The idea is not to decrease our support but to increase it by bringing in other congregations that, until now, were completely oblivious to the funding of our schools,” Richards said. School tuition will also be income-based, and families will be able to apply for a scholarship via a portal on the new Northeastern Adventist Academy website.

On June 25, Greg Baldeo, NEC superintendent of

schools officially unveiled the new branding for Northeastern Adventist Academy with the tagline “Building Something Better.” Baldeo emphasized that the “name of all the schools in Northeastern Conference will be the Northeastern Adventist Academy with various campuses across the territory.” He added, “We are not individualizing and competing with ourselves. We are centralizing for the community to come together” and that all NEC schools “must look alike, sound alike, do things alike, and must stand in excellence for the glory of God.”

“The administration has done a good job at redressing and resetting. It’s now time to rebuild” Baldeo said. “We are looking at governance, pedagogical alignment, and product value.” Since Baldeo has been appointed as superintendent, he has begun the rebuilding process by engaging stakeholders throughout

the territory in formulating a portrait of a graduate and a four-year strategic plan. According to Baldeo, “The portrait of a graduate identifies six components that exemplifies 21st century skills, character traits, and social-emotional competencies that our students need to be successful. While it does not replace the focus on academic rigor, it demonstrates the commitment to investing in the development of the whole student. The strategic plan focus is student centricity with five priority areas and was launched in August 2022. The strategic plan acts like a road map to identify the path that leads to a better future.” For more information, visit the Northeastern Adventist Academy’s new website: [neced.org](http://neced.org) and social media handles “Neced Sda,” all launched August 2022.

Visit the Northeastern Conference’s YouTube channel to watch “An Announcement About the Future of Our Adventist Education System” (June 2) for additional details, campus locations, bus service plans, and more.

—Debra Banks Cuadro, assistant communication director, Atlantic Union Conference, in collaboration with Greg Baldeo, superintendent of schools, Northeastern Conference



Scan the QR code to view the video “Northeastern Conference Education Reset,” or view on the conference’s YouTube channel.

## Mount Carmel Church Connects with the Community

The Mount Carmel church in Syracuse, New York, is on a roll. Their new pastor, Aaron Chancy, installed on April 16, has brought new energy and passion to the congregation, heading the charge to be active in evangelism as a way of life.

### Making Connections Around the City

Within a few short months, Chancy led the church to numerous connections around the city, connecting with such organizations as Stop the Violence, which provides college scholarships for the underprivileged to be able to go to college, and PEACE, Inc., an organization that helps young males become responsible fathers. The church has also been featured in the local news and much more.

The church seeks to create a stronger presence and identity in its community, the Southside of Syracuse, one of the poorest and roughest sections of the city. To do

this, the church is active in the community, doing door-to-door work as a congregation, conducting Bible studies with the residents, meeting the community's needs, and most recently, solidifying its identity with a new church logo and T-shirt. Mount Carmel's treasurer, Rayshan Davis, created the logo, and Lorraine Graham, City Tabernacle church member, created the T-shirts.

Mount Carmel took a group photo (not all members present) wearing the T-shirts on Sabbath, July 9, right before going out into the community to do a final push before the "Hope 4 Syracuse" evangelistic series was to begin that evening.

### Mount Carmel Honors a Community Resident

Abraham Jules, Northeastern Conference president, and his administration designated 2022 as the Year of Education and Evangelism. Mount Carmel accepted this challenge and, on July 9,



Mount Carmel members take a group photo (not all members present) wearing the T-shirts right before going into the community for a final push before the "Hope 4 Syracuse" evangelistic series begins.

began the evangelistic series, "Hope 4 Syracuse."

On opening night, Mount Carmel honored teacher Maryam Ek Kaufman, known as Coach Ek, who works as a physical education teacher in a public elementary school in the area's largest school district. Coach Ek took notice of a new family that began attending the school in January 2022. Having met child after child, she realized they belonged to a large family. The students were respectful and pleasant, but Coach EK noticed something else that caused her to contact the mother. She found out that the family of seven children (ages 4-12) and their mother were homeless, having escaped a horrible living situation down south.

Through prayer and careful consideration, Coach Ek and her husband, Bill, decided to buy a house for the family. They felt compelled through faith to purchase the home. In May 2022, one of the local news stations in Syracuse, WSYR

News Channel 9, featured a story highlighting what the Kaufman family had done.

In consultation with the pastor, the church's education department thought it would be a great outreach opportunity to honor the Kaufman's sacrifice and to help the children and mother. On July 9, Mount Carmel church presented Coach Ek with a humanitarian award and her family with two dinner gift certificates. In addition, the church provided the children and mother with checks, a gift certificate donation from Walmart, and gift bags of items the family indicated they needed. In addition, WSYR-9 was present at the church on opening night, highlighting the church and the Kaufman family in the local news.

Mount Carmel church plans to keep in contact with both families. In addition to spreading the gospel, they also made friends with the two families.

—Carolyn Faye Green, clerk, and Aaron Chancy, pastor, Mount Carmel church



Maryam Ek Kaufman, physical education teacher at a public school in Syracuse, third from left, standing next to her husband, Bill, second from left, holds a plaque presented by the Mount Carmel church; left is William Mitchell, church elder; Aaron Chancy, church pastor, second from right, and Carolyn Faye Green, church clerk, right.

## NNEC Camp Meeting Inspires and Empowers Attendees

We stand in awe of the Almighty God, in gratitude for the evidence of His amazing presence and Holy Spirit power presiding over the NNEC camp meeting this summer. The theme for 2022 is very relevant for such a time as this: “Discipleship — Transform the World!”

In this first post-COVID camp meeting, past presidents Bob Cundiff and Ted A. Huskins were invited back for a proper farewell and send-off as they passed the baton to the newly-elected president, Gary Blanchard.

The local community was invited to a festive Fourth of July picnic dinner on the cafeteria lawn. The evening climaxed under the big tent with a concert by Coastal Winds, Freeport’s community band, offering a sampling of patriotic and American music directed by Brendan Krueger, Pine Tree Academy principal.

Timothy Howe, M.D., provided nightly health

nuggets that offered a practical knowledge base so members “might become medical missionaries who can, with simple lifestyle advice and remedies, work with their friends and neighbors to lessen the suffering caused by acute and chronic diseases.”

The camp meeting schedule catered to the needs of everyone. Seminars held Monday-Friday included “Discipling Family,” “Women’s Ministry,” “Hope and Healing,” “Bible Story Peg Dolls,” “Divine Appointments,” “Discipleship Through Estate Planning,” “Family Ministries—Building Healthy Relationships,” “Following Jesus—Making Disciples,” “Acquainting Agriculture for the Purpose of Connecting with God,” “Eating for Longevity,” “Last Day Events,” “How to Give Bible Studies One-on-One,” “Renewing Our Steps to Christ,” and “Reproducing Disciples.”



Gary Blanchard, Northern New England Conference president, inspires the attendees to action.

Richie J. Hawkins III eagerly shared his boys’ experience while attending the primary division this year: “My kids loved their first full-week camp meeting experience. Their favorite activities were the songs, games, crafts, and science experiments that illustrated God’s love for us. They also enjoyed making friends and playing on the playground. During the times in between meetings, I often heard them singing songs from their

classes together. Toward the end of camp meeting, my older son asked me if we could study more about God and the Bible. We are already looking forward to next year!”

The young adult program was transformational. Jonathan Walter, from the General Conference Ministerial Association, focused on 2 Corinthians 5 and the call to be ambassadors for Christ. Garrett and Katrina McLarty



Members attend the first post-COVID camp meeting Sabbath under the big tent.



The primary children sing for Jesus, led by Camille Brace, North Star Christian school teacher.





Young adults lift their voices in praise.



Families gather for potluck fellowship.

taught practical ways to communicate the gospel in one's local context following the Discover Bible study method, the "three circles"

story of the gospel, and a 15-second testimony.

NNEC is on fire for the mission! Enriched, energized, and revived, members

returned home with new zeal. The soul-stirring messages by Gary Blanchard that solidified their vision for finishing the work to

"Transform the World!" will remain a common topic of conversation.

—Judy Mathers, pastor, Presque Isle District, Maine

## Eight Forestdale Christian School Students Baptized

Heaven can be an emotional place sometimes. Jesus said, "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance"—Luke 15:7 (NKJV).

There must have been a lot of rejoicing in heaven on Sabbath afternoon, June 18, because on that day, eight young students from Forestdale Christian school, the Adventist school in Bryant Pond, Maine, made a public commitment to Jesus through baptism. At least 70 family members and friends came to Camp Lawroweld to witness this sacred service and show support. Steve Dayen, Woodstock church pastor, was privileged to baptize these enthusiastic young believers.

In preparation for this event, two baptismal classes were conducted. One was led by Principal Neil Clauson and Forestdale school teacher Kate Clauson, Neil's wife. Pastor Steve



Eight students from Forestdale Christian school, the Adventist school in Bryant Pond, Maine, make a public commitment to Jesus through baptism.

and his wife, Linda, who also serves as the church's Bible worker, taught the other. The most exciting thing about this event was that it once again demonstrated the value of Adventist

Christian education. Let's keep the schools open and growing, training young disciples for Jesus Christ!

—Staff, Woodstock church

## SNEC Members Plant More SEEDS

One principle, among many, that informs the vision of the evangelism activities of the Southern New England Conference (SNEC) is found in Ellen G. White's statement which says, "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers"—*GOSPEL WORKERS*, p. 351.

In April 2019, the Southern New England Conference Evangelism Department, in collaboration with the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), held a SEEDS church planting conference to train, empower, equip, and re-energize participants who attended the event.

Following that conference, as an expansion of the larger vision, SNEC appointed a church-planting coordinator

and created a church-planting office under the Evangelism department. The church-planting coordination is to provide training in assessment, coaching, training, and sending (ACTS). This will help pastors as well as church members to engage in church planting across the SNEC territory that serves more than 11 million people.

On May 21, SNEC held another SEEDS church-planting conference and training at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Massachusetts. More than 145 people from across the Southern New England Conference territory attended, participated, and were fully engaged throughout the day. The three main presenters were Alex Palmeira, the new SNEC church-planting coordinator; Tim Madding, NADEI associate director; and Boyan Levterov, a full-time church planter in northern Washington, D.C.

From their plethora of experiences, they shared inspiring, creative, and thought-provoking presentations that challenged participants to find simple but creative ways to engage their various communities. Presentations included "Reclaiming the Vision for the Mission," "The Power of Multiplication," "Developing a Discipleship Pathway," "How to Motivate Your Church to Plant," "Essentials of a Mission-shaped Church Plant," "Church Planting in the Southern New England Conference," and final thoughts by David M. Dennis, SNEC president, and John K. Amoah, SNEC Evangelism director.

Individuals who participated in the conference and training expressed that they were energized, recharged, reinvigorated, and desirous to go back to their various churches to engage, not only in church revitalization, but also in church planting. In responding to the question of how he would summarize the presentations of the day and how we should view churches in our conference, Palmeira said, "The church is not a monument but a movement."

Some of the often-used arguments against church planting are:

- "Why not help the churches that are struggling first? A new church doesn't help the existing ones that are trying to survive. We need better churches, not more churches."
- "Most churches that used to be full are now almost

empty, and that is an indication that people don't like to go to church anymore."

- "Planting another church will just weaken and hurt churches that are already struggling to remain open."
- "Why not work with the existing churches to fill them up before starting new ones?"

Certainly, these questions and statements are valid and fair to consider. While the size of a church may be important to meet certain logistical needs, the best church is the one whose members reflect the character of Jesus Christ, are actively engaged in their communities with the mission of Jesus Christ, and are utilizing best and proven methods. For example, emphasizing the utilization of small groups to advance God's kingdom, Ellen G. White noted, "The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers"—*TESTIMONIES FOR THE CHURCH*, vol. 7, p. 21.

Field work and practice indicate that new churches best reach new people groups, new generations, and new residents. In his research, Lyle Schaller observed that new congregations empower new people much more quickly and readily than can older churches. (Lyle Schaller,



As Alex Palmeira, Southern New England Conference church-planting coordinator, left, presents, Joseph Piresson, pastor of the Burrillville, Johnston, and Wickford churches, right, translates.

quoted in D. McGavran and G. Hunter, *CHURCH GROWTH: STRATEGIES THAT WORK*, 1987).

Mother churches that have planted new churches have often been challenged to reanalyze their vision and mission. The new church plant stirs up strategic analysis, which leads to re-evaluation of identity, vision, and growth approaches. Often, the excitement and growth resulting from the new church plant instill hope in the mother church that they have purpose and value, and this reassures them “it can be done.”

In addition to, and as part of, the process of church planting, discipleship was emphasized. To summarize and simplify, discipleship may be described as:

- I do (whatever I do to share the gospel; prayer, Bible study, blessing somebody), you watch, then we discuss it later. Then after observing for some time,
- I do, you help, then we talk about it later. After doing it together for some time,
- You do, I help, then we talk about it later. (Notice the switch.) After multiple practice sessions,
- You do, I watch, then we talk about it. After several opportunities for feedback, then,
- You go and find someone else and repeat the process with that individual (continue the cycle).



Tim Madding, North American Division Evangelism Institute associate director, presents at the Southern New England Conference SEEDS church-planting conference.

The focus of the SNEC Evangelism department for the next four years is church planting and church revitalization. God is calling all to become disciple makers as indicated in

Matthew 28:19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . .” Are you willing to join us?

—Ministerial and Evangelism staff, Southern New England Conference

## Front of Sterling Church Gets a Facelift

Earlier in the spring, Pathfinders from the Sterling Chocksett and Worcester Doves of Peace Pathfinder clubs worked together on a project at the Sterling church in Sterling, Massachusetts. Completing the project earned them the Masonry Award. The adults and youth skim coated the church porch (a technique that repairs damaged drywall), which needed repair, and built a rock wall planter around the base of the church’s road sign. The rock wall is a new addition to the sign.

Joao Neto, owner of Amanda Masonry and a member of the Brazilian church’s Amazon Pathfinder

Club, and Jim Hodson, Sterling church member, organized the Masonry Award with the Sterling church Chocksett Pathfinder Club. Kenroy Malcolm, Sterling church pastor, was more than appreciative of the work done by the Pathfinder clubs. The church expressed thanks to Sterling Chocksett Pathfinder director Fawn Gagnon and Worcester Doves of Peace Pathfinder director Marlene Alvarez, and Pathfinders Moses, Esther, Joy-Ann, Antonio, Alexandre, Jarbas, Chris, Jackson, Jeremiah, and Jemima for a job well done that will last for years to come!

—Chocksett Pathfinder Club, Sterling church



The rock wall, built by the Sterling Chocksett and Worcester Doves of Peace Pathfinders, is a new addition to the sign at the front of the Sterling church in Sterling, Massachusetts.

# Youth Ministry Supplement

[adventist youth ministries on the move]

## Steps Toward Ongoing Youth Ministry Impacts

**Y**outh ministry leaders are engaged in beautiful, relentlessly dynamic service to youth who continue to age in and age out of the ministry arena along the shifting sands of an ever-changing world. Accordingly, the past years of youth ministry service across the Atlantic Union territory have confirmed that the most potent youth ministry strategies are catalysts for ongoing impacts. These strategies that endure youth ministry highs, lows, and plateaus include the following:

### 1. Prayerful Service

Youth ministry leadership, devoid of incessant prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) is empty and evanescent. I concur with Ellen G. White, who declared that “Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence”—*STEPS TO CHRIST*, p. 94. It is the most significant strategy for youth ministry service. Prayerful ministry receives the power of the Almighty God, the Father of all youth/young adults, who knows each of His children intimately. Ongoing prayer for the Holy Spirit yields guided, blessed, impacting service.

### 2. Sharing Relationships

We must come to the ministry table with a willingness to put all your gifts and talents thereon, lay them all out, and share them with a heart of love. Youth leaders should also motivate other adults to share their talents with youth, thus creating more impacting, multi-generational relationships.

### 3. Caring Mentorships

We must be prepared to empower mentees, cheer them on, and provide coaching for success. As flexible, non-judgmental listeners, mentors are candid while being caring enough to value diverse perspectives.

### 4. Visualize Goals

Scripture clearly asserts that if the blind lead the blind, they both will fall into a ditch (Matthew 15:14). The youth ministry leader should visualize outcomes, dream, and effectively communicate those visions so that others can embrace the same.

### 5. Humility in Ministry

Service to youth/young adults requires a level of sacrifice that propels the leader to give unselfishly to the cause. Humble leaders are apt to put others first and value each youth/young adult.

### 6. Discipleship

Seeking to disciple youth/young adults is the core goal of youth ministry. It is Christ’s command to His children—to go, teach, and baptize; to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19).

### 7. Network for Success

Connecting with other youth leaders—praying with and for like-minded leaders, exchanging ideas and ministry reflections/testimonies—aligns each leader with greater successes. Collaborate and connect with other leaders along the journey.

### 8. Teamwork

The Adventist Youth Ministries village is designed to align leaders with successful, impacting service. Youth/young adults, senior youth, parents, coordinators, directors, staff, counselors, other church leaders, and leaders from the conference, union, division, and the General Conference leaders comprise the intricate team that collaborates for youth ministry service. Youth leaders ought to embrace their team or work toward building and empowering a team.

### 9. Administration

Leadership is an integral part of youth ministry. Youth workers are called to provide guidance to lead youth/young adults and other co-laborers. They need to be self-motivated, have communication skills, and be able to plan, organize, and implement what is necessary to realize ministry goals.

### 10. Development

Youth leaders (who are serving along the shifting sands of an ever-changing world) must be life-long learners. The statement, “This is how we always did it” or “This has always worked for me in the past,” should be retired and exchanged for “Let’s try to put the old wine in some new bottles” or “How can we repackage the gospel for this generation?” Effective youth leaders understand the significance of personal development. Let’s read widely and seek new resources toward a thriving ministry that remains relevant.

I pray that these 10 steps will continue to guide us toward positive youth ministry impacts across the Atlantic Union and beyond. ☺

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*David McKenzie is the director for Youth, Young Adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries in the Atlantic Union Conference.*



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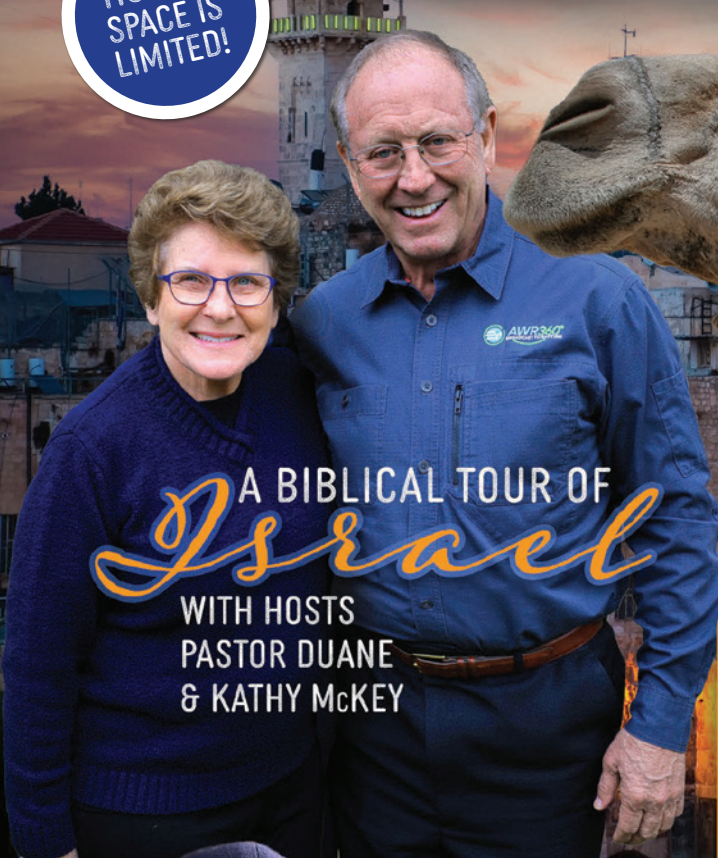
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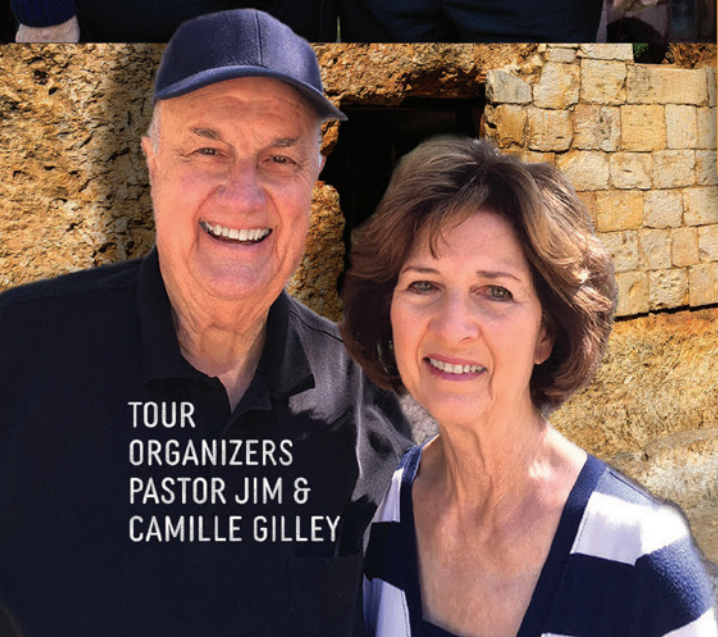
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**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

**Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the third Quadrennial Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Bermuda Institute auditorium, Southampton, Bermuda on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Sunday, July 10, at 10:00 a.m. and the Nominating Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, July 12, at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, executive, trustees and constitution and bylaws committees, and departmental directors for the ensuing term; to receive reports; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the session.

Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. Additional delegates are members of the executive committee, the constitution and bylaws committee, the board of trustees of the Bermuda Conference; members of the executive committee of the Atlantic Union Conference; all employees holding credentials and licenses issued by the Bermuda Conference; departmental directors, associate or assistant departmental directors, and members of the General Conference/NAD executive committee who may be present. The number of General Conference/NAD delegates shall not exceed 10% of the total number of regular delegates.

Kenneth Manders, President  
W. DeJaun Tull, Secretary

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

**The Trustees of The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of the Trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Bermuda, a legal corporation, will be held in connection with the Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists at the Bermuda Institute auditorium, Southampton, Bermuda, on Sunday, September 25, 2022. The first meeting of the legal corporation will be held at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of trustees and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the delegates to the Conference Session of the Bermuda Conference Legal Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

Kenneth Manders, President  
W. Aaron M. Spencer, Secretary

**Sunset Calendar**

Daylight Saving Time

	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28
Bangor, ME	6:02	5:50	5:38	5:27
Portland, ME	6:09	5:57	5:46	5:35
Boston, MA	6:13	6:02	5:51	5:41
South Lancaster, MA	6:16	6:04	5:53	5:43
Pittsfield, MA	6:22	6:10	5:59	5:50
Hartford, CT	6:20	6:09	5:58	5:48
Providence, RI	6:15	6:04	5:53	5:43
New York, NY	6:26	6:15	6:05	5:55
Albany, NY	6:24	6:12	6:01	5:51
Utica, NY	6:29	6:18	6:06	5:56
Syracuse, NY	6:33	6:21	6:10	6:00
Rochester, NY	6:39	6:27	6:16	6:06
Buffalo, NY	6:44	6:32	6:21	6:11
Keene, NH	6:18	6:06	5:55	5:45
Manchester, NH	6:14	6:03	5:52	5:41
Portsmouth, NH	6:11	6:00	5:49	5:38
Brattleboro, VT	6:19	6:07	5:56	5:46
Burlington, VT	6:20	6:08	5:56	5:46
Rutland, VT	6:20	6:08	5:57	5:46
Hamilton, Bda	6:54	6:46	6:38	6:31

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## OBITUARIES

**BACKUS, James "Jimmy"**—90; b. Nov. 18, 1931, in Kingsbury, N.Y.; d. Feb. 15, 2022, in Leominster, Mass. He was a charter member of the Sterling church in Sterling, Mass. He was the youngest of seven children and he was predeceased by his six older siblings. He will be remembered by his many friends, which include his devoted caregivers from the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

**SPRAGUE, Howard J.**—85; b. Nov. 11, 1936, in Worcester, Mass.; d. Apr. 4, 2022, in Harpswell, Maine. He was a member of the Topsham church in Topsham, Maine. He is survived by his wife Rosemary Sprague; three children, Polly Nichols, Jennifer Christianson, and Greg Sprague; and eight grandchildren.

**WALKER, Veronica**—62; b. Apr. 26, 1960, in Clarendon, Jamaica; d. Mar. 12, 2022, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She taught at R.T. Hudson school in Bronx, N.Y., for many years and most recently served as principal of the Flatbush school in Brooklyn, N.Y. She attended the Brooklyn Faith, Brownsville Temple, and Flatbush churches in Brooklyn, N.Y. She is survived by her husband Noel Oliver Walker; their son Andrew (Kadisha) Walker; her mother Myrna Carmella Marriott; a brother Carl Anthony (Joyce) Robinson; and three sisters Maureen Troublefield, Jacqueline Burrows, and Hopie Lyn Burrows.

# ATLANTIC UNION GLEANER

The Official Publication for the Constituents of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda

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### Local Conferences and Institutions

**Bermuda:** Kenneth Manders, President; W. Dejaun Tull, Secretary; W. Aaron M. Spencer, Treasurer. Office Address: P.O. Box HM 1170, Hamilton, HM EX Bermuda. (441) 292-4110. Website: [www.bermudaadventist.org](http://www.bermudaadventist.org)

**Greater New York:** Henry Beras, President; Alanzo Smith, Secretary; Ysaías Javier, Treasurer. Office Address: 7 Shelter Rock Rd., Manhasset, NY 11030. (516) 627-9350. Website: [www.gnyc.org](http://www.gnyc.org)

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**Southern New England:** David Dennis, President; Cesar Perozo, Secretary; Thomas (Tom) Murray, Treasurer. Office Address: 34 Sawyer St., South Lancaster, MA 01561. (978) 365-4551. Website: [www.sneconline.org](http://www.sneconline.org)

**Atlantic Union College Corporation:** Pierre Omeler, Chairman; Ted Huskins, Secretary; Elias Zabala, Sr., Treasurer; 338 Main St., Lancaster, MA 01523; (978) 368-2000. Website: [www.auc.edu](http://www.auc.edu)

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**58TH ALUMNI HOMECOMING  
WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS**

**SEPTEMBER 23 - 25, 2022**

**Friday, Sept. 23rd**  
Evening Vespers - Mike Temple '82  
Afterglow & Bonfire

**Saturday, Sept. 24th**  
Sabbath School - Robert Burnette '72  
Worship Service - Pastor Ron Anderson, Former Faculty  
Alumni Luncheon Banquet  
Sunset Vespers - Miguel Crespo '87  
Ice Cream Social & Game Night

**Sunday, Sept. 25th**  
Pancake Breakfast  
Alumni vs USA Eagles Soccer Game  
Golf Tournament

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—Mark 10:14, NKJV

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