

**GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM
CARIBBEAN CONSULTATION
Tunapuna, Trinidad
May 20 – 23, 2013
THE TUNAPUNA DECLARATION**

Preamble

The first Caribbean gathering of the Global Christian Forum (GCF) met in Tunapuna, Trinidad, from May 20 – 23, 2013. The Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) and the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC) brought together 28 participants who came from 12 countries and 12 Christian denominations, Churches, Traditions and Expressions. The Consultation, which met around the theme *Our Journey with Jesus Christ in the Caribbean*, saw both the CCC and EAC interfacing with each other in search of ways and means of fostering dialogue and building bridges among Christians in the Caribbean.

Mr. Hubert van Beek, the representative of the Global Christian Forum, made a presentation on the history and purpose of Global Christian Forum. Mr. Gerard Granado (General Secretary, CCC) and Rev. Emerson L. Boyce (Secretary General, EAC) gave welcoming remarks. The participants at the consultation then shared their faith journeys and examined some of the issues facing the churches in the region.

Rev. Dr. John O. Smith (Chair, EAC) and Mr. Gerard Granado (General Secretary, CCC) each made a presentation on *Christian Witness in the Caribbean Today*. The substance of the presentations encouraged participants to reflection and enabled discussion on the concerns, which were centered on 1) unity; 2) issues on which we can work together; and 3) building relationships.

Affirmations

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ as God and Saviour.

We affirm that the unity of the Christian Church is in Jesus Christ who prayed that the Church be one.

We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the source of unity within the Body of Christ.

We affirm that in unity there is diversity which ought to be embraced and celebrated.

We affirm that unity needs diversity so that it will not become uniformity and diversity needs unity so that it will not become division.

We affirm that the Caribbean is a multi – cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual region, given its history.

We affirm that the family is the cradle of civilization, the bedrock of society and the strength of the region.

We affirm that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman. We further affirm that marriage was ordained and blessed by God according to Scripture.

Commitments

We commit to:

1. be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our every action.
2. offer moral direction to life within community
3. use every means to promote and protect the God given dignity of the human person, such as:
 - working for the holistic development of people; demonstrating God's preferential option for the poor and the marginalized.
 - opposing racism, sexism and classism; human- drug- and gun trafficking; abortion and euthanasia.
 - opposing stigma and discrimination of people living with or affected by HIV and Aids.
 - denouncing violence against persons and especially violence against women and children.
4. promote healthy family life.
5. become more engaged in the education of our people.
6. continue building bridges through on-going cooperation, dialogue and agreed programmes between the Caribbean Conference of Churches and the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean, between national councils of churches and national evangelical associations, etc.

We further commit to:

- seeking to work where possible with Governments and other agencies to achieve this mission.
- sharing this document with our constituencies while seeking their endorsement and commitment.

On behalf of the participants,

Rev. Emerson L. Boyce, Secretary General, Evangelical Association of the Caribbean
Mr. Gerard Granado, General Secretary, Caribbean Conference of Churches.

Churches and Organizations represented at the Consultation: see next page

Antilles Episcopal Conference
Church in the Province of the West Indies (Anglican)
Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
Methodist Church in the Caribbean & Americas
Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province
Open Bible Standard Churches
Pentecostal Assemblies West Indies
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago
Salvation Army Caribbean Territory
United Church of Jamaica & Caiman Islands

Antigua Christian Council
Barbados Christian Council
Curaçao Council of Churches
Curaçao Evangelical Association
Guyana Evangelical Fellowship
Guyana Council of Churches
Haiti Protestant Federation
Jamaica Association of Evangelicals
Jamaica Council of Churches
St. Kitts Christian Council

Caribbean Conference of Churches
Evangelical Association of the Caribbean
Caribbean Baptist Fellowship
Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association
Caribbean Association of Theological Schools