

For CANAAC Business Session on Wednesday, February 27, 2008

CANACOM/ CANAAC Meeting notes
October 14, 2006 9:00 am
Creif Hills Community Conference Centre

Present were:

Verna Casselles, Tara Tyme, Julie Anderson, Pedro Windsor, Keith Haynes, Patrick O'Connor, Julie Anderson, Rawle Sucko, Osbert James, Dave Spence, Tricia Llyod-Sidle.

Apologies received from Siry Marte.

Opening Prayer offered by Rev Osbert James.

Welcome was extended by Verna Cassells on behalf of CANACOM, and thanks for the accommodation of CANAAC expressed by Patrick O'Connor. Rational for meeting was then stated. CANAAC expressed the desire to become more than a body engaged in Theological reflection and engaged in mission. The meeting is to discover opportunities for collaboration between the two bodies. The meeting was informed that of the 12 member churches of CANACOM 8 were also members of CANAAC. From CANACOM the desire is to have the reflections of CANAAC help to shape the missiological direction of CANACOM.

An opportunity for joint assemblies was expressed. Two CANAAC events on the horizon are Guyana February 2008 and a Youth Assembly in Jamaica for October 2007. The desire was also expressed for a 2010 event which could have mutual planning.

The Meeting was told that the last meeting of CANAAC struggled with how to best express the mission priorities of WARC, CANACC being the regional rep. of WARC and the idea of an engagement with CANACOM was tabled.

The Accra confession of WARC is to form the basis of a document being shaped by CANNAC committee said document to be circulated through out the region for congregational reflection and implementation.

CANACOM brochures were shared with the meeting on the activities of CANACOM, these were reviewed and a brief discussion followed.

The program areas of CANACOM were highlighted and the relationship with CWM explained.

Issues of funding the activities of the bodies were shared with both recognizing the future of both is in jeopardy. The cost of meetings was highlighted as a major challenge to both bodies. CANACOM will be meeting in Guyana in November 2007, and CANAAC will meet in Guyana in February 2008.

The way forward.

It will be recommended for consideration by the respective bodies:

- ✓ That we seek to work for a joint meeting in November 2007 – February 18 -22 2008 in Guyana. A planning meeting will be held in Georgetown Guyana January 22 -25 2007.
- ✓ That an invitation for CANACOM participation in the WARC Pre-Assembly Youth programme in 2007 focusing on the Trans Atlantic Slave trade.
- ✓ That the Theological reflections of the CANAAC be used as a guide to determine the priority areas for project and empowerment grants of CANACOM.

The meeting ended with a reaffirmation of the objectives of both CANACOM and CANAAC as relationship building and strategic engagement of the reformed faith in God's mission in the region.

After an exchange of pleasantries the meeting adjourned with prayer 11:30 am.

Notes provided by the Rev. Dave Spence, CANACOM Treasurer, United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Some additional comments include notated by the Rev. Julie Anderson-Schuett, CANAAC delegate, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1. Strengths of each organization were discussed. The greatest strength of CANACOM is organized mission action. The greatest strength of CANAAC is theological reflection and connection to the WARC.
2. Keith Haynes expressed his opinion on the logistics of overlapping the two meetings in Guyana . Basically, I would say he indicated that it made sense to have the two meetings during the same time frame in terms of hosting, but, apart would be alright too, just more on-the-ground work. Is this right Keith?
3. A short discussion focused on the importance of a CANAAC representative to the CANACOM meeting as a person who is focused on theological reflection.
4. A suggestion of more linkage between CANACOM and CANAAC, in terms of website links and maybe a joint printed brochure.