

MINUTES OF THE 17GH SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE
Held At The Auditorium of the University Of The Southern Caribbean
On Wednesday 20th July, 2022

Opening Ceremony – Wednesday, 20th July, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

The 17th session of delegates began with appropriate music and messages from dignitaries, as itemized below:

The arrival of Her Excellency Paula Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

National Anthem Jason Lawrence (Vocalist),
Dr. Rosie Ward (Keyboardist),
Ifeaye Murray (Pannist)

Invocation Dr. Wayne Knowles

Opening Hymn Br. James R. Newland

Welcome Dr. Colwick Wilson

Dr. Kern Tobias introduced Her Excellency Paula Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, who brought greetings and encouraged the constituency to let their influence be felt for the good of humanity.

Dr. Elie Henry, President of the Inter-American Division, delivered the homily, followed by the prayer of consecration by Pr. Wilmoth James.

First Business Session – 6:20 – 8:30 p.m.

The First Business Session convened at 6:51 p.m. with an opening prayer by Pr. Bertie Henry

REMARKS AND CALL TO ORDER

The chairman, Dr. Kern Tobias, offered opening remarks and called the meeting to order at 6:55p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

The Executive Secretary, Pr. Johnson Frederick, citing Article ... Section... of the bylaws announced that 66% of the delegates in session constitutes a quorum. The actual delegate attendance stood at 206 or 88% of the total number of delegates expected in attendance, which exceeded the stipulated constitutional requirement.

DECLARATION

Having satisfied the constitutional stipulations, the Seventeenth (17th) Session of the Caribbean Union Conference was declared open for business by the Chairman.

17TH SESSION PROGRAMME

VOTED: To approve the daily program of the 17th Session, outlining the order of business for the course of the session.

SEATING OF THE 10% DELEGATES AT LARGE

VOTED: To confirm and sit the fifteen (15) individuals comprising 10% the delegates in accordance with Article 111 Section 2-b (3) of the Bylaws, and recommended by the Union Executive Committee as follows:

Caribbean Union Office Staff:	Faith Pustam Ramdath, Gail Smith-Anthony, Denise Fontenelle- Holder, Adrian Dennis, Tristan Samuel
Suriname Mission:	Judith Blackman,
Davis Memorial Hospital:	Colette Bryan,
Community Hospital:	Carol Cuffy, Gillian Sanderson,
Caribbean Health Foods:	Dennis Ramdass,
University of the Southern Caribbean:	Terry John, Marsha Ramsamoojh-Harris, Wanda Chesney, Kerron Hislop, Robert Liverpool

SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE—SISTERHOOD OF CONFERENCES

VOTED: To affirm and receive the South Leeward Conference into the sisterhood of conferences with all rights and authority appertaining.

MESSAGES FROM FORMER PRESIDENTS

VOTED: To record the messages from the following former Presidents of the Caribbean Union Conference as read by Pr. Bertie Henry:

- Dr. Eugene Daniel,
- Elder Jansen Trotman,
- Dr. Peter J. Prime.

CONDOLENCES--MARTINBOROUGH

The chairman noted the passing of Elder Gordon O. Martinborough, a former President of the union, during the quinquennium and a prayer was offered for Sister Wavney Martinborough.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

VOTED: To approve the proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws of the Caribbean Union Conference. *See appendix 1.*

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT’S REPORT

VOTED: To record the President’s report for the period June 2016 to July 2020.

CLOSING SONG/BENEDICTION

The theme song “Faithful in Service” was sung, followed with a benediction by Dr. Clive Dottin

ADJOURNMENT

The opening day of the 17th session was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Kern Tobias (Chair)

Johnson Frederick (Secretary)

Recording Secretary: Gail Smith-Anthony

Assistant Recording Secretary: Peggy Guerrero

MINUTES OF THE 17TH SESSION CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE
Held At The Auditorium of The University Of The Southern Caribbean
On Thursday, 21st July, 2022

OPENING REMARKS AND PRAYER

The Session began at 9:50 a.m. with opening remarks by Toney Mapp and prayer by Leeroy David after which, the theme song was played.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

VOTED: To approve the report of the Executive Secretary as the official statistical account of membership and church growth, employee demographics and data, and general statistical information for the period 2016 to 2020.

Dr. Leonard Johnson, Secretary of IAD, gave a response and offered commendations for the Secretary's report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

VOTED: To record the Treasurer's report detailing the financial activities of the Caribbean Union Conference for the period 2016 to 2020.

GCAS AUDIT REPORT

VOTED: To record and accept the audit report for the period 2016 to 2020 as presented Mr. Wyatt Smythe, GCAS auditor.

Dr. Filiberto Verduzco, Treasurer of the IAD, gave commendations for the treasurer's report.

MID-DAY DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

Special Music – (The Blessing) Kiovonne Ramsawak

Devotion - Martin Cunningham

Closing Song: #329—Take the World but Give Me Jesus

ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH:

The Session was adjourned for lunch at 12:56 p.m. with prayer by Pr. Paul Philbert

RESUMPTION

The Session resumed at 02:09 p.m. with prayer by Dr. Clinton Lewis

ORGANIZING OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

VOTED: To approve the following persons as members of the Organizing Committee:

CARIBBEAN HEALTH FOODS :	Dennis Ramdass
UNIV. OF THE SOUTHERN CARIB:	Colwick Wilson
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL:	Steven Carryl
DAVIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL:	Jenny La Fleur
EAST CARIB. CONFERENCE:	Haradin Scotland Colin Thorne Paul Mayers Granville Hinds
GRENADA CONFERENCE:	Adeltris Roberts Elvis Hilaire Lloydon Francique Marlon Peters
GUYANA CONFERENCE:	Exton Clarke Osley Edwards Melbour Phillip Adele Mack
NORTH CARIB. CONFERENCE:	Desmond James Leriano Webster Gerene Joseph Horace Graham
ST. LUCIA MISSION:	Wendy Frederick Elisha Hunte Peter Jn. Paul Linus Deterville
SVG MISSION:	Shane Franklyn Callistus Thompson Mineva Glasgow Felicia Frederick
SURINAME MISSION:	Steven Tulp

Steven Hofwijks
Judith Blackman

SOUTH LEEWARD CONFERENCE:

Shelton Benjamin
Blain Thomas
Orville Joseph
Dorothy Joseph

SOUTH CARIB. CONFERENCE:

Edison Williams
Larry Harrow
Osrice James
Rachel Sealy

TOBAGO MISSION:

Cathian Antoine
Tracy Dick-Noel
Carlos Guy

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The following Reports were presented:

- Personal Ministries/Community Services – Ashton O’Neil
- Missions – Clive Dottin
- Children and Adolescent Ministries – Debra Henry
- Ministerial – Ammaran Williams
- Education – Hilary Bowman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

VOTED: To accept the organizing committee report to elect the following persons to constitute the Nominating Committee as presented by the Sister Rachael Sealy, the secretary of the Organizing Committee:

East Caribbean Conference (3)

Colin Thorne
Granville Hinds
Paul Mayers

Grenada Conference (2)

Marlon Peters
Adeltris Roberts

Guyana Conference (6)

Exton Clarke
Osley Edwards

Melbour Phillip
Adele Mack
Blundell Campbell
Oliver Moore

North Caribbean Conference (2)

Desmond James
Horace Graham

St. Lucia Mission (3)

Leeroy David
Elisha Hunte
Wendy Frederick

St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission (2)

Shane Franklyn
Callistus Thompson

South Caribbean Conference (6)

Leslie Moses
Osric James
David Holder
Rachel Sealy
Kivonne Ramsawak
Juliet Wong-Chong

South Leeward Conference (2)

Shelton Benjamin
Dorothy Joseph

Suriname Mission (1)

Steven Hofwijks

Tobago Mission (1)

Tracy Dick-Noel

Union Institutions (4)

University of the Southern Caribbean
Colwick Wilson

Community Hospital

Stephen Carryl

Davis Memorial Hospital

Jenny La Fleur

Caribbean Health Foods

Dennis Ramdass

PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE

VOTED To appoint Dr. Carson Greene as Chairperson and Sister Gerene Joseph as Secretary of the Plans and Recommendations Committee.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS

The following reports were presented:

- Publishing – Judith Smith
- Evangelism – Claudius Morgan
- Davis Memorial Hospital – Beverly Brathwaite-Chan
- Sabbath School – Debra Felix

ADJOURNMENT FOR SUPPER

Session was adjourned for Supper at 5:59 p.m. with prayer by Pr. Henry Snagg

RESUMPTION

Session resumed at 6:58 p.m. with prayer by Steven Tulp

REPORTS

The following reports were presented:

- Stewardship – Gandamal Samlalsingh
- IADPA – Saul Ortiz & Clara Spengler

IADPA PRESENTATION

Pr. Saul Ortiz, the President of the Inter-American Division Publishing Association (IADPA), presented on the “The Great Controversy 2.0” which is a project to distribute 1 billion books around the world.

FIELD REPORTS

The following field reports were presented:

- East Caribbean Conference
- Grenada Conference
- North Caribbean Conference
- South Leeward Conference

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

VOTED: To accept the report of the Nominating Committee for the position of President of the Caribbean Union Conference for the new quinquennium:

- **PRESIDENT:** Dr. Kern Tobias

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The President Elect gave a moving acceptance speech with commendations given by the IAD President, Dr. Elie Henry

FIELD REPORTS

The following field reports were presented:

- South Caribbean Conference
- South Leeward Conference

EVENING WORSHIP

Pastor Nigel Walcott presented the devotional message for evening worship on Psalm 1:8.

CONDOLENCES

Pastor Johnson Frederick offered condolences and a prayer on behalf of Pastor Royston Philbert whose mother passed earlier during the course of the session.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

VOTED: To accept the second report of the Nominating Committee as presented by Sis. Rachael Sealy for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:	Pr. Johnson Frederick
TREASURER:	Pr. Bertie Henry

ADJOURNMENT

The second day of the 17th session was adjourned at 9:30 p.m with prayer by Jason Peters.

Kern Tobias, Chair

Johnson Frederick, Secretary

Recording Secretaries: Gail Smith-Anthony,

Assistant Recording Secretaries: Carol Joshua, Peggy Guerrero

MINUTES OF THE 17th SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN UNION CONFERENCE
Held At The Auditorium of The University Of The Southern Caribbean
On Friday, 22nd July, 2022

The Business session commenced at 9:50 a.m. under the chairmanship of Dr. Clive Dottin.

OPENING PRAYER

Opening prayer was offered by Br. Vinood Singh

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Reports were presented by the following departments:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ Adventist Youth: | Anthony Hall |
| ➤ Caribbean Health Foods Ltd: | Clifford Balgobin |
| ➤ Health Ministries: | Alexander Isaacs |
| ➤ Caribbean Union Revolving Fund (CURF): | Joel Hazelwood |

PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE:

The Plans and Recommendations Committee was grouped according to the following fields and institutions shown below:

VOTED: To record the recommendations from the delegates of the South Caribbean Conference, East Caribbean Conference, St Vincent & the Grenadines Mission and Grenada Conference:

1. That all departmental reports be sent to the local churches to inform membership of the developments across the union territories.
2. To have greater emphasis on member retention and conservation. Proposed change in title from Assistant to the President for Evangelism to Assistant to the President for Evangelism and Retention
3. To develop a committee to review the schedule and programme for union sessions for greater efficiency.
4. To have a more intentional approach to conserve the younger generation (12-16) across the union.
5. To have Spanish enabled programs and leadership to facilitate the increase of Spanish speaking persons in the union territories.

Suriname Mission, Tobago Mission and Delegates-at-Large

Voted: To record the recommendations from the delegates of the Suriname Mission, Tobago Mission, and the Delegates-at-Large

1. To establish a committee at the union level to look at Adventist education and address challenges and issues. To facilitate more integration among schools at the various levels. The aim is to sell the Adventist education product as a premium level product. Develop a model to sell the product
2. To place greater emphasis on church growth
3. To place greater emphasis on music and worship across the union
4. Establish a legal team at the Union level to give support to every field in cases of legal issues
5. To develop a collaborative approach to capital projects
6. To develop methods to sell Adventist education to the membership. Every member should embrace the SDA schools as their own
7. Ministerial retreats be conducted more frequently
8. Establish a department specific for technology. And not as a part of communication. Training should be included to develop software competence.
9. Establish a step-by-step framework that guides care for new believers.
10. Create a database for job vacancies across CARU.
11. To approach the respective government bodies to reduce the 'red tape' required for no-citizens to take up employment in the fields of the union.

Guyana Conference

Voted: To record the recommendations from the delegates of the Guyana Conference:

1. Establish cross cultural integration
2. Conduct feasibility studies and develop a plan of action to establish Berbice as a Mission
3. Invest in a site to host evangelistic conferences
4. That CARU gives study to a curriculum to integrate faith and learning in the Adventist schools
5. That USC support Guyanese students to complete their academic programs at a USC extension campus in Guyana.
6. To host a Ministerial retreat for all pastors at the union level
7. To employ specialists to address special needs persons in churches and to provide material for special needs care.
8. Establish a farming project in Guyana to create employment and to provide produce for the region.
9. Establish a health foods store in Guyana.
10. Establish a Centre for abused women and children in Guyana

North Caribbean Conference & South Leeward Conference

Voted: To record the recommendations from the delegates of the North Caribbean Conference & South Leeward Conference:

1. To appoint a Retirement Fund Reform Committee to recommend a proposal for the long-term viability of the fund.

2. To build a framework where consideration is given for local fields to implement their own programmes according to needs and context within their area.
3. To allocate more resources, finance, and training for ministers
4. To establish an education scholarship to assist students in need.
5. To develop strategies to attract and maintain quality teachers. To allocate resources for teacher training
6. To establish additional sites in the union territories to facilitate completion of degrees at the extension sites and an expansion of virtual classes
7. To Invest in young pastors or individuals who have potential for ministry, and fund their education.
8. That USC offer a Degree in Chaplaincy.
9. To adopt a revised approach on how the health message is promoted to make it more relevant and attractive.
10. Conduct an assessment of the reasons why the Caribbean union young people are leaving the church and devise strategy for retention.
11. To give more support for people groups and to foster cross-cultural evangelism
12. That the IAD consider the establishment of an English-speaking division
13. Establish and implement security measures across the fields
14. Music director to be appointed across the CARU
15. Need for greater collaboration

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANS & RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE

VOTED: That the administration of the Caribbean Union Conference provide a report to the constituency on the progress of the recommendations made at this 17th session of delegates.

ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH:

The business session adjourned for lunch at 1:30 p.m. after a devotional presentation by Dr. Yvette Peters.

RESUMPTION:

The business session resumed at 2:10 p.m. with prayer by Pr. Roger Stephen

REPORTS

Reports were presented from the following institution/departments:

University of the Southern Caribbean

ADRA

Public Campus Ministries

ASI and Planned Giving & Trust Services

Community Services and Possibility Ministries

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

VOTED: To accept the report of the Nominating Committee as presented by the secretary, Sr. Rachael Sealy, at 4:21 p.m. as per *appendix 2*

RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE

VOTED: To record the Resolution of Gratitude as presented by the Resolution of Gratitude Committee:

- Clifford Balgobin
- Wayne Knowles
- Gandalal Samlalsingh
- Beverly Brathwaite-Chan

Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-Day-Adventist

Resolution of Gratitude

17th Quinquennial Session

20th – 23rd July, 2022

The University of the Southern Caribbean

St. Joseph

Trinidad

Mr. Chairmen, delegates, guests, attendees in proliferation of pontificated and passionate praises for the abundant grace and extraordinary blessings so marvellously and miraculously bestowed upon all assembled for the 17th quinquennial session of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Maracas Royal Road, St. Joseph, July 20-23, 2022, the committee on Resolution of Gratitude, Gandalal Samlalsingh, Dermoth Baptiste, Wayne Knowles, Beverly Chan and Clifford Balgobin hereby offer this Resolution of Gratitude:

1. **WHEREAS**, God has blessed our opening ceremony with the presence of Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, a woman of distinction, class and grace who so eloquently delivered a special address at the opening ceremony of this session and who was very delighted to be in our midst and who encouraged us to stay the course of being aligned to the almighty.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

2. **AND WHEREAS**, God has brought to us from the Inter-American Division, President: Dr Ellie Henry, Executive Secretary, Dr Leonard Johnson, and Treasurer, Dr Filiberto Verduzco to officiate and guide in the process of conducting the business of the 17th Quinquennial Session of the Caribbean Union Conference in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the aforementioned Union and other representatives from the Inter-American Division Ms. Clara Spengler, Pr. Saul Ortiz and Mrs. Janelle Scantlebury-Smith.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

3. **AND WHEREAS**, God saw it fit for the membership of approximately 250,000 of the Caribbean Union territory to be led by the administrators with humility in the past quinquennium in the persons of Dr Kern Tobias, Pr. Johnson Frederick, and Pr. Bertie Henry.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

4. **AND WHEREAS**, we have witnessed the wonderful demonstration of God's divine intervention and transforming grace evidently reflected in the organizational abilities to successfully, strategically and expertly plan and execute the intentional focus of this session "I Will Go - Faithful in Service."

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

5. **AND WHEREAS**, God has brought over 230 delegates safely by air, sea and land to this beautiful auditorium (in addition to the 13 delegates that participated online) at USC for this most important Caribbean Union Conference Session.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

6. **AND WHEREAS**, all our devotional speakers - Dr Ellie Henry, Dr David Williams, Pastor Martin Cunningham, Sister Valrica Dottin, Pastor Nigel Walcott, Dr Yvette Peters and Pastor Kay White in anticipation - have inspired us to be faithful in service to God, as we go everywhere and anywhere with God.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

7. **AND WHEREAS**, the ten (10) fields namely South Caribbean Conference; Guyana Conference; Grenada Conference; North Caribbean Conference, East Caribbean Conference; South Leeward Conference; Suriname Mission; Tobago Mission; St. Lucia Mission and the St Vincent and the Grenadines Mission have conscientiously and consistently coagulated our efforts under the infilling of the Holy Spirit in adding over 19,500 new converts to the Caribbean Union Conference, utilizing technology as best as possible during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

8. **AND WHEREAS**, the four (4) institutions of the Caribbean Union Conference namely, The University of the Southern Caribbean; The Community Hospital; Caribbean Health Foods Limited and Davis Memorial Hospital have accelerated their operations through strategic initiatives resulting in financial growth, innovative development, community enhancement, through their core values, the mission of the church, exhibiting compassion, patience and integrity.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

9. **AND WHEREAS**, God in His providential leadings has kept the Caribbean Union Conference together as a united entity, despite the delay of convening its Session by one year, due to the prevalence of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

10. **AND WHEREAS**, the Session was supercharged by the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit, thus creating an atmosphere of togetherness and love, under the rubric, "I Will Go - Faithful in Service".

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

11. **AND WHEREAS**, we have seen how God lavished heaven's choicest blessings upon the members who generously and liberally returned (through conventional and online mediums) faithfully to God in excess of \$20,000,000 in tithe compared to the previous quinquennium.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

12. **AND WHEREAS**, we have celebrated the amazing and beyond imagination's success and advancement of the work of every department through the various initiatives and programs executed in the territories of the Caribbean Union.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

13. **AND WHEREAS**, we have witnessed the infilling of the Holy Spirit upon the delegates who comprise the organizing and nominating committees that led them to bring reports comprising of Administrators, President - Dr Kern Tobias, Executive Secretary - Pastor Johnson Frederick, Treasurer - Pastor Bertie Henry, directors to serve in the respective departments and Administrators of the four (4) Missions fields.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

14. **AND WHEREAS**, we are grateful to God for the use of The University of the Southern Caribbean facilities and staff, and the excellent service rendered to us by the Service Committees, protocol personnel, technical team, transportation, meals, ushers, security, medical personnel, music, Steering Committee and Sub Committees.

Delegates response: FOR THIS WE THANK THEE OH LORD!

BE IT RESOLVED:

That as Administrators, Directors and staff of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in collaboration with the Conferences, Missions, Institutions and membership, we express our profound, inestimable and immeasurable gratitude to God for

His leadings and do hereby dedicate and pledge our lives afresh to God to serve the Union constituency with distinction, loyalty, integrity and faithfulness ever mindful of the theme of the session "I WILL GO - FAITHFUL IN SERVICE" and further that this resolution of gratitude be duly voted and recorded on this 22nd day of the month of July in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2022.

CLOSING OF BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting ended at 5:05 p.m. with a prayer of consecration by Pr. Ammaran Williams.

Kern Tobias, Chair

Johnson Frederick, Secretary

Recording Secretary: Gail Smith-Anthony,

Assistant Recording Secretaries: Carol Joshua, Peggy Guerrero