

CARU'S 18TH SESSION REPORT

YOUTH, CHAPLAINCY AND PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Mr. Chairman, members of the Executive Committee, delegates, special guests and members across the Union.

It has been a sacred privilege to serve the youth of the Caribbean Union Conference (CARU) during the quinquennium and to contribute to the forward movement of God's remnant church in our region. Ministry to children, adolescents, and young adults remains central to the mission philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the Caribbean Union continues to regard youth ministry as a top strategic priority, an essential dimension of the Church's mission.

This report covers the period July 2022 to July 2026 and presents the major initiatives, engagements, outcomes, and emerging priorities of the Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries Department. It is offered in a spirit of accountability, gratitude, and hope, recognizing that "we are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9), and that all true success in ministry is the result of His grace.

The period under review was characterized by a gradual transition from the profound disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic to a more stable ministry environment. This unique context shaped both the content and the methodology of our work. It demanded a deliberate focus on spiritual renewal, relational reconnection, and the rebuilding of youth structures at every level of the church – local congregation, district, field, and Union. Our efforts were intentionally directed toward presenting our youth "perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28), recognizing that they stand on the frontlines of contemporary cultural and spiritual challenges.

Throughout the quinquennium, the department intentionally aligned its vision and operations with:

1. The strategic direction and mission priorities of the Caribbean Union Conference
2. The Inter-American Division (IAD) Youth Ministries strategic emphases
3. The global focus of the General Conference Youth Ministries on "Total Youth Involvement", discipleship, and mission

This threefold alignment ensured that our youth ministry in CARU remained contextually relevant to the Caribbean reality, while fully connected to regional and global Adventist mission strategies.

Our work during this period has been organized around three key strategic issues:

1. Personal Spiritual Growth and Maturity
2. Church Growth and Consolidation
3. Evangelism and Community Outreach

These pillars are a major part of the strategic focus of the Caribbean Union and reflect the balanced Adventist understanding of mission – nurturing believers, strengthening the body of Christ, and reaching the world with the everlasting gospel.

In keeping with the counsel that with “an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained” (Education, p. 271), the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might quickly reach the world, this department has sought to train, mobilize, and support the youth of CARU for faithful service and mission. What follows is a narrative of God’s leading and the cooperative efforts of His people across the Caribbean Union during this quinquennium.

1. PARTICIPATION IN INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION AND GLOBAL YOUTH INITIATIVES

As we consider our youth ministry in the Caribbean Union, it is important to situate our work within the context of the larger family of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. Participation in Inter-American Division and global initiatives is not a peripheral activity; rather, it is a vital expression of our identity as part of a global movement. Such engagement:

- Strengthens our sense of belonging to the worldwide Adventist family
- Offers exposure and development opportunities to our youth, broadening their vision beyond local boundaries
- Affirms CARU as an active and reliable contributor to regional and global mission initiatives

Within this framework, two major areas of regional participation stand out during the quinquennium: the IAD Bible Connection and the IAD International Pathfinder Camporee.

1.1 IAD Bible Connection

Background

The IAD Bible Connection Challenge (formerly “Bible Boom”) is the premier Division-wide Bible study and discipleship competition for youth and young adults. It is designed not merely as a contest of memory or speed, but as a structured process that encourages systematic study of Scripture, deep doctrinal understanding, and consistent personal devotion. Each Union within the

Division selects a representative through its own Bible Connection processes, and the Division event brings together youth from across the IAD in a spirit of fellowship, healthy competition, and spiritual growth.

By anchoring our youth in the Word at a time when competing voices and ideologies abound, Bible Connection serves as a practical means of helping them “hide” God’s Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11) and stand firm in faith.

Caribbean Union Participation and Hosting (2022–2025)

During the 2022–2026 period, the Caribbean Union maintained consistent and enthusiastic participation in the IAD Bible Connection as follows:

- November 19, 2022 – Jamaica
 - CARU Representative: Mr. Jerren Brewster, South Caribbean Conference
- November 25, 2023 – Colombia
 - CARU Representative: Ms. Xabisa Hamilton, Guyana Conference
- November 16, 2024 – El Salvador
 - CARU Representative: Ms. Xabisa Hamilton, Guyana Conference
- November 15, 2025 – Trinidad & Tobago (Hosted by Caribbean Union)
 - Venue: University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)
 - Special Guests:
 - Pastor Daniel Torreblanca, IAD Youth Ministries Director
 - Dr. Balvin Braham, Vice President, Inter-American Division
 - Youth Ministries Directors and participants from across the IAD

The 2025 event was particularly historic, as it marked the first time that the IAD Bible Connection was hosted within the Caribbean Union. The selection of USC as the venue provided a spiritually uplifting environment and showcased the capacity of CARU to host Division-level events at an international standard. Representing CARU, Ms. Xabisa Hamilton again distinguished herself and, by God’s grace, emerged as the 2025 IAD Bible Connection Champion.



Xabisa Hamilton receives prize from Dr. Balvin Braham, IAD representative

Division officials commended the Caribbean Union for its excellent organization, reverent spiritual atmosphere, and warm Caribbean hospitality, demonstrating our commitment to doing all in a manner that honours God and reflects the character of His people.

Impact and Significance

The sustained engagement with Bible Connection during this quinquennium produced several important outcomes:

- Strengthened culture of Bible study and doctrinal understanding among youth
- Enhanced visibility and reputation of CARU within the IAD as a Union that values biblical literacy and invests in youth discipleship
- Provided inspiration for local and Union-wide Bible study initiatives, including the Moses Award and Re-Connection Revivals
- Empowered young leaders through regional recognition to build confidence and exert spiritual influence in their local contexts

Bible-centered initiatives such as this remain essential to youth ministry in CARU, ensuring that our programs are grounded in Scripture and oriented toward personal transformation.

1.2 IAD Pathfinders in Mission Camporee

Event: March 4–8, 2023 – Trelawny, Jamaica

Background

The IAD International Pathfinder Camporee brings together thousands of Pathfinders, leaders, and administrators for a multi-day experience of camping, worship, community outreach, skills training, and spiritual growth. The Camporee is a formative experience that shapes identity, builds friendships, and cultivates leadership among young people.

Pathfinder ministry reflects the biblical principle of holistic growth – “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52) – uniting physical activity, mental development, social interaction, and spiritual nurture in a single cohesive program.

Caribbean Union Participation

- Approximately 1,000 participants from the Caribbean Union attended, making CARU the largest international contingent at the Camporee.
- Nine of the ten fields of CARU were represented, reflecting strong field-level commitment to Pathfinder ministry and to regional collaboration.
- CARU Administration in attendance included:
 - Dr. Kern Tobias, President
 - Pastor Bertie Henry, Treasurer

Estimated CARU Participation by Field – IAD Camporee 2023

Field/Conference	Delegates
South Caribbean Conference	128
East Caribbean Conference	142
North Caribbean Conference	398
South Leeward Conference	42
St. Lucia Mission	57
St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission	43
Grenada Conference	20
Guyana Conference	106

Field/Conference	Delegates
Tobago Conference	5
Administrative Team	12

Contribution and Outcomes

The Caribbean Union’s contribution to the Camporee extended beyond numerical strength:

- The CARU Youth Director, along with a dedicated team of leaders and young people, played a key role in coordinating activities, challenges, and events, significantly enhancing the Union’s visibility and fostering unity among our diverse fields.
- Participants returned to their territories energized and motivated to:
 - Strengthen local Pathfinder clubs and invest in regular training of staff and youth
 - Expand community outreach initiatives, using Pathfinders as a bridge between church and community

These experiences provided a living expression of the Adventist youth pledge to “take an active part in the work of the church,” and demonstrated that the youth, when rightly trained and organized, are fitted to bear responsibilities at every level.

Having considered our regional and global engagements, we now turn to the strategic initiatives that were developed and implemented across the Union to respond to the specific needs of our youth during this quinquennium.

2. UNION-WIDE STRATEGIC YOUTH INITIATIVES

The leadership of the Caribbean Union has consistently affirmed the priority of youth development and youth engagement in mission. Recognizing that youth ministry must be intentional, structured, and responsive to changing realities, the Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries Department, in collaboration with field leaders, implemented several innovative region-wide initiatives.

These initiatives were designed to foster spiritual growth, leadership development, and mission readiness among our youth. They also reflect a deliberate move from event-based programming to process-oriented disciple making, in harmony with the gospel commission to make, baptize, and teach disciples (Matthew 28:18–20).



Youth in praise!

2.1 Adventist Youth Ministries Stakeholders' Discussion

Date: September 27, 2022 – Virtual

Background and Purpose

In the immediate post-pandemic environment, the youth ministry landscape across CARU had been significantly altered. Many AY societies, Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, and senior youth groups had experienced disruptions, reduced attendance, and leadership fatigue. It was therefore essential to listen carefully to the voices of those on the frontlines and to collaboratively reassess our strategies.

The Union-wide Adventist Youth Ministries Stakeholders' Discussion was convened as a strategic consultation to:

- Take stock of the state of youth ministries across the Union
- Identify both strengths and gaps in our existing structures and programs
- Explore the new realities emerging after COVID-19 (e.g., digital engagement, mental health concerns, membership attrition)
- Chart a collaborative way forward, rooted in prayerful dialogue and data-informed reflection

This approach is consistent with the biblical model of collective counsel and the Adventist commitment to orderly, well-planned labour for souls.

The consultation enjoyed wide and representative participation with over 500 participants from across all ten fields of the Caribbean Union.

Representation included:

- Senior Youth and AY Society leaders

- Master Guide, Pathfinder, and Adventurer leaders
- Pastors, youth directors, and local church officers
- Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries stakeholders

Key Areas Reviewed

During the discussion, several critical areas were examined:

- Strengths and gaps within Senior Youth, Master Guide, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries
- Post-pandemic threats, opportunities, and emerging realities, including:
 - Increased reliance on digital platforms and social media
 - Heightened awareness of mental health challenges among youth
 - The need to reconnect and reclaim youth who had drifted away during the pandemic
- Innovative approaches to discipleship, leadership development, and evangelism, with a focus on youth-led initiatives and peer-to-peer ministry

Participants were organized into targeted breakout rooms focusing on Master Guide, Pathfinder, Adventurer, Senior Youth, and Chaplaincy ministries. In these groups, participants used SWOT analyses (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) to generate clear, actionable insights for each ministry area.

Outcomes and Strategic Linkages

This Union-wide consultation became a foundational reference for subsequent strategic planning. Many of the issues, opportunities, and recommendations raised during the discussion fed directly into the design of major Union-wide initiatives such as EMIT, the Re-Connection Revivals, and YUTCAH.

In this sense, the consultation functioned as both a listening exercise and a strategic springboard. It reinforced the principle that effective youth ministry requires both spiritual fervor and thoughtful planning.

2.2 Bible Connection & Re-Connection Revivals

Flowing naturally from our emphasis on Scripture and from the insights gathered from the Stakeholders' Discussion forum, the department developed an integrated initiative, combining Bible Connection activities with focused spiritual revival efforts.

This initiative – Bible Connection & Re-Connection Revivals – was designed to deepen biblical engagement while strengthening the spiritual life of youth already in the church, with a strong

emphasis on consolidation, renewal, and post-COVID reconnection. It responded to the recognized need for genuine revival and re-engagement across the youth demographic.

2.2.1 University of the Southern Caribbean – 2022

The first major expression of this combined approach occurred at the University of the Southern Caribbean in 2022:

- This was the first post-COVID in-person Moses Award Bible Quiz held at USC, signaling a return to face-to-face Union-wide youth events.
- Participation included representatives from all ten fields of the Union, along with students from USC itself.
- Beyond the competition, the event functioned as a spiritual convocation, with worship experiences, testimonies, and fellowship that helped rebuild inter-field camaraderie and a shared CARU youth identity.

The successful execution of this event provided encouragement that in-person youth ministry could once again flourish, under God's guidance and protection.

2.2.2 St. Vincent & the Grenadines – September 30, 2023

The next major step took place in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, where Bible Connection served as the launching pad for a new spiritual initiative:

- The Bible Connection event on September 30, 2023 became the birthplace of the Re-Connection Revivals.
- In preparation, eight sites across the Mission engaged in a week of spiritual revival, (September 24 –29, 2023), conducted by visiting field youth directors and lay preachers.
- The preaching team included:
 - Pastors: Richard Randolph, Miguel Denny, Jamie Gordon, Leriano Webster, Wayne Jeffery, and Terry John (Spiritual Vice President, USC)
 - Directors: Lennox Jason, Annette Lewis

Focus and Outcomes

The emphasis of these revivals was clear and intentional:

- The primary aim was spiritual renewal and consolidation of Adventist youth, rather than the pursuit of new members.
- Themes highlighted personal devotion, assurance of salvation, identity in Christ, and recommitment to mission.

- Many young people testified to renewed spiritual interest, deeper engagement with Scripture, and a stronger sense of belonging to the church.

These preachers formed the inaugural Re-Connection Revival team, creating a model for future teams that would serve in other fields. The experience confirmed that revival-focused initiatives, when grounded in the Word and supported by strong local planning, could be a powerful response to post-pandemic spiritual drift.

2.2.3 University of the Southern Caribbean – 2024

Building on these experiences, Bible Connection 2024 at USC introduced an added dimension of honour and empowerment for our youth:

- All 2024 Bible Connection participants were fully sponsored to attend YUTCAH and were recognized as special ambassadors. This linkage intentionally connected Bible engagement with leadership development and mission readiness.
- For the first time in the history of CARU's Bible Connection, an IAD Youth Ministries Director – Pastor Al Powell – served as Quiz Master for our Union championship. His presence and leadership enhanced the profile of the event and publicly affirmed the importance of serious Bible study for youth in the Caribbean Union.

This integration of recognition, training, and exposure demonstrates a deliberate strategy to move Bible Connection from a stand-alone competition to a gateway into deeper discipleship journeys.

2.2.4 Tobago Conference – October 11–13, 2025

As part of the Caribbean Union Centennial Celebrations, the synergy between Bible Connection and Re-Connection Revivals reached a new level in the Tobago Conference:

- A combined Bible Connection & Re-Connection Revival event was held on the weekend of October 11–13, 2025, and expanded to incorporate a major musical celebration concert at Shaw Park.
- The revival component included Re-Connection Revivals in eight pastoral districts across Tobago, led by a team of preachers: Pastors Richard Randolph, Wayne Jeffrey, Terry John, RaJive Samuel, Jamie Gordon, Sean Shepherd, Ray Edwards, and Russell James.
- The musical celebration featured special items from each field, local Tobago talent, and a featured artiste, B'Jorn Pierre. This concert was the first of its kind for the Caribbean Union and was subsequently voted as a regular addition to the regional Bible Connection Experience.

Music played a central role in this weekend, not as mere entertainment but as a vehicle for worship, testimony, and appeal. The program highlighted music as an essential element of youth worship and evangelism, used thoughtfully and reverently to uplift Christ and His truth.

In summary, the Bible Connection & Re-Connection Revivals initiative has become a strategic tool for consolidating youth, deepening their spiritual experience, and integrating various aspects of youth ministry into a coherent process of discipleship.

2.3 YUTCAH – Youth United Through Christ Aiming Heavenward

Having emphasized Bible engagement and revival, the Union turned its attention to another pressing need: the crisis of senior youth engagement and retention. Out of prayer, consultation, and careful listening, a new major initiative emerged –YUTCAH (Youth United Through Christ Aiming Heavenward).

Event Dates: July 11–21, 2024 – University of the Southern Caribbean

Background and Rationale

Through direct conversations with youth in multiple fields, it became evident that there was a felt need for an event that was more than a camp and more than a congress – an initiative specifically tailored for Senior Youth at a crucial stage of life. Many articulated the desire for a space that would:

- Address their questions and spiritual struggles honestly
- Affirm their identity and value within the Church
- Equip them for leadership and mission
- Provide opportunities for fellowship and networking across territorial boundaries

In response to this expressed need, the Union designed a hybrid, mission-focused experience that brought together the best elements of camp, congress, leadership summit, and mission convention.

YUTCAH aimed to:

- Facilitate deep spiritual encounters with Christ
- Encourage cross-field fellowship and networking, building a shared CARU youth identity
- Provide concrete leadership and ministry training across multiple disciplines
- Engage youth in community outreach and public witness, translating faith into action

Core Pillars

The program was structured around four core pillars:

1. Worship and Spiritual Formation – daily devotionals, prayer sessions, and evening worship experiences designed to lead youth into a deeper, personal relationship with Christ.
2. Fellowship and Networking – structured opportunities to interact, share testimonies, form friendships, and experience the diversity of the Caribbean Union church family.
3. Discipleship and Leadership Development – seminar tracks and workshops focusing on personal growth, leadership skills, and ministry competencies.
4. Mission and Community Engagement – organized outreach activities that allowed for service to communities and publicly witness for Christ.

Participation and Reach

- Approximately 1,000 participants attended from across the Caribbean Union region, making YUTCAH one of the most significant senior youth gatherings in our history.
- YUTCAH was honoured by the participation and support of leaders from:
 - The Inter-American Division
 - Sister Unions, including the Atlantic Caribbean Union and Belize Union
 - The North American Division
 - The wider Caribbean region

This broad participation underscored CARU's connectedness within the Adventist world and highlighted the regional and international interest in strong senior youth ministry.

Program Highlights

To ensure both depth and practicality, YUTCAH featured three main seminar tracks:

- Communication – media production, public speaking, storytelling, and digital evangelism, equipping youth to communicate the gospel effectively in a media-saturated age.
- Mission – evangelism strategies, cross-cultural mission, and community engagement, encouraging participants to see themselves as missionaries wherever God places them.
- Leadership – church leadership, team-building, personal development, and servant leadership principles.

Main devotional speakers included:

- Dr. Mario Phillips
- Dr. Keith Ainsworth Morris

- Pastor Roger Hernandez

Through the President's Book Initiative, led by Dr. Kern Tobias, each participant received a copy of *Revive* by Pastor Roger Hernandez. This intentional act communicated clearly to the youth that the highest levels of Union leadership were personally invested in their spiritual growth and mission readiness, reinforcing YUTCAH's central themes of renewal, discipleship, and mission.

Public Witness and Community Impact

YUTCAH also had a strong outward-facing component:

- A major March of Witness in Port of Spain attracted over 2,000 persons, including onlookers and passersby. Youth publicly affirmed a stand against violence, and advocacy for peace, hope, and transformation through Christ.
- A community outreach initiative in the Maracas region involved the distribution of hundreds of food hampers, provided and distributed by participants. This visible act of compassion and solidarity was a practical demonstration of the gospel in action.

Social and Developmental Features

Recognizing that holistic youth ministry must also address social and relational needs, YUTCAH included:

- A formal banquet that modelled Christian social interaction and etiquette
- A sports day featuring recreational activities that encouraged healthy lifestyles and teamwork
- Tours and cultural experiences that allowed participants to appreciate both the natural beauty and the cultural diversity of the host country

These elements contributed to a balanced experience, consistent with Adventist principles of comprehensive education and character development.

Link with Adventist Education

YUTCAH also functioned as a strategic initiative to expose our youth to the quality and mission-driven ethos of the University of the Southern Caribbean. Many participants testified that the experience strengthened their desire to pursue Adventist tertiary education. Subsequent enrolments at USC can be directly linked to their exposure during YUTCAH, thereby reinforcing the crucial connection between Youth Ministries and Adventist Education.

Longer-Term Impact

In the months following YUTCAH, several positive trends emerged:

- Increased cross-field collaboration, with youth and leaders visiting each other's camps, conventions, and local events, often inspired by friendships and networks formed during YUTCAH.
- A strengthened sense of regional identity, as CARU youth increasingly saw themselves as part of a wider Caribbean mission movement, and not just members of local congregations or individual fields.
- Deepened relationships with sister Unions that participated, and expressed appreciation for the high spiritual, organizational, and missional standards evident at YUTCAH.

In summary, YUTCAH represented a significant step forward in addressing the needs and aspirations of senior youth and has set a benchmark for future large-scale youth engagements in the Union.



YUTCAH Youth in fellowship

2.4 Visit of IAD and GC Youth Ministries Directors

Another key development during this quinquennium was the joint visit of the Inter-American Division and General Conference Youth Ministries Directors – a visible expression of the worldwide church's support for youth ministry in CARU.

Dates: February 16–22, 2025

Visitors

The Caribbean Union was honoured to host:

- Pastor Al Powell, Youth Ministries Director, Inter-American Division
- Pastor Sibusiso (Busi) Khumalo, Youth Ministries Director, General Conference

Purpose and Significance

This intensive visitation was designed to:

- Encourage youth and leaders across multiple territories within CARU
- Strengthen alignment between CARU and global/regional youth ministry strategies and initiatives
- Offer consultation on challenges, opportunities, and best practices in youth discipleship and mission

The visit reflected the New Testament pattern of itinerant leaders revisiting churches to strengthen and encourage them and underscored the importance of unity and mutual support within the body of Christ.

Key Engagements

The itinerary included a series of strategic stops across several fields:

- Guyana Conference
 - City-wide youth convention and consultation at Central and Mariah Seventh-day Adventist Churches, featuring messages of encouragement, vision casting, and listening sessions with youth.
- East Caribbean Conference
 - Special youth consultation with youth leaders and representatives, focusing on local challenges, innovative initiatives, and opportunities for collaboration.
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission
 - Commissioning of the Youthful Honey Project, a youth-led economic and entrepreneurial initiative that seeks to empower young people through productive self-employment.
 - A March of Witness and youth consultation, promoting public visibility of Adventist youth and open dialogue on mission and discipleship.
- Grenada Conference
 - Island-wide youth consultation and a nature tour focused on spiritual reflection, environmental stewardship, and leadership.

- Tobago Conference
 - Courtesy visit to the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr. Farley Augustine, signaling the church's interest in constructive engagement with civic leaders on behalf of youth.
 - Island-wide consultation with senior youth and Pathfinders at the Mt. St. George Seventh-day Adventist Church, encouraging them to active service and faithfulness.
- South Caribbean Conference
 - Participation in Elders' Appreciation activities, highlighting the importance of intergenerational partnership in mission.
 - Consultation with youth and a special award ceremony, where several leaders were recognized by the IAD Director for outstanding service in youth ministry.
 - The presentation of the IAD Excellence Youth Award to Dr. Kern Tobias by Pastor Al Powell, acknowledging the Union's sustained commitment to youth development and mission.

Outcomes

These visits:

- Visibly reinforced global and regional support, networking, and mutual accountability in youth ministry.
- Provided encouragement and affirmation to local leaders and youth, reminding them that they are part of a worldwide movement.
- Facilitated direct dialogue between field-level workers and world church leaders, informing future policies and initiatives.

Having focused on strategic initiatives and regional/global engagements across the Union, we now direct our attention to the critical area of training and capacity building for youth and youth leaders.

3. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Effective youth ministry requires more than enthusiasm and good intentions; it calls for deliberate training and capacity building, grounded in Scripture and informed by best practice. During this quinquennium, the department placed particular emphasis on scalable and sustainable training platforms.

Our efforts were guided by the biblical mandate to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13) and the conviction that youth should be educated to think and act responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

3.1 EMIT – Youth Evangelism and Cross-Cultural Training & Certification

Dates: March 24–31, 2024 – Virtual

Background

Recognizing the strong global and regional emphasis on Total Member Involvement and youth in evangelism, the Caribbean Union developed the EMIT (Empower, Motivate, Ignite, Transform) program. This Union-wide initiative was designed as a structured training and certification experience that would:

- Equip youth for preaching and personal evangelism
- Build capacity for cross-cultural mission both within the Caribbean and beyond
- Create a pool of certified youth evangelists, lay preachers, and ministry leaders who could be deployed by fields and local churches

Participation and Reach

- Over 600 youth from across the Caribbean Union attended the EMIT program.
- Youth from the Atlantic Caribbean Union also participated, extending the impact of the initiative and fostering inter-Union collaboration.

Core Training Modules

EMIT offered a comprehensive curriculum, delivered virtually to maximize access and minimize costs:

- Sermon preparation and preaching development, focusing on biblical exegesis, sermon structure, illustration, and appeal.
- Bible study methods and personal evangelism, including how to give Bible studies, answer common questions, and lead people to make decisions.
- Cross-cultural awareness and mission outreach strategies, exposing youth to diverse cultural contexts within CARU and beyond, and preparing them for respectful, sensitive mission.
- Practical aspects of organizing and running youth evangelistic campaigns, covering planning, promotion, team formation, and follow-up.

Impact

The EMIT initiative has already yielded tangible results:

- It has significantly expanded the pool of trained youth evangelists and lay speakers available to local churches and fields.
- Many EMIT participants have since been engaged in youth-led campaigns, Weeks of Prayer, and Impact series across the Union.
- EMIT has helped to foster a culture in which youth see themselves not as spectators, but as active mission agents in harmony with the understanding that every true disciple is born as a missionary.

Through EMIT, many young people responded to God’s call and have taken their place as workers together with Him in the proclamation of the everlasting gospel.

3.2 Annual Advisories

In addition to targeted youth training, the department recognized the need for ongoing coordination, communication, and consultation among leaders. To this end, annual Youth Advisories were convened throughout the term, using both virtual and in-person formats.

These advisories brought together:

- Union Administrators and field youth directors
- Key youth ministry stakeholders

Objectives

The main objectives of the Annual Advisories included:

- Reviewing progress against established strategic objectives and Union-wide initiatives
- Sharing best practices, materials, and resources that could be adapted across different fields
- Coordinating plans and harmonizing calendars to avoid clashes and ensure synergy among major events (e.g., camporees, congresses, revivals)
- Ensuring alignment of Union-level plans with Inter-American Division and General Conference youth ministry calendars and priorities

These advisories have been essential for strategic alignment, reduction of duplication, and the strengthening of inter-field collaboration. They reflect the Adventist commitment to doing all things “decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40) and to providing wise “generalship” in the work of God.

Having addressed Union-wide training and coordination mechanisms, we now focus on the ministry’s direct support to local fields.

4. SUPPORT TO LOCAL FIELDS

While Union-wide initiatives and regional engagements are important, the heartbeat of youth ministry lies in youth involvement at the local conference/mission level and at the local church level. Acknowledgement of this reality has resulted in a significant portion of the department's energy being devoted to direct support to conferences and missions through training, strategic planning, and participation in major youth events.

This approach follows Christ's example of personal presence and mentoring, recognizing that on-the-ground engagement often provides the greatest encouragement and impact.

4.1 Training and Ministry Support (Summary of Engagements)

During the period under review, the Departmental Director provided on-site or virtual support to the following events and initiatives:

- January 13–15, 2023 – Tobago Conference
 - National Youth Congress – Preaching, leadership training, and strategic consultation.
- January 20–21, 2023 – St. Lucia Mission
 - National Youth Training Seminar – Focus on AY leadership, discipleship, and youth evangelism.
- January 27–28, 2023 – Virtual
 - Child Protection Training for leaders across the Union – Emphasizing safeguarding best practices, mandatory reporting, and Adventist Child Protection guidelines.
- February 3–4, 2023 – Grenada Conference
 - National Drill Festival – Encouraging discipline, teamwork, and excellence among Pathfinders and youth.
- April 30, 2023 – East Caribbean Conference (Dominica)
 - Youth Leaders' Advisory – Focus on strategy, reporting, and youth engagement.
- May 26–27, 2023 – Suriname Mission
 - Youth Rally – Inspiring youth involvement, spiritual commitment, and mission focus.
- February 20, 2024 – South Leeward Conference
 - National Officers' Training in Antigua – Equipping local officers for effective youth leadership and program planning.

- May 24–26, 2024 – North Caribbean Conference
 - Pathfinder Congress – “ENTER” – Tortola, British Virgin Islands – Support in preaching, training, and ceremonial events.
- April 16–17, 2025 – North Caribbean Conference
 - “RISE” Pathfinder Camporee – Spiritual emphasis, leadership engagement, and on-site advisory.
- April 18–20, 2025 – South Leeward Conference
 - “NOW” Pathfinder Camporee – Preaching, youth motivation, and support to field leadership in strengthening club ministry and outreach.

Outcomes

Across these field-level initiatives, several outcomes have been consistently observed:

- Strengthened local leadership capacity and succession planning, as leaders received updated training, theological grounding, and practical tools for ministry
- Enhanced quality of Pathfinder/AY programming and child protection standards, leading to safer, more structured, and spiritually purposeful activities
- Increased youth participation and engagement at the field and local church levels, as youth felt seen, valued, and directly included in the mission of the church

These efforts underscore the conviction that too much is at stake for us to be careless or indifferent in working for our youth, and that local support remains indispensable to long-term impact.

Having reviewed local and regional support, we now shift our focus to youth evangelism where youth leadership has been particularly visible and fruitful.

5. YOUTH EVANGELISM SUPPORT

Evangelism and revival are not optional add-ons to youth ministry; they are positioned at its very heart. In keeping with the global Adventist emphasis on comprehensive mission and the proclamation of the three angels’ messages, the department dedicated intentional effort to supporting and amplifying youth-led evangelistic and revival initiatives across the Union.

The underlying conviction has been that our young people are not merely the “church of tomorrow”, but vital workers for God today, capable of carrying His message with power and clarity when rightly trained and supported.

5.1 Youth-Led Evangelistic and Revival Initiatives

During the quinquennium, the Departmental Director championed a series of youth-centered evangelistic and revival efforts, often partnering with EMIT-trained youth and local field leadership. These included:

- March 18–25, 2023 – Anguilla
 - Youth Week of Prayer/Revival – A focused effort on spiritual renewal, youth focused preaching, and recommitment.
- July 1–29, 2023 – Tobago Conference
 - Youth Crusade – “The Bible Speaks” – A sustained evangelistic series led largely by young people.
- October 4–11, 2023 – University of the Southern Caribbean (USC)
 - Youth Week of Prayer – Campus-based revival on the theme of spiritual identity and mission, involving both students and staff.
- October 21–28, 2023 – St. Kitts & Nevis
 - Youth Week of Prayer – “Breaking Down Walls” – Emphasis on reconciliation, unity, and overcoming spiritual barriers.
- December 1–4, 2023 – Guyana Conference
 - Upper Mazaruni Youth Congress – A combined congress and revival, in a geographically challenging region, spotlighting youth resilience and faith.
- March 16–23, 2024 – Barbados
 - Youth Week of Prayer – “Planted” – Focused on spiritual rootedness and resilience in a shifting cultural landscape.
- November 2–9, 2024 – Suriname Mission
 - Youth Week of Prayer – Multi-lingual, multicultural outreach with strong youth leadership and involvement.
- March 15–22, 2025 – St. Vincent & the Grenadines Mission
 - Youth Week of Prayer – “Fired Up” – Mobilizing youth on the island for personal revival and recommitment.
- April 11–13, 2025 – St. Eustatius
 - Youth Impact Series – Short, intensive evangelistic thrust.
- April 3–24, 2025 – Kuru Kuru, Guyana

- Youth Impact – “The Bible Speaks” – Extended series in a developing community, with youth leading out in preaching, Bible instruction, and community visitation.
- June 14–21, 2025 – St. Maarten (North Caribbean Conference)
 - Youth Impact Series – Cooperative evangelism with youth from various congregations on the island, emphasizing personal ministry and personal decisions for Christ.

Across these initiatives, youth did not simply assist; they led. They conducted Bible studies, organized praise teams, managed technology, coordinated ushering and hospitality, and nurtured interests in follow-up small groups. The department’s role was to encourage, provide spiritual and technical guidance, and help ensure that these efforts were integrated into local church and field evangelistic plans.

5.2 Significant Evangelism Outcomes

Baptisms

During the 2022–2026 quinquennium, the youth evangelistic initiatives directly supported by the CARU Youth, Chaplaincy and PCM department are conservatively estimated to have resulted in more than 250 baptisms. When combined with other youth-related evangelistic activities within the Union that were influenced by EMIT training, Re-Connection Revivals, and local initiatives, the total impact is actually much greater.



Directors in action in baptismal pool

These numbers represent young people, adults, and families who publicly committed their lives to Christ and joined the fellowship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In many cases, the decisions were the fruit of youth-to-youth ministry, demonstrating the powerful influence that consecrated young people can exert on their peers.

Church Planting

A particularly striking outcome of youth evangelism during this period was the establishment of a new congregation in Tobago:

- The Bible Speaks Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tobago, emerged directly from the Youth Crusade “The Bible Speaks” held in July 2023.
- Following the series, a core group of new believers and previously unchurched attendees formed the nucleus of a new congregation.
- By God’s grace, a church building has since been constructed, and The Bible Speaks Church now functions as a fully organized congregation, continuing to reach its community through ongoing ministry.

This development stands as a living testimony to what can happen when youth are intentionally trained, empowered, and supported by their local church and field leadership. It illustrates that youth-led evangelism can lead not only to individual conversions but also to sustained, structural growth in the form of new congregations.

Having reviewed the evangelistic dimension of youth ministry, we will now consider another vital component of the department’s mandate – chaplaincy ministry – which extends spiritual care beyond congregational life into the institutions of society.

6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF YOUTH MINISTRIES STATISTICAL TRENDS

Comparative Youth Ministries Statistical Report 2019 / 2020 / 2023 / 2026				
	2019 10 Fields Reporting	2020 4 Fields Reporting	2023 6 Fields Reporting	2025 10 Fields Reporting
# of AY Societies	620	243	296	565
AY Membership	19,763	6,850	11,026	15,390
# of Ambassador Clubs	2	2	1	0
Ambassador Membership	17	22	15	0
# of Master Guide Clubs	156	NO DATA	97	148

Master Guide Membership	2,783	NO DATA	2,238	2,299
# of Pathfinder Clubs	436	182	245	407
Pathfinder Membership	8,708	4,012	6,481	8,213
# of Adventurer Clubs	368	171	230	359
Adventurer Membership	6,238	3,110	4,978	6,144

A comparative review of youth ministries statistics in the Caribbean Union over the past several years reveals a clear three-phase pattern: a strong pre-COVID period, a marked decline during the pandemic, and a substantial recovery in the post-COVID years.

Pre-COVID Strength

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, youth ministry across the Caribbean Union was consistently strong. Participation in Adventurer, Pathfinder, Master Guide, and AY societies was robust, and reports coming from the fields enabled the Union to track growth and engagement with reasonable confidence. This period set a high benchmark for youth involvement and club activity.

Impact of the COVID-19 Period

The onset of the pandemic brought a noticeable decline in reported youth ministry activity. Lockdowns, restrictions on in-person gatherings, and the closure or limited operation of churches and schools severely disrupted club meetings, training sessions, and major youth events. In addition, the period created serious reporting challenges:

- Many clubs were unable to function in their usual formats, resulting in gaps and inconsistencies in statistical reports.
- Digital and hybrid activities, while significant, were not always captured in traditional reporting frameworks.
- Precise measurement of the full impact of COVID-19 on youth membership and active participation proved difficult.

These factors mean that the statistical trough during the pandemic years reflects both actual disruption and under-reporting.

Post-COVID Recovery

Despite these challenges, the data from the recent quinquennium show a strong recovery. In fact, the best post-COVID reporting year falls only slightly below the strongest pre-COVID year. This indicates that, in overall terms, youth ministry within the Caribbean Union has been largely restored to its former strength. Many clubs have resumed regular operations, participation has

rebounded, and initiatives across the fields and Union have helped to re-energize youth engagement.

At the same time, it is notable that the weakest year in the recent quinquennium is somewhat lower than the weakest year before COVID-19. This suggests that while a significant number of clubs and fields have recovered well, a subset of clubs remains fragile or underperforming. These pockets of weakness likely correspond to areas where:

- Leadership capacity has been depleted or not yet fully rebuilt
- Economic or social fallout from the pandemic has hampered recovery
- Systems for data collection and reporting are still being re-established

Interpretation and Implications

Taken together, the statistical pattern supports several conclusions:

1. **Resilience and Restoration:** The near-return to peak pre-COVID levels in the strongest post-COVID year demonstrates that youth ministry in CARU is fundamentally resilient. The core structures of Adventurer, Pathfinder, AY, Senior Youth, PCM, and related ministries have survived the crisis and, in many cases, emerged revitalized.
2. **Effectiveness of Strategic Initiatives:** The recovery trajectory aligns closely with the implementation of intentional, organized initiatives during this quinquennium, such as the Union-wide Stakeholders' Discussion, Re-Connection Revivals, EMIT training, YUTCAH, and strengthened support to local fields. These efforts have helped to stabilize and rebuild youth ministry after the disruptions of the pandemic.
3. **Need for Targeted Support:** The fact that the weakest post-COVID year falls below the weakest pre-COVID year signals that not all areas have recovered at the same pace. Some clubs and fields will require:
 1. Focused leadership development and mentorship
 1. Direct Union and field-level intervention in planning and restructuring
 1. Intentional efforts to reclaim and re-engage youth who drifted during the pandemic

Going forward, the Union's data and metrics strategy (Section 9.1) will be essential in identifying these vulnerable areas and directing resources where they are most needed. By combining careful statistical monitoring with spiritual and strategic initiatives, the Caribbean Union can continue to consolidate gains, close remaining gaps, and ensure that no segment of our youth ministry is left behind in the post-pandemic rebuilding process.

7. CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

The chaplaincy function of the Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries Department seeks to strengthen professional and structured pastoral care in institutions such as hospitals, schools, prisons, and the military, as well as on public campuses. Chaplaincy provides a means for the Church to maintain a credible, compassionate presence in secular and pluralistic environments, and to offer holistic support to individuals and communities in times of need.

During this quinquennium, the Caribbean Union took deliberate steps to elevate chaplaincy to recognized professional standards, consistent with General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) guidelines and international best practice.

7.1 CARU Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Certification

Dates: February–June, 2025

Background

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is the internationally recognized standard for professional training in chaplaincy and spiritual care. It combines supervised clinical practice with reflective learning, enabling ministers to grow in self-awareness, pastoral competence, and theological integration.

- Recognizing the need for professionally trained chaplains capable of serving in hospitals, schools, correctional institutions, and other settings, the Caribbean Union – with partial sponsorship from the Inter-American Division – implemented a CPE program for a select cohort of ministers.

Participants

The first CARU CPE cohort included:

- Pastor Jason Peters – East Caribbean Conference
- Pastor Miguel Denny – East Caribbean Conference
- Pastor Martin Cunningham – Tobago Conference
- Pastor Crystal White – South Caribbean Conference
- Pastor Marvyn Smith – Caribbean Union Conference

Facilitation and Oversight

- Facilitator: Dr. Larry Green, an experienced CPE educator
- Supervision: Conducted by a representative of the General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Department, ensuring alignment with global ACM standards

Impact

The implementation of CPE within CARU has had several important outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity for professional spiritual care in healthcare, education, corrections, and other institutional settings across the Union.
- Provided a foundation for the formal recognition, accreditation, and deployment of chaplains in CARU fields and employing institutions.

This initiative marks a significant step toward ensuring that institutional ministry within the Union is both spiritually effective and professionally credible.

7.2 Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries World Congress

Dates: June 29–July 2, 2025 – St. Louis, Missouri, USA

CARU Representation

The Caribbean Union was represented at the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM) World Congress by:

- Chaplain Gideon St. Bryce
- Mr. Darryl Waldron
- Pastor Marvyn Smith

Focus of the Congress

The ACM World Congress brought together chaplains and leaders from around the world to explore:

- The growth, professional development, and expansion of Adventist chaplaincy
- Best practices in institutional chaplaincy, including spiritual care models, ethics, crisis intervention, and multi-faith engagement
- Strategies for maintaining a faithful Adventist presence and clear witness in secular institutions

Benefits to the Caribbean Union

Participation in the Congress yielded several benefits for CARU:

- Exposure to global standards, models, and innovations in chaplaincy, providing insights that can inform local policy and practice.
- Access to networks, resources, and continuing education opportunities for current and prospective chaplains in the Union.

- Strengthened alignment of CARU chaplaincy initiatives with General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries frameworks and expectations.

These steps help ensure that chaplaincy within the Caribbean Union is robust, sustainable, and firmly integrated into the overall mission of the Church.

Having reviewed chaplaincy, we now focus on a closely related but distinct area of ministry – Public Campus Ministries (PCM) – which addresses the needs of Adventist students in secular tertiary institutions.

8. PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES (PCM)

Public Campus Ministries (PCM) is a vital arm of youth ministry in the Caribbean Union, serving Seventh-day Adventist students on secular tertiary campuses. PCM provides spiritual nurture, Christian community, and mission opportunities in academic environments that often present intellectual, social, and spiritual challenges to faith.

Like Daniel and his companions in an unfamiliar culture, Adventist students are called to live out their convictions in settings where their beliefs may not be widely shared. PCM seeks to support them in remaining faithful, engaged, and mission-minded during these formative years.

8.1 Active PCM Groups in CARU

During the quinquennium, several PCM groups remained active and visible within the region, including:

- UWI Cave Hill PCM Chapter (Barbados)
- UWI St. Augustine PCM Chapter (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Guyana School of Agriculture PCM Group

These groups functioned as spiritual homes-away-from-home for Adventist students, offering fellowship, worship, mentorship, and a sense of community.

8.2 Core Functions

The core functions of PCM groups in CARU include:

- Regular worship, Bible study, and fellowship for Adventist students, often organized around academic timetables and examination schedules.
- Witness and outreach on secular campuses through personal ministry, small-group Bible studies, health and wellness initiatives, literature distribution, and service projects.
- Leadership development and practical ministry training for students, providing opportunities to lead in worship, organize events, and coordinate outreach.

- Coordination with local churches to ensure pastoral care, mentoring, and integration of students into congregational life, with particular attention to students studying away from home.

Through these activities, PCM aims to not only retain Adventist students in the faith, but also to transform campuses into mission fields.

8.3 Post-COVID Reality and Response

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shifts toward online and hybrid educational modalities had a significant impact on PCM. Many groups experienced:

- Reduced in-person attendance and irregular participation
- Challenges in maintaining continuity of leadership as student cohorts cycled through
- Difficulties in engaging new students who were studying remotely or commuting from a distance

In response, PCM leaders and students adopted creative strategies, including:

- Hybrid ministry models, combining in-person and online meetings, enabling participation from students on and off campus.
- Stronger partnerships with local churches which provided venues, logistical support, and intergenerational mentorship.
- Targeted outreach to first-year and new students, especially at the start of academic terms, recognizing that early connection significantly increases the likelihood of long-term engagement.

Despite the challenges, PCM groups have displayed resilience and adaptability, continuing to provide a Christian presence and witness in tertiary institutions across the Union.

8.4 Future Priorities for PCM

Looking forward, several priorities have emerged for strengthening PCM in CARU:

- Re-establishing or establishing PCM chapters on additional campuses across the Union, especially where there is a known concentration of Adventist students.
- Formal appointment and training of PCM coordinators at the field level, with clear roles, expectations, and reporting structures.
- Strengthening mentoring relationships between local churches and PCM groups, including intentional pairing of students with mature spiritual mentors and families.
- Development of contextualized PCM resources (Bible study guides, devotional materials, outreach ideas) tailored to Caribbean campus realities and youth culture.

These steps will help ensure that Adventist students in secular institutions remain spiritually anchored, mission-oriented, and connected to the body of Christ during their academic journey.

Following our examination of the major areas of activity during the 2021–2026 period, we can now highlight the key results of the quinquennium and the strategic emphases that have emerged from this experience.

9. SUMMARY OF KEY RESULTS AND STRATEGIC EMPHASES

As we look back over the period July 2021–July 2026, we recognize that any progress or success achieved has been made possible only through the grace and guidance of God. At the same time, it is important, in keeping with international reporting standards, to identify the principal outcomes and strategic shifts that have characterized this quinquennium.

During this period, the Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries Department of the Caribbean Union Conference has:

1. Aligned its work with CARU's strategic priorities of spiritual growth, church consolidation, and evangelism, ensuring that youth ministry remains integral to the Union's mission agenda and not be regarded as a peripheral activity.
2. Strengthened Union visibility and participation in major Inter-American Division youth initiatives, including:
 1. Bible Connection, with CARU regularly represented and hosting the Division event for the first time in 2025.
 2. The IAD International Pathfinder Camporee, where CARU fielded the largest international contingent and contributed significantly to the coordination and success of the event.
3. Launched and consolidated new Union-wide initiatives:
 1. Re-Connection Revivals, focused on post-pandemic spiritual renewal and youth consolidation.
 2. EMIT Youth Evangelism Training and Certification, which has expanded the pool of trained youth evangelists and lay speakers.
 3. YUTCAH (Youth United Through Christ Aiming Heavenward), a landmark senior youth gathering integrating worship, training, fellowship, and mission in a single, comprehensive experience.
 4. Strengthened local fields through advisories, training seminars, congresses, camporees, and rallies, providing direct on-the-ground support to Conferences and Missions and enhancing local leadership capacity and program quality.

5. Contributed to measurable evangelistic outcomes, including:

1. An estimated 250+ baptisms from CARU youth-led evangelistic initiatives during the quinquennium.
2. The planting and dedication of The Bible Speaks Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tobago, a congregation that emerged directly from a youth evangelism series and now serves as a monument to youth-led mission.

6. Advanced chaplaincy training and global integration through:

1. The implementation of a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program for CARU chaplains, raising the professional standard of institutional spiritual care.
2. Participation in the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries World Congress, linking CARU chaplaincy with global ACM standards, networks, and resources.

7. Sustained and supported Public Campus Ministries in key tertiary institutions, maintaining a visible Adventist presence and witness on secular campuses and supporting students in their academic and spiritual journeys.

These achievements reflect both the dedication of our youth and leaders and the opportunities that arise when the Union, fields, local churches, and institutions work together in a coordinated manner. They also provide a platform for further growth and innovation in the coming quinquennium.

In light of these results, we now present a series of recommendations and future directions, designed to consolidate gains, address identified gaps, and position the department for even more effective service.

10. LOOKING AHEAD: RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As the Caribbean Union moves beyond its 18th Session and into a new quinquennium, the Youth, Chaplaincy and Public Campus Ministries Department submits the following recommendations. These proposals are offered in a spirit of prayerful dependence on God and with a desire to see our young people fully engaged in the mission and life of the Church.

9.1 Data and Metrics

To strengthen decision-making, accountability, and strategic planning:

- Establish standardized reporting templates for fields to track key youth indicators, including participation in major programs, leadership involvement, baptisms, PCM engagement, and chaplaincy activities.

- Produce simple annual dashboards or charts for Union-wide review, enabling leaders at all levels to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities more readily.
- Align local and field-level reporting with Inter-American Division and General Conference Youth Ministries indicators, ensuring consistency and facilitating global benchmarking.

Reliable data will help the Union to steward resources effectively and to evaluate the true impact of its youth, chaplaincy, and PCM initiatives.

9.2 Youth Leadership Development

To deepen and broaden youth leadership across the Union:

- Expand EMIT and similar programs by introducing certification tiers (basic, intermediate, advanced) and periodic refresher courses, fostering ongoing growth in evangelism, preaching, and leadership.
- Develop a structured mentorship program linking experienced leaders (pastors, elders, youth directors, Master Guides) with emerging youth leaders, using clear guidelines and expectations for both mentors and mentees.
- Promote spiritual disciplines and character formation alongside skills training, emphasizing that effective Christian leadership is rooted in a strong personal relationship with Christ and a life of integrity and service.

These steps will contribute to an intentional pipeline of prepared, balanced, and mission-focused youth leaders at every level of the Church.

9.3 Strengthening Public Campus Ministries

To better serve Adventist students in secular institutions:

- Formalize PCM structures at Union and field levels, with designated PCM coordinators, defined portfolios, and regular reporting mechanisms.
- Encourage and support the establishment of new PCM chapters in additional public universities and colleges across CARU, particularly where Adventist student populations are significant.
- Develop resources and training modules for local churches on how to effectively support and integrate tertiary students – spiritually, socially, and practically – during their academic years.

Strengthening PCM will help ensure that Adventist students remain connected to Christ, grounded in the faith, and engaged in mission during a critical stage of their life.

9.4 Chaplaincy Expansion

To consolidate and enlarge chaplaincy as a strategic mission front:

- Develop and adopt a Union-wide chaplaincy policy framework, consistent with General Conference Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries guidelines, to govern the selection, training, deployment, and evaluation of chaplains.
- Identify and support additional candidates for CPE and specialized chaplaincy training, paying particular attention to key sectors such as healthcare, education, corrections, and the military.
- Encourage local fields and institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.) to prioritize the appointment of qualified chaplains and to recognize chaplaincy as an integral part of their mission strategy, and not merely a ceremonial role.

Such steps will help ensure that institutional ministry in the Caribbean Union is both spiritually effective and sustainable.

9.5 Continuous Spiritual Revival and Wholistic Care

To maintain spiritual vitality and address emerging needs among youth:

- Institutionalize Re-Connection Revivals as a regular, rotating initiative across fields, with clear objectives, standardized core materials, and intentional follow-up plans to support long-term spiritual growth.
- Integrate mental health, resilience, and discipleship content into youth spiritual formation programs, recognizing the emotional, relational, and psychological pressures facing contemporary youth and young adults.
- Strengthen collaboration with Family Ministries, Education, Health Ministries, and other departments, to offer coordinated, wholistic responses to issues such as addiction, abuse, family breakdown, and the impact of digital media.

These recommendations are offered in the conviction that the ultimate task of youth ministry is to help prepare a generation to stand firm in faith and character, and to participate actively in the finishing of God's work.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As this report draws to a close, it is both appropriate and necessary to express gratitude to those whom God has used as instruments in advancing youth, chaplaincy, and PCM ministries within the Caribbean Union during this quinquennium.

We acknowledge with deep appreciation:

CARU'S 18TH SESSION REPORT

- The leadership and support of the Caribbean Union Administration, including field presidents, officers, and executive committees, whose vision, counsel, and strategic backing have made many initiatives possible.
- My Administrative Assistant, Sis. Carol Joshua, whose diligent service, organizational support, and quiet faithfulness have been invaluable to the work of this department.
- My departmental colleagues and the staff of the Caribbean Union Conference, for their collaboration, interdepartmental cooperation, and shared mission spirit.
- Youth directors, pastors, chaplains, Master Guides, PCM leaders, and lay volunteers across all fields, many of whom labour sacrificially, often without public recognition, but whose efforts have had eternal consequences in the lives of young people.
- Parents and guardians who consistently encourage and support the involvement of their children and youth in church life and mission, providing the first and most enduring Christian influence in their lives.
- The young people of the Caribbean Union Conference, whose passion, creativity, resilience, and commitment to mission continue to inspire the entire church. Their willingness to serve, lead, preach, sing, share, and stand for Christ in challenging environments is a powerful testimony of God at work in this generation.
- I also wish to record my heartfelt gratitude to my dear wife, Elodie, and to our loving children, Eden, Jared, and Mila. They have shared fully in the sacrifice of ministry, especially during the many long itineraries and extended periods that kept me away from home. Their prayers, patience, and unwavering support have been a constant source of strength and encouragement. Very often, while I stood in pulpits or sat in late-night meetings across the Union, they were quietly bearing their part of the burden at home. I recognize that whatever has been accomplished in this quinquennium has been, in no small measure, the fruit of their love, understanding, and willingness to place the cause of God above personal convenience. For this, I thank them deeply and ask that the Lord will reward them abundantly for all that they have given to His work.

With gratitude for God's leading in the past, and with confidence in His continued guidance for the future, we look forward to the ongoing growth, deepening, and expansion of Youth, Chaplaincy, and Public Campus Ministries in the Caribbean Union Conference in the years ahead.

May the youth of CARU remain steadfast, balanced, and mission-focused – faithful in their discipleship, creative in their witness, and united in their resolve to point others to Christ – until the work is finished and we all gather as one family in the kingdom of God.

