

## REPORT OF THE YOUTH, PUBLIC CAMPUS AND CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Kern Tobias, President of the Caribbean Union, members of the Union Administration, representatives of the Inter-American Division, delegates and delegates-at-large, fellow members and brethren — it is with heartfelt gratitude and humility that I present this report on the progress of the Youth, Public Campus, and Chaplaincy Ministries Departments for the period January 2021 to December 31, 2024.

I believe Psalm 16:6 is a fitting starting point for this report: *“The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.”* Over the past quadrennium, God has truly been gracious to us as a two-island conference. He has guided us through the challenges of the post-COVID era, ushered us into a new digital era, and sustained us amid significant political and social changes. Through it all, God has been our help and unfailing support.

Between 2021 and 2024, Youth, Public Campus, and Chaplaincy Ministries focused on showcasing the value of intergenerational ministry. Proverbs 20:29 captures this vision well: *“The glory of young men is their strength, and the beauty of old men is the grey head.”* This verse reminds us that each generation brings unique strengths that can be used to advance God’s kingdom. This session report highlights the contributions of our youth across three key areas:

- Mission & Evangelism
- Conservation and Growth
- Leadership Development

These three focus areas align closely with our RESET strategic initiatives—specifically: *Empower and Evangelize, Support, and Transform.*

This report reflects the key activities and initiatives that promoted intentional intergenerational collaboration, driving growth and development within the Youth, Public Campus, and Chaplaincy Ministries of the East Caribbean Conference. What follows is a summary of the programs and efforts that supported clubs, AY societies, churches, districts, and the wider conference in advancing the overall RESET mission.

## Mission and Evangelism

### Adventist Youth Ministries (AYM)

The Aim of AYM is “The Advent Message to all the world in my generation.” This theme is endorsed wholeheartedly by our commitment to support the evangelistic thrusts of the Seventh-day Adventist church, especially within our conference. Youth are heavily involved in our evangelistic campaigns, assisting with overall leadership at various levels. Youth are seen in management, media, ushering, prayer, hospitality, and the list goes on.

In matters specific to youth ministry, the Youth Ministries Department has also sponsored evangelistic/mission efforts for the quadrennium. Global Youth Day (GYD) is one such effort. While on a hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, we returned in grand form from 2022 and onwards, donating thousands of dollars in acts of kindness across both fields. One of the most significant GYD events took place in Dominica in 2024, where the entire island collected food and toiletry items for distribution to over 15 homes and two institutions. This also formed part of the MegaFest 2024 programming, where youth sponsored evangelism in their own unique ways and skill sets.

Our junior youth also take part in mission efforts. Not only do Adventurers and Pathfinders join in Global Youth Day activities; the department encourages clubs to utilise both Adventurer and Pathfinder Day as opportunities for outreach. 2023 saw Adventurer Day in Barbados and Dominica hosting a march within the Oldbury and Portsmouth communities, respectively, promoting the ministry’s program and demonstrating positive youth doing mighty things for God. Pathfinder Day annually sees our clubs engaged in community outreach through the giving of food baskets, visiting nursing homes and the elderly, conducting open airs, and other acts of kindness within their communities. For two years, at our annual Investiture Sabbath in Barbados, our junior youth have made donations of food and toiletries which have significantly assisted the AIDS food bank, a retirement home and other care-giving institutions.

Our youth have made a strong and visible impact through their involvement in national and island-wide activities. Within the quadrennium, Pathfinders and Master Guides actively participated in annual youth rallies and Independence Day parades in both Barbados and Dominica. In Barbados, the Pathfinder Band plays a prominent role during the National Independence Day Parade providing musical accompaniment and enhancing the overall atmosphere of the event. Beyond this, the band often serves at other events sponsored by the government, NGO initiatives, and church services—both Seventh-day Adventist and non-Adventist—while also engaging in charitable outreach to institutions across the island.

Additionally, Pathfinders in Barbados have formed the colour party, delivered prayers, and presented Scripture Readings during the National Thanksgiving Service held the Sunday before Independence Day. Through their service and dedication, our youth continue to bring pride and positive recognition to Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministry.

## EVANGELISM

Evangelism was given particular attention during the quadrennium. In keeping with the RESET strategic plan, Junior Youth Ministry has eagerly taken up the challenge of encouraging our youth to give their hearts to Jesus. In 2024, a joint two-week campaign was held in May, sponsored by the Adventurer Ministry, Children's Ministries and Education Department of the East Caribbean Conference. Out of this venture, two souls gave their hearts to Christ. Pathfinders and senior youth were invited to participate in a Caribbean Union (CARU) sponsored virtual Evangelistic Training conducted on April 14, 17, 19-20, 2024. Several of our clubs in both islands took part in the session. Out of this, two Pathfinder clubs in Barbados hosted an evangelistic campaign, reaping 8 precious souls between them. In the previous year, two clubs also hosted their own campaigns and had similar successes. We applaud these clubs for their valiant efforts and encourage more to take up the evangelistic challenge. We have also done our best to continue last quadrennium's initiative of giving a personalised letter and baptismal pin to Adventurers and Pathfinders who have given their lives to Jesus in baptism.

As Youth Director, I've had the privilege of leading two evangelistic campaigns and participating in several others throughout the quadrennium, resulting in at least eight baptisms. These are part of a broader range of opportunities where children and youth have committed their lives to Christ through baptism—whether through baptismal classes, weeks of prayer, or special events such as the IAD Camporee in Jamaica, Conference Session, and others.

The most impactful evangelistic effort of the quadrennium was, without a doubt, the return of **MegaFest** to the East Caribbean Conference, held from March 16–23, 2024. This dynamic week-long campaign blessed both Dominica and Barbados with the ministry of Pastor Brent St. Jean, Youth Ministries Director for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission, and Pastor Marvyn Smith, Youth Ministries Director for the Caribbean Union. Both speakers delivered powerful, youth-centered messages that were relevant and deeply engaging.

Our youth responded with equal enthusiasm—offering heartfelt testimonies through music, dramatic portrayals of spiritual growth using the life of Joseph, seasons of prayer, warm hospitality, and the sharing of uplifting messages inspired by each night's service. By the end of the week, twenty five individuals across both islands made the life-changing decision to follow Christ in baptism. We give God the glory for allowing us to be rooted, grounded, and truly **“PLANTED”** in Jesus.

### Conservation and Growth

Youth, Public Campus Ministries, and Chaplaincy provide and support opportunities for growth and conservation.

Between late 2020 and early 2021, the Youth Ministries Department launched an initiative called **YOUNIT**—short for “*You ‘N I Together*”—with the goal of fostering a more intergenerational church and conference community. Officially launched in August 2021, the initiative cast a strong vision for breaking down generational divides within the church. It was inspired in part by a CARU-sponsored survey led by then Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Anthony Hall.

While the launch generated meaningful exposure, the initiative was not fully embraced by the wider membership. Nevertheless, the department continues to actively promote intergenerational ministry, and some congregations have successfully implemented the YOUNIT approach, as confirmed by pastoral feedback. We remain committed to encouraging more churches to adopt and benefit from this valuable concept.

Bible Connect has been one of the means of helping our youth appreciate the Bible and the truths it contains. During past quadrenniums, we have had representatives participate in the CARU finals; and most recently, Amanda Escamilla and Cayden Leacock. Their passion for study has helped inspire others to be more diligent in the study of God's Word. While we long for better participation among churches and AY societies, we continue to promote the Bible Book of the year and make it a meaningful experience for all who participate in one way or another.

Social growth has also been fostered through various informal activities. Dominica has restarted its annual hikes for senior youth in 2024. The event saw just under 30 hikers traverse one of Dominica's rich hiking trails, allowing for an all-day fun experience. Participants took in the sights and sounds of picturesque views and nature's whispers in the wind. The experience was rich and rewarding for all who participated.

Sports Day on both islands has been a joyful experience for both participants and spectators alike. Barbados was able to restart the event after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The succeeding years have proven to bring greater attendance and participation among the four sports zones on island. While each zone comes to win, everyone ultimately enjoys clean, Christian fun as both SDA and community meet to take part in track and field events for all ages. Dominica experienced similar excitement in 2024, where after an extended period of no such activities, four national zones met at the Windsor Park stadium for a thrilling sporting event. The event featured track and field, basketball, cricket, football, and a variety of novelty games—all met with great enthusiasm. We aim to make this an ongoing endeavour in

Dominica, using it not only as a means of fellowship and unity among members but also as a powerful evangelistic outreach to visitors and the wider community.

In September 2023, another significant milestone took place, where cricket teams from Dominica and St Lucia participated in an exhibition match in Dominica. The event was well received by both territories and brought a spirit of camaraderie like no other. These sporting events have aided in meeting strategic initiatives of providing recreational activities which promote active lifestyles.

Our Junior Youth Ministries have shown significant growth, both in numbers and in the quality of engagement. During the quadrennium, we witnessed the launch of new Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs at the Melverton SDA Church in Barbados, including a newly established club made up largely of children from the surrounding community—a development that brought us great joy. We commend their achievements and ongoing commitment to ministry.

Additionally, three previously inactive clubs were successfully reestablished: the Jackman Arrows Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs (Barbados), the Light Bearers Pathfinder Club hosted by the Barbados SDA Secondary School, and the Wesley Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs (Dominica). We are encouraged by their revival and remain dedicated to supporting their continued success. These clubs have elevated the standard of junior youth ministry, and we fully support these churches' mission to nurture and inspire the next generation.

Our Junior Youth Ministry year is typically an exciting one. Our Adventurer movie nights in Barbados have been well attended and supported by clubs and well-wishers alike. The events have not only served as recreational activities for our children, but also as fundraising initiatives for community outreach or local club support. Barbados has also recently launched its Adventurer aquatic sports day. We were pleased to cover three swimming awards for our Adventurers and at least one swimming honour for Pathfinders. Parents, assisted by Don's Aquatics Services, ably led our children into fulfilling their requirements for the day's activities.

Pathfinder hike expeditions have been a staple feature in Barbados. The two-day hike and overnight camp have helped clubs fulfil outdoor requirements while fostering camaraderie

among Pathfinders across the island. Subsequent years have seen us pushing longer distances and increasing the intensity of the hikes to produce fit and eager outdoor Pathfinders. The results have been rewarding.

In Dominica, the Master Guide ministry has been revived, with an emphasis on training current and future leaders of junior ministry. Several overnight camps have been hosted, inviting invested Master Guides, Master Guides in Training, and senior Pathfinders to learn or hone skills including star gazing, fire building and camp cookery, camp craft, and other essential crafts. Clubs have already seen the benefits of these activities both in club ministry and the conservation of youth in club ministry and the church.

Our Conference's Youth Ministries department also took part in two major conservation activities hosted by the higher organisation. In 2023, 130 Pathfinders, officers, and parents from both Barbados and Dominica joined thousands of others in Trelawney, Jamaica from April 4-8, for the Inter-American Division's Pathfinder Camporee under the theme "Pathfinders in Mission". Our children and officers were able to participate in thrilling devotional sessions, a community march with over 200 other Pathfinders, sporting events (securing top positions in 2km and 5km races), performing a special music item, and having three of our own Pathfinders giving their hearts to Jesus in baptism. This event was the first in a lifetime for several Pathfinders, many of whom are interested in returning for the next division camporee.

YUTCAH, Youth United Through Christ Aiming Heavenward, a Youth Congress event hosted by the Caribbean Union in July 2024, hosted 60 senior youth from East Caribbean Conference, along with hundreds of others from across the union and beyond. Our youth engaged in community service activities, dynamic worship sessions, engaging and interactive sessions that delved into relationships, business ventures, and leadership skills, along with social, sporting, and recreational/tourist activities. Our youth were thrilled to attend and participate, many of them demonstrating leadership skills that would not have shone otherwise. This and the overall experience helped spark renewed and new energies into camping and fellowship with other SDA youth.

Many of our youth have flourished, using their unique gifts to develop personal ministries that make a meaningful impact on their peers and wider communities. Initiatives by groups such as **CIA – Christians in Action, The Workshop**, and individuals like **Kristen Greaves**, have effectively used worship, social events, fellowship gatherings, motivational talks, and creative media to engage and inspire others. Their ministries continue to grow and evolve, reaching new heights. We proudly recognize their talent and commend them for their innovation, passion, and creativity.

**ADFEL** at the UWI Cave Hill campus in Barbados serves as the primary Public Campus Ministry within our conference. The fellowship remains vibrant, regularly hosting Friday night vespers, hikes, picnics, beach days, and other engaging activities. Under the guidance of Pastor Jason Peters, our Associate Youth Ministries Director and ADFEL chaplain, the group provides crucial spiritual support to Adventist students from other islands, studying at Cave Hill campus. We are also grateful for the collaboration with other ADFEL chapters across the union, which serve Barbadian and Dominican students pursuing education outside of Barbados.

ADFEL fosters a strong spirit of evangelism, consistently seeking to share Christ with non-Adventist friends and classmates. This aim is also reflected through participation in initiatives sponsored by Joint Christian Fellowship group as well as campus-based food drives. We commend the dedicated young leaders from various islands and territories who serve through ADFEL, preserving the spiritual environment for East Caribbean Conference youth studying both at home and abroad.

This quadrennium has seen a strong emphasis placed on chaplaincy. We thank the East Caribbean Conference Executive committee for seeing the need to provide chaplains at our educational institutions. Currently, Pastors Lester Joseph and Sean Shepherd serve the Ebenezer SDA Primary School; Pastors James Colaie and Cadique Tittle serve the Western District SDA Primary School; and Pastors Colin Bacchus and Albert Matthew serve both the Temple SDA Primary School and the Arthur Waldron SDA Academy, all in the Commonwealth of Dominica.



Meanwhile, Pastor Allan Tull serves the Bridgetown SDA Primary School, and Pastor Anthony Sobers the Barbados SDA Secondary School. Through their presence and spiritual support, many children have experienced improved behaviour and a closer walk with God. Several students have given their hearts to Jesus through the collaboration of the schools' spiritual programs. We commend our chaplains and continue to provide support whenever possible.

### Leadership Development

The Youth Ministries Department has long been a source of leadership development for both the church and the wider community through its varied programs. Throughout the quadrennium, hundreds of Adventurers and Pathfinders have been invested annually through the various junior youth ministry classes. We have also consistently invested Master Guides and Senior Youth Leaders across both Barbados and Dominica to provide strong leadership within Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs, as well as Adventist Youth Societies.

While not every elected AY leader across the conference has been formally invested, many continue to serve faithfully—leading at the local level and offering valuable behind-the-scenes support to their churches and island communities. We are truly grateful for their dedication and meaningful contributions to youth ministry.

In 2021 and 2023, we honoured our club leaders for their years of ministry through tokens of appreciation. Our club directors and officers are the backbones of youth ministry and contribute significantly to the successes achieved at the local and conference levels. At the close of 2020, we also celebrated our Adventist Youth leaders for their dedication to service, especially during the pandemic. It took much effort to maintain youth interest during this difficult period, and we commend them for 'holding the fort'.

May 5<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> were high days in the musical arm of youth ministry. The Barbados Pathfinder Band held its Passing Out Parade in May, where over 40 recruits were welcomed into the fraternity as bandsmen. We were graced with the presence of Hon. Colin Jordan, M.P. , Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector, as well as Ps. Anthony Hall, president of

the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, who received compliments from the band on parade.

The Barbados Adventurer Band, which restarted after a lengthy hiatus, held its Passing Out Parade on November 24<sup>th</sup> where just over 20 recruits were welcomed into the band's fraternity. Ps. Dr. Terence Haynes, Executive Secretary of the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists received the compliments from the band on parade. Both events were thrilling as we saw youth display their skills in drill and musicianship. Since then, both bands have shown significant improvement in presence, musical prowess, and community impact due to the increase in quantity and quality present. We congratulate our bands for their commitment to youth ministry.

### Challenges and Opportunities

. We thank God for the many successes in youth ministry—both big and small. While the term was not without its challenges, some were more manageable than others, but through it all, God's guidance remained evident.

Our Adventurer and Pathfinder ministries continue to thrive; however, we have noticed a decline in numbers over time, mostly due to low population of church children among other factors. To this end, we have encouraged clubs to work with community children as a means of evangelism and aiding in the sustainability of our clubs. Recently, we were advised by the higher organisation to pursue community clubs, i.e. Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs hosted in the community for the community.

Another challenge we have actively worked to improve is the evaluation process for both junior and senior youth ministry curricula. For Adventurers, we have followed the General Conference's recommendation to move away from in-person evaluations and instead focus on assessing work completed in the official workbooks. While this shift has not yet been fully implemented across the entire conference, there has been notable progress made in adopting this workbook-based approach evaluation..

The Pathfinder evaluation system has also undergone periodic review, with fewer—but still important—challenges emerging along the way. Our goal is to further streamline the process,

making it more user-friendly and accessible. In senior youth ministry, we' have also revised certain evaluation criteria by breaking assessments into smaller sections, making it easier for participants to complete the required material over time.

We have recognized the growing need to encourage greater intergenerational ministry within our churches. This continues to be a challenge, largely due to the long-standing tendency to operate ministries in isolation—particularly the separation of Senior Youth Ministry (AY) from the broader church body. Through intentional promotion and targeted training initiatives, we have worked to foster a culture of collaboration across generations. This emphasis aligns with one of the key RESET strategic initiatives introduced in 2022. Our ongoing goal is to see this approach fully embraced across all our congregations.

There is a greater need for endorsing and magnifying the role of chaplaincy within our conference. Chaplaincy provides opportunities for our church to be present not only in schools, but other areas of social need (hospitals, military and armed forces, prisons, etc.). As a department, we have sought assistance from our union director, and progress has been made in further defining the role of chaplains within the church and community.

#### Gratitude:

All praise and thanks must be given to God for the opportunity to serve His field through the Youth, PCM, and Chaplaincy ministries of our Conference.

Special thanks go to the Administration and Executive Committee of the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for their wisdom, advice and support in helping these ministries succeed within our field.

To Ps. Jason Peters and family, thank you for your commitment to these noble ministries, and your support in all forms. The department has been blessed by your presence and support.

To Mrs Leandra Greenidge, my secretary and sounding board for many initiatives, I thank you for your unwavering service and commitment to this awesome ministry.

To the ANYA, coordinators of the various youth ministries of Dominica and Barbados and their national teams, I humbly thank you for your drive, energy and commitment to seeing youth ministry grow in leaps and bounds. God will not forget your labour of love, and neither will I.

To the youth and chaplains of East Caribbean Conference, I thank you for allowing me to enter your services, your schools, your homes and your hearts. God has placed you in your positions for such a time as this. Surrender to God and let Him guide you to success in this life and the life to come.

I also thank my praying mother and sister, Maureen and Marissa Denny, for your on-going support and prayers from the start of my journey.

To my darling wife, Ikema, I thank you for your presence, patience, counsel and support during the joys and greater joys of this ministry.

May God bless the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.