

## **CABC RACISM WORKING GROUP**

### **2009 Report to the Assembly**

#### **Background:**

At the 2000 meeting of the Baptist World Alliance held in Harare, Zimbabwe, the BWA adopted the “Harare Declaration” –accepting the challenge to devote the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> C in addressing and raising awareness related to racism and racial justice. In response to this call to Baptists worldwide, the Racism Working Group was established in 2001 to hold Council and the Assembly accountable to the BWA challenge. The Working Group was to provide leadership for this task as we seek to eradicate the sin of racism within our own structures and in other spheres where we have influence. It was also to provide annual reports and updates to the Assembly as well as ensuring our commitment to the mandate remains strong. **Next year will mark the end of the mandate term.**

#### **RWG Members:**

- **Convention Appointees** --- Rev. John Boyd(2001), Rev. Dr. Frank Guinta(2001), Dr. Lois Mitchell(2001), Rev. Dr. Lionel Moriah(2001); Rev. Elias Mutale(2001), Rev. Tracey Grosse(2001-2004); Rev. Sherrolyn Riley(2004), Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner(2001-2007), Rev. Dr. Malcolm Beckett(2007-2008), Rev. Dr. Peter Reid(2008) and Rev. Ogueri Ohanaka, Chair(2001).
- **AUBA Appointees**---- Pastor Brian Johnston and Mrs. Doreen Paris
- **RWG Appointee** ---- Nancy Cameron(Scribe)

#### **Actions to Date:**

1. Sensitizing Working Group members to reflect on their individual stories, journeys and feelings.
2. Developed a brochure outlining the mandate and vision for dismantling racism within CABC.
3. Conducted sensitivity training sessions for Council and senior staff.
4. Held consultative meetings with our two institutions (ADC & ABU) on the racism issue.
5. Provided resource to Associations aimed at raising awareness and combating racism.
6. Initiated and coordinated the historic 2007 Joint Assembly (bringing together for the very first time a combined fellowship of representatives from CABC, AUBA, ABY & ABW) dedicated to the theme of racism. This special assembly attracted the largest recorded attendance to date.
7. Provided yearly progress reports and updates at all CABC Assemblies and AUBA Annual Sessions.

#### **Significant Outcomes:**

1. Sensitivity Training Sessions conducted or upcoming for key CABC institutions and personnel.
2. Brochure document with clear definition of racism and clear theological statement for this ministry.
3. The appointment of a Regional Minister for the AUBA (Region 7); presently cost-shared with AUBA.
4. A recognizable increase in participation of AUBA churches and members in CABC events.
5. First full faculty appointments/professorships) at ADC and ABU of persons of African ancestry.
6. The election of two Convention Presidents of African ancestry in recent years.
7. The appointment of an Athletic Director of African ancestry at ABU in 2008.
8. The establishment of an Equity Bursary Award at ABU to assist students from AUBA Churches or other minority ethnic groups who desire to study at the university.

9. Increased enrollment of AUBA students in both the Divinity College and the Lay Pastors Training Program.
10. ADC honorary degrees and ABU special university medal award in recognition of AUBA members who have made significant contributions to their churches and communities.
11. Improved and visible representation of AUBA members on Council and various Convention Boards.

### **The Past Year In Review (Sept, 2008-August, 2009):**

1. During this period, the RWG held four regular meetings; one conference call and a one-day strategy session retreat to set goals and timelines for balance of mandate term.
2. Made a presentation to Council in November providing update and outline of planned future activities.
3. Received CD with pictures of Assembly 2007 donated by photographer, Mr. Paul Adams of Dartmouth, NS. The Working Group also received the delegates' evaluation reports from the 2007 Combined Assembly.
4. Held meetings with the Baptist Historical Committee regarding review of CABC & AUBA histories to better reflect the relationship and AUBA ministry presence in the formative years.
5. Met with the Regional Ministers to discuss their role and assistance in the planned regional consultative meetings by the RWG . Also, a copy of the DVD on racism –“Beneath the Skin-Baptists and Racism” was given to each Regional Minister in preparation of their January 2009 training sessions in Wolfville, NS.
6. Welcomed our new Executive Minister, Dr. Peter Reid at our January meeting in Truro,NS.
7. RWG members held a special recognition for Nancy Cameron, our Scribe to thank her for the work she does with us since inception.
8. Updating of RWG promotional brochure and collection of resource materials from the 2007 Assembly.
9. Appreciation to CABC Churches in Truro and Metro Halifax areas who have provided meeting spaces to the Working Group.

### **Projected Activities & Events**

1. **Training & Resource Development**—Following through with sensitivity training for Council & senior staff (Nov.'09); ADC & ABU (Fall '09), Senior Citizen's Homes; development of usable Racism Training Resource Kit for ministry leadership. Continued encouragement of CABC Educational Institutions re Equity hiring.
2. **Documentation**--- working with AUBA & BHC regarding re-writing CABC history to better reflect the AUBA ministry presence as well as encouraging joint historical projects or dialogue of mutual benefit; collection of all RWG materials since inception, beefing up our web page resources; updating promotional brochure; sending copies of 2007 Assembly Covenant Liturgy to churches.
3. **Regional Consultations** ---Complete a two-hour session in each region to update the constituency on the broad topic of racism and this to be done by Spring 2010.
4. **Moving Beyond 2010**---Present Progress Report to Council in November, 2009 along with a draft proposal for vision going forward beyond 2010; plan Joint meeting of Council and AUBA Executive; prepare and submit a formal Final Report of the RWG to Assembly in August, 2010 to mark the end of the 10-year mandate. **It is important to add a reminder that Assembly 2007 was not the end of our dialogue on racism; rather, it was part of the process to help us along this journey.** We covet your prayers for members of the Working Group as we serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Ogueri Ohanaka, Chair