

THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES

This is a banner year for the Council on Ministries with Families. For nearly five years we have been laying the foundation for what we believe will be a new day for ministry with families in our Annual Conference. Led by Dr. Roland Martinson, we have developed four comprehensive areas that will offer support to the congregations who invite in our Local Church Facilitators. These facilitators will begin their training this year as they prepare to enter congregations with discerning spirits and faithful leadership. The facilitators will not impose any preconceived program. Rather, they will listen to the congregation's concerns, celebrate their successes, and offer tailored support for that particular context. The support will be born out of the four areas of emphasis: Storytelling, Interacting with Integrity, Healing and Restoration, and The Baptismal Journey.

The year 2007 was significant in getting us to this point, as we concluded our fourth training with Dr. Martinson (Baptismal Journey) and began developing the concept of Local Church Facilitators. We also set the stage for the March 1, 2008, comprehensive event with Dr. Martinson that will review the four areas of emphasis and begin the training process for the facilitators.

The Council on Ministries with Families is excited to have grown to this point and we are eager to empower and employ Local Church Facilitators into action. All who would like to be part of the Council, to be trained as a facilitator, or would like their congregation to be supported by a facilitator, should contact one of the Council members. Council members include: Ms. Rubielee Addison, Rev. Steve Brown, Ms. Fran Elrod, Mr. Francis Hipp, Ms. Kathy James, Ms. Robin Landers, Rev. Will Malambri, Ms. Doris Seals, Ms. Carol Singletary, and Rev. Bart Sistare.

Rev. Will Malambri and Rev. Bart Sistare, Conveners