



Séminaire Theologies d’Eglise Episcopal du Haiti (STEEH), Episcopal Church in Haiti (EEH), Port au Prince, 22-27 October:

Canon Dr. Ogé and Serette Beauvoir welcomed me into their home at STEEH for the duration of my stay. Ogé is in his second term as STEEH’s Principal. A long history of partnership in mission exists between the Episcopal Church in Haiti and the Anglican Church of Canada, with STEEH and the Université Episcopale d’Haiti (UNEPH) in particular. Volunteers in Mission and Partners in Mission programs have supported the work of the

seminary, and the establishment of the university with grants, personnel and other resources. The Diocese of Montreal and the Diocese of Haiti have been longstanding partners in mission, ecojustice and development. Wycliffe College and a number of Canadian parishes are also connected with the Episcopal Church in Haiti in various ways.

STEEH students receive accredited B.Th. courses from the UNEPH and spiritual, doctrinal and pastoral formation from STEEH. Students are selected by the Diocesan Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin once they are recommended by TEC’s local Commission on Ministry. EEH is a Provincial II diocese of TEC.

Since Ogé’s arrival in 2005 there have been a number of developments at the seminary, including

- i. Full time, residential seminarians. There are now 17 seminarians in years 1-4 of the B. Th. program. 9 live on campus. 6 additional ordinands will graduate on November 01. 4 of these ordinands either have or are in process of obtaining M.Th. degrees from the ecumenical seminary in Matanzas, Cuba, or Virginia Theological Seminary, USA;
- ii. Development and refurbishment of existing one story seminary building to a 2 storey building, complete with new Principal’s apartment, chapel, student dorms, refectory;
- iii. 24 Hour wireless access to Internet from anywhere on campus;
- iv. Practicum requirement of parish fieldwork, with active supervision and teaching.



4 female seminarians reflect the growing interest of young women to serve in the church as priests. There is currently one female priest in the diocese, who works as the Principal of Santé Trinity Elementary School. Ogé has written a booklet on women’s ordination, now being translated from French into Creole. Global Relations has several copies and will send two to the Pacific Theological College’s TEE program, for information with Francophone Oceania churches, such as the Protestant churches in Tahiti.

Spiritual formation is central to seminarians' daily life and vocational training. Two Sisters of St. Margaret teach spiritual formation. Students worship in chapel twice daily, with additional midday prayers.

Current STEEH challenges include insufficient dormitory housing, classroom space, and financial resources to fully support 17+ seminarians. Broader exposure to the global church is needed by seminarians, as are opportunities for graduate studies. Additional funds are needed to build new dormitories and classrooms, and to cover students' tuition, books and meal costs. STEEH's overall annual budget is USD114, 000. The majority of this budget is met by TEC. Global Relations contributes CDN10, 000 towards the costs of administration. Other STEEH partners currently include two TEC dioceses. The seminary also receives a portion of investment income from the sale of the Episcopal Seminary in Puerto Rico. In 2009 this portion was USD11, 500. All faculty except Ogé are volunteers.

STEEH raises some money through its water purification system, which draws well water through a purifier into small plastic bags for sale to passersby, street vendors, the Diocese, and others. The project's early success has been undermined by private enterprises of a similar kind. STEEH receives little or no money from students or their sending parishes. Scholarship support is received from church partners as needed for one or two seminarians at a time. All extra funds needed for operations and capital development projects must be raised by the Principal.

Water purification System for Retail and Wholesale



Strengthened relationship with ACC through Partnerships is welcomed. Several suggestions toward this end include:

- i. Receiving a Volunteer in Mission to mentor to female seminarians and/or teach English to all seminarians and/or to raise funds for various priority projects;
- ii. Sending STEEH seminarians to an English or French speaking Anglican parish in Canada for two months in summer for exposure to different Anglican Church contexts and ministries;
- iii. Securing scholarship support for one STEEH seminarian to study and complete M.Th. or M.A. in Religious Studies, in Canada or in the Caribbean.

About relationship in mission with the Canadian Anglican Church: *Canadian Anglicans come to sit with us, listen and learn. We talk together. The focus isn't money and Canadians don't tell us what to do. C'est très bien.*

A conversation with all seminarians revealed a breadth of ideas for the Episcopal church's vision and emphasis in the current country context, including the continuation of existing pastoral, education, health and sacramental ministries; stronger evangelism and teaching towards church growth in every

region of the country; liturgical and prayer revision and renewal with integrates Haitian musical and prayer traditions and social realities; ecumenical unity.

A brief visit with The Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin provided opportunity to bring greetings from Primate Fred and Partnerships, and learn a little about the diocese, which takes in the country of Haiti and is comprised of @100,000 members. The ministry of the laity is crucial in the Episcopal Church as Haiti is large and difficult to travel. Currently, there are 40 priests and deacons, retired and non-retired. Parishes are enlarged to take in 6 or 7 smaller congregations in areas surrounding the town or city parish. The main diocesan social ministry is education. There are 200+ schools ranging from pre-school day care centres, primary and elementary schools, one secondary and one tertiary school.

Episcopal institutions visited included: L'Université Episcopal d'Haiti (UNEPH); Santé Trinity Elementary School, Santé Trinity Music School; Centre St. Vincent for Handicapped Children. Episcopal churches visited included: Santé Trinity Cathédrale and St. Mathieu Paroisse, Mathieu, Leogane.

UNEPH (est. 1994 by VIM John Veldhuis and others) offers degree studies in 5 disciplines, including religious studies, communications, information technology, education, and agronomy. UNEPH needs considerable financial and material support, including building supplies to complete the new classroom block stalled under construction. Classroom facilities are adequate but laboratories can be enhanced. Funding is critical if UNEPH is to remain viable as a tertiary institution. Post-secondary training is necessary in Haiti, where demand is very strong and opportunities few. Most of the countries schools, including colleges and universities are provided by churches. Among them, only the Roman Catholic Church receives State funding. Protestant and Anglican denominations operate 40-47% of all schools through private sources, including donor agencies and partner churches. 60% of Haiti's population is under 30 years of age. Unemployment country wide is @70%. Academic and vocational training is absolutely necessary for young adults if they are to have any prospect of employment.



L'Université Episcopal d'Haiti

Santé Trinity Elementary and Music Schools offer a more rigorous academic education than public schools, where materials are scarce and students sit 60 to a classroom with one teacher. Music education and appreciation is not available to Haitian children except privately.

Centre St. Vincent is the only school in Haiti for children with physical and mental disabilities. 94 students live in residence and more than 400 attend Centre schooling daily. Students range in age from nursery to late teens.

All above schools are in dire need of physical refurbishment, new infrastructure, teachers, classrooms and dormitories.



Santé Trinite Cathedrale, Port au Prince

St. Mathieu Paroisse, Leogane

Santé Trinity Cathedrale situated in central Port au Prince offers sanctuary daily for prayer and quiet contemplation amidst the city's busiest neighbourhoods. St. Mathieu Episcopal Church is the hub of an enlarged rural parish, including 7 additional congregations.

