

WELCOME TO



2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference

May 18 - 20

Ponce, Puerto Rico

**Universidad Interamericana de Ponce
104 Turpeaux Industrial Park
Mercedita 00715
Puerto Rico**

God's Mission with a World in Continuous Motion
La Misión de Dios con un Mundo en Continuo Movimiento
May 18-20, 2016 Ponce, Puerto Rico

Conference Schedule

Pre-Conference Programs:

Tuesday, May 17:

- 9:00 am – 3:00 pm: Formation Program for Global Mission Agents
 - *Program includes lunch*
- 3:00 – 6:00 pm: Train the Trainer Program
 - *Optional dinner after program*

Wednesday, May 18:

7:30 am: Morning Prayer – University Chapel

8:00 am: **Registration and Breakfast – Universidad Interamericana**

9:00 am: **Conference Opens – Welcome**

Rev. Lucy I. Rosario Medina, Chaplain, Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus

Rev. Dr. Jim Boston, President of GEMN

Dr. Vilma I. Colon Acosta, Rector, Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, Ponce Campus

Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench, Bishop, Diocese of Puerto Rico, Episcopal Church

The Hon. Maria E. Melendez Altieri, Mayor of City of Ponce

Introduction of Presiding Bishop: The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, GEMN

9:30 am: **First Plenary Session Keynote Speaker**

The Most Reverend Michael Curry

Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

***Note on Small Groups** – Small group assignments and meeting places will be announced at the end of the Presiding Bishop's address to gather and create questions for the Q&A at 1pm.

11:00-11:45 am: Small groups - Session 1 – Create questions for Presiding Bishop Q & A

Noon: Lunch – Universidad Interamericana

1:00-1:50 pm: Q&A with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

***Note on Workshops** – All workshops will be 1 hour. Some workshops will be available on multiple days, others only on one day or the other. Please check the workshop schedule.

2:00-3:00 pm: Workshop Session I

3:00 pm: Break

3:15-4:15 pm: Workshop Session II

4:30-6:00 pm: Student Artists, Networking & Poster Session - University

6:00 pm: Welcome Dinner at Universidad Interamericana

9:30 pm: Compline – University Chapel

Conference Schedule (cont.)

Thursday, May 19:

- 7:30 am: Morning Prayer – University Chapel
- 8:00 am: Breakfast – Universidad Interamericana
- 9:00 am: Introduction and Opening Prayer**
- 9:15 am: Second Plenary Session Keynote Speakers**
Ms. Allison Duvall and Ms. Wendy Johnson
Episcopal Migration Ministries

10:45 am: Break

**Note on Small Groups – Discussion groups assigned on Wed will meet in same locations.*

11:00 am: Small groups – Session 2

Noon: Lunch – Universidad Interamericana

**Note on Workshops – All workshops will be 1 hour. Some workshops will be available on multiple days, others only on one day or the other. Please check the workshop schedule for more information.*

1:00-2:00 pm: Workshop Session III

2:00 pm: Break

2:15-3:15 pm: Workshop Session IV

3:30-4:30 pm: GEMN Annual Meeting and Elections

4:45 pm: Abbreviated Evening Prayer following Annual Meeting

5:00-6:30 pm: Poster Session and Networking at Universidad Interamericana

7:00-10:00 pm: Transportation to Antiguo Casino

*** Courtesy of the Municipality of Ponce ***

“Puerto Rico Night” Dinner and Music at Antiguo Casino, Ponce

*** Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico ***

Friday, May 20:

- 7:30 am: Morning Prayer – University Chapel
- 8:00 am: Breakfast – Universidad Interamericana
- 9:00 am: Final Plenary Session on “Mission Amid Migration”**
Panel Discussion with:

- *The Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado (Cuba)*
- *The Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin (Dom. Rep.)*
- *The Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque (Colombia)*
- *Mr. Noah Bullock (Cristosal/El Salvador)*
- *The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos, Moderator (Puerto Rico)*

10:45 am: Break

11:00 am: Small groups – Session 3

Noon: Lunch – Universidad Interamericana

1:30 pm: Buses to Site Visits (see below for more information)

Conference Schedule (cont.)

Friday, May 20 (cont):

- ~4:00 pm: Closing Eucharist – Iglesia San Lucas**
Preacher: Right Rev. José Antonio Ramos Orench, Bishop, Costa Rica, Retired
Celebrant: Right Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench, Bishop, Diocese of Puerto Rico
Co-Celebrants: Province IX Bishops
- Following: Final Celebration Dinner and Cultural Night, San Lucas Hospital Campus**
*** Sponsored by the **Episcopal Health Service** ***
- ~10:00 pm: Return by Bus to Hotels**

Saturday, May 21:

- 7:00 am: Buses Depart from Howard Johnson and Holiday Inn Hotels for San Juan Airport**



**Aftermath of Earthquake &
Bishop Alfredo Morante**
Diocese of Ecuador Litoral

The Global Episcopal Mission Network would like to express its prayers and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral who suffered a catastrophic earthquake on April 16th in which hundreds died and thousands were injured and displaced. Ecuador Litoral is committed to working hard to reach out to the many victims in the weeks and months to come. During the conference, we will be accepting donations to be directed to the diocese in support of their efforts to aid, comfort and rebuild the lives of those affected. Please see the Rev. Angel Rivera or Bishop Wilfrido Ramos for more information or if you would like to make a donation.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Our Major Conference Sponsors

Diocese of Puerto Rico

GEMN wishes to express its deep gratitude to the members of the Diocese of Puerto Rico, The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench, the diocesan staff, clergy and laypersons, The Rev. Angel and Abigail Rivera, and to all those who have contributed time, energy and resources. The diocese has generously sponsored our Thursday evening events and numerous conference activities. This conference would not have been possible without their tireless efforts and their gracious hospitality.



Municipality of Ponce

The Municipality of Ponce extends a warm welcome to all those attending the 2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference. They are delighted to share this beautiful and historic city with you and encourage you to explore this area of Puerto Rico. The city has many resources, sights and tours available to maximize your stay in Ponce. Check their website at www.visitponce.com for more information. The Municipality of Ponce has generously provided bus transit for our Thursday evening events.



Universidad Interamericana

The Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, or "La Inter", is a Christian co-educational non-sectarian university founded in 1962. The school offers high quality programs and technical excellence in education, health, and management with an enrollment of approximately 5,000 students. We are grateful for the use of their facilities and for their partnership in hosting this year's conference.



Episcopal Health System San Lucas

The Episcopal Health Services Corporation was established by the Episcopal Church of Puerto Rico to meet the physical, spiritual and social needs of the community. The result of this vision has materialized into a world-class coalition of health-care institutions for the region. The Episcopal Health System is the generous sponsor of our Friday evening events and celebration.

2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference

“God’s Mission with a World in Continuous Motion”

May 18-20, 2016 Ponce, Puerto Rico

Conference Overview

The Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) is dedicated to giving you the tools you need for global mission. We are the independent mission network in the Episcopal Church, dedicated to proclaiming, inspiring and igniting the joy of God’s mission. GEMN consists of dioceses, churches, organizations, and individuals who are passionate about engagement and connecting people through mission.

GEMN holds an annual Global Mission Conference designed to create a forum in which those having a passion for global mission engagement can meet, learn, and exchange ideas. We hope to provide a space for continuing discernment of where God is leading us next as the hands and feet of Christ, as a church, as individuals, and as God’s people.



Each year we select a timely theme to explore, and this year’s theme was put forward by our brothers and sisters in Province IX, which includes Dioceses in Central America, South America and the Caribbean:

“God’s Mission with a World in Continuous Motion” ”La Misión de Dios con un Mundo en Continuo Movimiento”

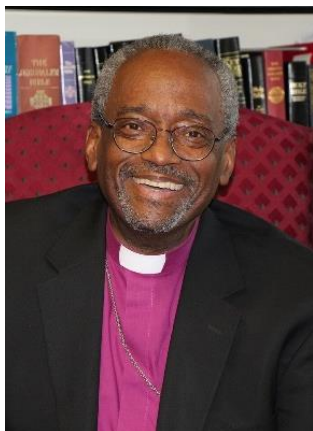
Migration, relocation, forced displacement, poverty, environmental degradation, and violence are certainly some of most critical issues that the world is facing, affecting virtually every area of global mission activity. We have invited Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Episcopal Migration Ministries, and a panel of speakers from around Province IX to help us understand the impact, the experience, the vision, and the hope we have in ministry with those affected by a world in motion.

In addition to keynote speakers, we will hold a series of workshops designed to give you practical tools that you can bring back to your diocese, church or organization. Workshops will include mission trip leadership and fundraising, applying Asset-Based Community Development tools in your ministry, starting a refugee program, developing and maintaining mission relationships, discerning a call as a missionary and more. You will have opportunities to network with mission partners, talk with current missionaries, visit local mission sites, and attend our in-depth Global Mission Formation or Train-the-Trainer Programs.

We hope that you will join us in beautiful Ponce, Puerto Rico to learn, share and connect with others in global mission.



Keynote Speakers



The Most Rev. Michael Curry was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church on November 1, 2015. Born in Chicago, IL, he was ordained to the priesthood in December 1978 and elected as the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in February 2000. Throughout his ministry, Presiding Bishop Curry has been active in issues of social justice, speaking out on immigration policy and marriage equality. In his three parish ministries, he had extensive involvement in Crisis Control Ministry, the founding of ecumenical summer day camps for children, preaching missions, the Absalom Jones initiative, creation of networks of family day care providers, creation of educational centers, and the brokering of millions of dollars of investment in inner city neighborhoods. He refocused the Diocese of North Carolina on the Millennium Development Goals through a \$400,000 campaign to buy malaria nets that saved over 100,000 lives. He has served on the boards of a large number of organizations, including the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC) and as Chair and now

Honorary Chair of Episcopal Relief & Development. Presiding Bishop Curry has a national preaching and teaching ministry and has authored numerous publications and books, including *Songs My Grandma Sang* and *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*.

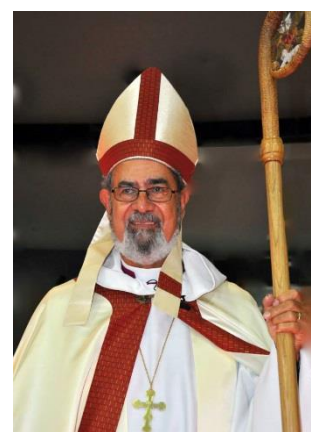


Ms. Allison Duval serves as the Manager for Church Relations and Engagement for Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement service of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Ms. Duval is responsible for supporting the community engagement programs of 30 local resettlement partners, as well as equipping Episcopalians across the country to engage in this ministry of welcome. **Ms. Wendy Johnson** is the Communications Manager for Episcopal Migration Ministries, responsible for maintaining its online presence and for supporting their network of local resettlement partners. She has a background in nonprofit strategic communications and has worked in a variety of capacities within the Episcopal Church.



The Rt. Rev. José Antonio Ramos Orench and The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench

Bishop José Antonio Ramos Orench, retired bishop of the Episcopal Church of Costa Rica, will preach at our closing Eucharist. Our host and celebrant, **Bishop Wilfrido Ramos Orench**, is serving currently as provisional bishop of the Diocese of Puerto Rico, and previously as bishop suffragan in the Diocese of Connecticut and as a provisional bishop in the Diocese of Central Ecuador. He most recently served as the Episcopal Church's global partnerships officer for Province IX.



“God’s Mission with a World in Continuous Motion”

May 18-20

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Workshops

Wed (2:15-4:30 pm) and Thu (1:00-3:15 pm)

***Note on Workshops** – All workshops will be one hour long with a 15-minute break between.

There will be two sets of workshops offered Wednesday and two sets offered Thursday. Each participant may choose two per day. Some workshops will be available in multiple sessions, others only on one day or the other. Please check the schedule below carefully.

Wed, 2:15–3:15 pm	Wed, 3:30-4:30 pm	Thu, 1:00-2:00 pm	Thu, 2:15-3:15 pm
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
The Jesus Movement in a Time of Migration <i>Michael Hunn</i>	The Jesus Movement in a Time of Migration <i>Michael Hunn</i>	Refugees of Central America: New Models for Response <i>Noah Bullock</i>	Refugees of Central America: New Models for Response <i>Noah Bullock</i>
The Role of the Church in a Refugee’s Life and Reconciliation in the Rwandan Crisis <i>Jean-Baptiste & Christine Ntagengwa</i>	The Role of the Church in a Refugee’s Life and Reconciliation in the Rwandan Crisis <i>Jean-Baptiste & Christine Ntagengwa</i>	Displaced Persons/ Displaced Assets <i>Sean McConnell</i>	Displaced Persons/ Displaced Assets <i>Sean McConnell</i>
Mission Discernment <i>Eliz. Boe/David Copley</i>	Mission Discernment <i>Eliz. Boe/David Copley</i>	Seafarers...Hidden Migrants, Hidden Souls <i>Ken Hawkins</i>	Seafarers...Hidden Migrants, Hidden Souls <i>Ken Hawkins</i>
Missionary Work for Integral Development: The Experience of the Cuban Episcopal Church <i>José Bringas</i>	Missionary Work for Integral Development: The Experience of the Cuban Episcopal Church <i>José Bringas</i>	Meet the Missionaries YASC/Long-term Missioners	Meet the Missionaries YASC/Long-term Missioners
Reconciliation: Testing Our Mission by God’s Vision <i>Titus Presler</i>	Not Alone, but in Companionship: Anglican Mission Resources <i>Titus Presler</i>	Public-Private Partnerships and Faith-Based Organizations: The Case of Voluntourism <i>David Searby</i>	Public-Private Partnerships and Faith-Based Organizations: The Case of Voluntourism <i>David Searby</i>
		Mission Trip Fundraising <i>Bill Kunkle</i>	Preparing Your Team for a Mission Trip <i>Holly Hartman</i>

Workshop Descriptions

The Jesus Movement in a Time of Migration

Michael Hunn (Wednesday, Sessions 1 & 2)

Description: Are you interested in the question of what the “Jesus Movement”, as articulated by our new Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, will look like in this age of rapid change and uncertainty? How will we live into the vision that is millennia-old in turbulent modern times? Participate in this thought-provoking conversation with the Rev. Canon Michael Hunn, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within the Episcopal Church, exploring how the church can keep up with Jesus on the move, amid crisis, migration, and change.

The Role of the Church in a Refugee’s Life and Reconciliation in the Rwandan Crisis

Jean-Baptiste and Christine Ntagengwa (Wednesday, Sessions 1 & 2)

Description: Dr. and Christine Ntagengwa plan to share with the audience a chronology of essential facts in the Rwandan crisis as a background to our talk about what really happened during the genocide and thereafter. They will briefly discuss how the church became a source of everything in their life after 1994 until today. Ultimately, they will address the issue of reconciliation among Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda and suggest what the role of the church should be in the reconciliation process. To be able to have enough time for questions and answers, they kindly request that those who plan to attend their workshop make every effort to watch these documentaries prior to attending: <https://vimeo.com/107867605> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5pAg5uwr9E>.

Mission Discernment

Elizabeth Boe/David Copley (Wednesday, Sessions 1&2)

Description: Is God calling you to step out in mission? Are you being called to engage more fully and for a longer period of time in the mission field? What are the signs of this call and how do we engage in the discernment process? With years of combined experience in the Office of Mission Personnel and Young Adult Service Corps training and support, Elizabeth Boe and David Copley can help you to navigate the complexities of testing your call to long- and short-term mission.

Missionary Work for Integral Development: The Experience of the Cuban Episcopal Church

José Bringas (Wednesday, Sessions 1 & 2)

Description: Dr. Bringas, Director of the Office of Mission Development in the Cuban Episcopal Church, will share a rare and unique glimpse into the Cuban perspective and experience of mission, including paradigm shifts in the work of mission; an overview of the effectiveness of its mission and its socioeconomic, environmental and ecclesial impacts; ongoing diocesan projects, enterprises and savings groups; and lessons learned and best mission practices within the Diocese of Cuba. Dr. Bringas’ presentation will be in Spanish with translation.

Reconciliation: Testing Our Mission by God’s Vision

Titus Presler (Wednesday, Session 1)

Description: “In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God . . . and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation” – so wrote Paul to the Corinthians. Thus reconciliation is God’s mission, and reconciliation is the mission that God entrusts to us. Yet amid our many mission activities – education, healthcare, water quality, women’s empowerment, climate change, short-term trips, inter-religious encounter – how focused are we on reconciliation? In pairs and in group discussion, workshop

participants will be invited into the practical exercise of examining their mission activities in light of God's mission of reconciliation and exploring how to realign their work with God's vision.

Not Alone but in Companionship: Anglican Mission Resources

Titus Presler (Wednesday, Session 2)

Description: Congregations and dioceses are bursting out in mission activity today. Yet many parish activists are unaware of Episcopal and Anglican events and resources that can support and give context to their work. This workshop will explore such events and resources as: mission agencies at the Episcopal Church Center; the Anglican Witness initiative; 2015 General Convention decisions relevant to mission; 2016 Primates Meeting and Anglican Consultative Council decisions relevant to the Episcopal Church; Anglican Indaba; the Anglican Mission Theology initiative; missional aspects of the Book of Common Prayer; the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, and the like.

Refugees of Central America: New Models for Response

Noah Bullock (Thursday, Sessions 3 & 4)

Description: This workshop will explore conceptual and legal frameworks on internal displacement, trafficking and slavery, and the determination of refugee status and their applications to the humanitarian and refugee crisis in Central America's Northern Triangle. This will be a unique opportunity to learn about the most contemporary advancements in the application of international human rights and humanitarian standards to the new forms of violation in one of the world's most violent regions. Participants will be presented case studies drawn from actual cases assisted by Cristosal's human rights team and learn how the international community and local human rights organizations are responding to non-traditional armed conflict and innovating assistance models for victims. This workshop is ideal for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of human rights work or of the current crisis in Central America.

Seafarers...Hidden Migrants, Hidden Souls

Ken Hawkins (Thursday, Sessions 3 & 4)

Description: Every day they come and go, unheralded, required, ignored, on working ships traveling the seas, carrying ninety percent of world trade: lumber, apples, cars, airplane parts, luxury goods—everything we buy. For 1.3 million seafarers, the sea is the highway on which they work, and live, and occasionally die. Their job: "dollars for homesickness," as one of the Filipino ratings (non-officers) described it, or as "prison with a salary." Life on a modern container ship for most of the world is almost certainly lonely and usually punishing. Working on contracts of nine months to a year, they work and live far from home, unable to communicate with family and friends for days, weeks, and occasionally months at a time. We will discuss the poverty of spirit, the isolation and loneliness of these economic migrants, how we greet them, and how we build networks of volunteers to support them.

Displaced Persons/Displaced Assets

Sean McConnell (Thursday, Sessions 3 & 4)

Description: When war, poverty or natural disaster drives people from their homes and communities, they lose touch with the support systems they have grown to know and trust. How can an asset-based approach serve those who have fled from the lives they know to new and uncertain surroundings? This workshop will give a basic overview of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) and its practical application among those who have been displaced by conflict and disaster.

Meet the Missionaries

YASC & Long-term Missioners/Suzanne Peterson, Moderator (Thursday, Sessions 3 & 4)

Description: Have you ever wonder what it is really like to serve in a long-term mission placement? Now is your chance to meet, ask questions, and learn from both adult and young-adult long-term missionaries currently serving in all parts of the world through The Episcopal Church Mission Personnel Program and the Young Adult Service Corps. This panel discussion will give you a glimpse into the challenging and transformational experience of living and working on a long-term basis in a context outside of our own from a variety of perspectives.

Public-Private Partnerships and Faith-Based Organizations: The Case of Voluntourism

David Searby (Thursday, Sessions 3 & 4)

Building on decades of experience in the State Department, Mr. Searby will discuss building public-private partnerships with nonprofits and faith-based organizations, the many lessons learned, best practices, and also an innovative model of how voluntourism might be used by faith-based organizations. As an entrepreneur in this emerging partnership concept, Mr. Searby will describe his exploration of a new form of public-private partnership focused on voluntourism, designed to build upon and complement the great work that The Episcopal Church is carrying out around the world.

Mission Trip Fundraising

Bill Kunkle (Thursday, Session 3)

Description: Are you daunted in the face of raising money for your next mission trip? Do you need some new approaches to this tough but necessary component of mission? In this workshop we will explore issues related to fundraising, ways to conduct effective fundraising campaigns, and discuss a number of different fundraising ideas. Discover the best methods for getting your mission trip funded and off the ground.

Preparing Your Team for a Mission Trip

Holly Hartman (Thursday, Session 4)

Description: Does your parish have an interest in forming a relationship with a partner parish or organization elsewhere? Are you thinking of traveling there, but just don't know how to go about leading it? Leading a parish mission trip can be a daunting task unless you're equipped with skills and knowledge. This interactive workshop will discuss a wide range of topics, including current trends in short-term mission trips, how to prepare physically, emotionally, and spiritually for a trip, and how to engage in prayerful reflection before, during, and after the trip to make the journey more meaningful for all. This workshop will introduce you to the practical things you need to do to help your team prepare for a trip, and also offer current resources that can be used in the preparation and formation of your team.

Biographical Descriptions of Presenters

Alphabetical by Last Name

Ms. Elizabeth Boe

Global Networking Officer, The Episcopal Church

Ms. Boe is the Episcopal Church Global Networking Officer and a former Young Adult Service Corps volunteer who served in Tanzania. She is also a former board member of GEMN.

The Rev. Dr. José Antonio Bringas Linares

Director of the Office of Mission Development Program, Episcopal Church of Cuba

Dr. Bringas is an economist and former rector of the Latin American and Caribbean Pedagogical Institute. He currently serves as General Coordinator of the Program for Integral Development (Missionary) of the Episcopal Church of Cuba. His responsibilities include the coordination of project management, micro enterprises and savings groups within the Cuban diocese; oversight of the strategic and operational planning of the Episcopal Church of Cuba; regulation, methodological support and negotiation with groups governing projects and micro-enterprises; the adoption of initiatives to implement MicroFund projects and micro-enterprises; project tracking and monitoring; assessment of the effects and impacts of local initiatives; project financial reporting and accountability; financial controls and resource management; and project team leadership. Dr. Bringas has written a number of publications on project management and community development, and he has a PhD in Education.

Mr. Noah Bullock

Executive Director, Foundation Cristosal

Mr. Bullock is the Executive Director of Foundation Cristosal, an independent, Episcopal nonprofit organization that accompanies or partners with the people of El Salvador in their struggle for peace, justice and reconciliation. He joined Cristosal in 2005, and in 2006 began as the Community Development Director in Usulután. He assumed the role of Executive Director in 2010, implementing a rights-based approach to development and human rights to form the Foundation's three programs: the Global School, the Community Development Program, and the Human Rights Program. He graduated with honors from the University of Montana in Peace and Conflict Studies, and has a Masters in Local Development from the University of Central America José Simeón Cañas (UCA) in El Salvador.

The Rev. David Copley

Mission Personnel Officer, The Episcopal Church

The Rev. Copley is currently the Mission Personnel Officer and Team Leader of the Global Partnerships Team of The Episcopal Church. Originally from Sheffield, England, he has served as a missionary in Liberia and Bolivia.

The Rev. Holly Hartman

Deacon for Global Mission Partnerships, Diocese of Massachusetts

The Rev. Holly Hartman is a vocational deacon in the Diocese of Massachusetts. In her role as Deacon for Global Mission Partnerships in the diocese, she has traveled to far-off places and led many mission trips. Her understanding of short-term mission trips has evolved over her ten years of experience of traveling to Haiti, Africa, and Central and South America. Holly serves on the board of GEMN and also serves as deacon at Grace Episcopal Church in Everett, MA. In her spare time, she loves - traveling! - and spending time with her husband, two daughters, and dog Buttons.

Mr. Ken Hawkins*Executive Director, Mission to Seafarers - Seattle*

Mr. Hawkins leads the Seattle Seafarers Center and is Regional Director of the Mission to Seafarers for the United States. After a long career in Sales and Sales Management, and 16 years as a volunteer at the Mission to Seafarers, Ken assumed his current role in 2010, and now heads the largest maritime ministry in the Western U.S. With a small staff and more than 300 volunteers, the Seattle Seafarers Center touches the lives of more than 20,000 seafarers each year--providing WIFI, phone and SIM cards, safe and reliable transportation, and a warm welcome to these humble men and women who support our way of life. At Christmas each year we provide lovely holiday gifts--"Ditty Bags"--to about 2,000 visitors to our shores, each with a hand knitted stocking cap and months' supply of toiletries.

The Rev. Canon Michael Hunn*Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church*

The Rev. Canon Michael Buerkel Hunn serves as Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Within The Episcopal Church, supporting the ministry of the Presiding Bishop's role as president of the House of Bishops, chief pastor to the Church's 108 dioceses and the areas of special jurisdiction for the Presiding Bishop, and chief theological educator and evangelist. Canon Hunn was a Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of North Carolina from 2006 until 2014, where he designed diocesan systems in the areas of transition ministry, pastoral response, discipline, misconduct training, the priestly ordination process, conflict transformation, youth ministry, and congregational support and development. As a lecturer, keynote speaker, and preacher, he has spoken on subjects such as Public Speaking, Canon Law, Liturgical Living, the challenges of stewardship and the future of The Episcopal Church, often bringing fresh ideas to traditional subjects. His short story "Al's Garage and Soul Repair Shop" won the 2009 Middlebury Magazine Fiction Contest, and his debut novel "Getting Over Jordan" is in search of publication. He also maintains a YouTube channel.

Mr. Bill Kunkle*Executive Director, Dominican Development Group*

Mr. Kunkle has decades of experience as both a successful contractor in the Tampa area and in mission leadership. In October, 2012, the Dominican Development Group Board of Directors unanimously chose Bill Kunkle to follow Dr. Bob Stevens as its new Executive Director. For many years Bill had traveled to the Dominican Republic with the Tampa Deanery mission teams, helping build churches and schools in Mozóví, Montellano, Santana, San Pedro de Macorís, Barrio Las Flores, and Ingenio Santa Fe, and with the San Simón project supported by the Dioceses of Michigan. Besides these mission trips he has made many other trips to the DR and served on the DDG Board for a number of years. Friendly, organized and competent with good experience, and with a call to mission from the Lord, DDG has thrived under Bill's energetic leadership.

Mr. Sean McConnell*Director of Engagement, Episcopal Relief and Development*

Mr. McConnell has served the church as a lay professional since 2000 when he became Program Producer at GraceCom, the media ministry of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral. In 2006, he was named Canon for Communications in the Diocese of California. He has served on the Board of Directors of Episcopal Communicators; as Chair of the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications and Information Technology; and as Technology Coordinator for the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church. Sean now serves as the Senior Director for Engagement at Episcopal Relief & Development where he has partnered with the Rev. Canon Mark Stevenson, Domestic Poverty Missioner for The Episcopal Church to develop **Called To Transformation**, a facilitator toolkit and training to help participants develop an asset-based approach to Church and community.

The Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste and Mrs. Christine Ntagengwa

Director of Transition Ministry, Diocese of Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste and Mrs. Christine Ntagengwa spent their early years in Rwanda, where much of their extended families still live. They have lived in many different countries including former Zaire where they lived in a refugee camp. During that time Jean Baptiste was its coordinator, serving as liaison between refugees and both local ecclesiastical and civic authority. As someone displaced by the 1994 genocide in her native Rwanda and who lost many members of her family, Christine has a passion for helping immigrants and refugees. She has worked tirelessly with organizations that settle refugees in the U.S. Throughout their displaced time as refugees until they settled in the USA, the Ntagengwas have been helped by the Church, and they continue to give back by helping those affected by similar situations. They are looking forward to sharing their personal experiences and share their perspectives on the role of the church and the theology of reconciliation as it relates to Rwanda.

The Rev. Canon S. Suzanne Peterson

Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Waterloo, IA

Canon Peterson was ordained on September 24th, 1997. She is an Honorary Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, as well as the Anglican Diocese of Grahamstown, South Africa. She is a native of Bradenton, Florida and graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary of Alexandria, VA in 1972. Canon Peterson has a diverse background in continuing education. She studied abroad in Australia, Switzerland, El Salvador, Nicaragua, as well as two sessions at the Lambeth Conference in Kent, England. In the USA she studied in Washington, DC, New York City, and Bellingham, Washington. She was an assistant rector at St. Paul's in Des Moines for 12 years, and the state wide program coordinator for the Iowa Inter-Church Agency for Peace and Justice for 8 years. In the Diocese of Grahamstown she served five years as an assistant priest, three years as a parish priest, and five years as Sub-Dean and Acting Dean of the Cathedral in Grahamstown. Later she served three years in the office of the Archbishop of Cape Town.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler:

Principal-in-exile, Edwardes College, Peshawar, Pakistan

The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler has wide experience in theological education, cross-cultural mission and parish ministry in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Past president of the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and academic dean of General Seminary in New York, he is principal-in-exile of Edwardes College in Peshawar, Pakistan, where he served on site 2011-14. He also taught at Episcopal Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has mission experience in India and Zimbabwe. In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Presler is the author of *Going Global with God: Reconciling Mission in a World of Difference*, *Horizons of Mission* in the New Church's Teaching Series, and *Transfigured Night: Mission and Culture in Zimbabwe's Vigil Movement*. Among his recent writings are "Why has Pakistan become so intolerant?" in *The Daily Beast*, "The History of Mission in the Anglican Communion" in the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Anglican Communion*, "Witness, Advocacy and Union: Anglicanism's 20th-Century Contribution to Minority Christianity in South Asia" in the forthcoming Oxford History of Anglicanism, and "Religion, Education and Risk in Peshawar: A Missional Self-Examination" in *Missiology: An International Journal*. He blogs at TitusOnMission.wordpress.com.

Mr. David Searby
Founder, BeachCorps

Mr. Searby, a native of the Washington, DC area, is the founder of BeachCorps, a new kind of volunteer vacation company based in the Dominican Republic that combines the best of a great beach vacation with fun, simple volunteer activities near your hotel. David started BeachCorps after serving 27 years as a Foreign Service Public Affairs and Economic Officer. David is a published writer, fluent in Spanish and Italian, and an expert in Latin America. Over his career in the Foreign Service, David has developed skills in international negotiations and promoting non-governmental organizations and public private-partnerships and corporate social responsibility programs. He has experience developing complex projects with wide arrays of stakeholders including civil society, private sector, donors, government system organizations and international organizations, such as his successful Super Chef Panama (@SuperChefPanama) reality TV cooking show where underserved Panamanian youth compete in a “Top Chef” setting for a scholarship to Panama’s finest culinary institute.

Local Site Visits

Friday, May 20 - 1:30 pm to ~3:00 pm

We will be departing by bus from the Howard Johnson Hotel after lunch on Friday, May 20 to visit local sites of interest and significance to the region. The majority of us will visit the Holy Trinity Parish and Reconciliation Parish sites. A small number of us, approximately 15 on a first-come, first-served basis, will have the opportunity instead to visit the Hogar San Miguel, the only orphanage in the city of Ponce. It is managed by the Diocese of Puerto Rico and can only accommodate a small number of visitors. We will travel by bus to the sites, and then on to the San Lucas Hospital complex where we will celebrate our Final Eucharist at Misión San Lucas Evangelista. Afterward, we will attend a Cultural Night and Carnival sponsored by the Episcopal Health Service and held on the Hospital grounds.

Holy Trinity Parish, 1872:

The Iglesia de la Santísima Trinidad (Holy Trinity Church) was organized by British residents in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as an Anglican congregation in 1869. They built their first church of wood and metal at this site in 1873, aided by materials sent by Queen Victoria's government, including a bell cast in England in 1870. It has the distinction of being the first Anglican church built on the island and in all of Latin America.

After the Spanish Republic fell in 1874, the monarchy was reinstated. Religious intolerance returned, and colonial authorities ordered Holy Trinity church to close. At the intervention of Queen Victoria and the British Consulate, the Spanish crown allowed the Church to function under certain conditions: the front doors were to remain closed, the bell would not be allowed to ring, and no services could be held in Spanish. These measures remained in effect until July 25, 1898, when United States troops entered Ponce. On that day, parishioners rang the bell to greet the soldiers and celebrate the restoration of religious liberty. This bell is still known as the Freedom Bell by the residents of Ponce. The church structure was replaced in 1926, with a synthesis of English neo-Gothic and Spanish-colonial styles. The 1870 bell was installed in the new church.

The synthesis of styles, technologies, and cultures represented in this building, along with the history of the congregation it serves, have been admired and respected by the people of Ponce. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Hogar San Miguel (NOTE: Only a small number of visitors can be accommodated at this site):



Hogar San Miguel provides shelter and psychological, therapeutic and social service for child abuse victims and children with HIV. Over the last 15 years has been the only home for hundreds of children and young people from five to 18 years, victims of HIV and those removed from their families by Child Protective Services.

With the alarming rise in HIV rates during the 1980s and 90s, large numbers of children were being born with the deadly virus. Father Efrain Ayala and Ms. Evelyn Romero were given the task of founding a home for children born with HIV and for those who were orphaned or in families where they experienced abuse through dysfunction or through fear of the disease. Hogar San

Miguel opened in April 1994 and, with the support of the community, began to offer basic services plus support and treatment to help them heal their wounds. They were offered protection and all necessary assistance to achieve good overall development, offering expertise in the areas of physical, mental and spiritual services in a loving way. Hogar San Miguel is a home where children can thrive in peace and security, surrounded by love and care. Children are offered education, recreation, clothing and all services necessary for recovery, including medical, psychological and social services.

Reconciliation Parish, 1900:

The beginning of this congregation is unique and unusual. In 1900, former Roman Catholic priest Manuel Ferrando came to the island with his wife Edith to start an independent mission called the Church of Jesus. This Church had its own theological center, schools and a cemetery, having a great impact on the development of this region of the

Puerto Rican countryside. In 1923, it became part of the Missionary District of the Episcopal Church and in 1924 Father Ferrando was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Puerto Rico during the episcopate of Bishop Charles B. Colmore.

The church reminds us of a Spanish castle. In the 1930s, the Parish began a school and agricultural program for the poor and unemployed people of the countryside. It opened the first clinic of Saint Luke Hospital and food pantry within the Parish. In the 1940s, it established the first vocational school on the island. In the 1950s the parish rector, Fr. Antonio Nistal, helped the community in the construction of its first asphalt road, as well as water, telephone and electrical services. The current Bishop of Puerto Rico, The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench, was rector in the Parish from 1981-1984. In the 1990s the Parish established the Greater Feast of the Three Wise Men held annually in January and considered to be the best musical and cultural festival in the southern part of the island. Today Reconciliation celebrates over 100 years as a parish and is one of the most important congregations in the rural area of Ponce. This service to the community continues in witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Hospital San Lucas:

In 1872, the first Episcopal Church in Puerto Rico was established in the city of Ponce, and several decades later, in 1906, a group of parishioners began to build a hospital. Their philosophy was to relieve and heal the sick of all religions, races and nationalities. In 1907, with the support of the Missionary Society of the American Episcopal Church, the building of the old Hospital San Lucas became possible and St. Luke's Hospital was born.

The old Hospital San Lucas was a wooden construction of a single floor, with spacious galleries around it. In 1912 a second floor, built with zinc roofs, stairs and wooden balconies, in the style of old Puerto Rico was added. At that time the renowned Hospital School of Nursing was founded. The earthquake of 1919 and the 1928 San Felipe destroyed the hospital facilities, but in 1931 a new building, more spacious and modern, arose.

In 1945, St. Luke's Hospital became a pioneer of health services that integrate physical, mental and spiritual aspects of the individual. That year nuns of the Order of the Transfiguration also arrived, including Sister Esther, serving the needy community for almost 40 years.

"The mission of the hospital does not recognize political, spiritual or racial distinctions; our goal is to relieve physical pain wherever it exists ..." Dr. Roy J. Stokes, Director of the San Lucas Hospital, 1941-1961

In the '60s a new obstetrics wing was built, the Maternity Unit was inaugurated and health programs began at the House & Home Health San Pablo. Home Health currently has presence in 54 municipalities and Hospicio San Lucas today covers 64 municipalities, providing services such as graduate nursing, physical and occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, nutritional counseling, social services, health aide services, medical equipment, and enteral feeding.

In 1982 new hospital facilities were opened and that year the first private cardiovascular center was established on the island, where cardiovascular surgeries have been performed since 1983. In 1991 the Ambulatory Surgery Building was inaugurated. In 1998, the Regional Hospital of Guayama, which is called Christ Redeemer Episcopal Hospital was purchased, and in 1999 Episcopal Health Services, Inc., was incorporated in order to centralize all health services of the church under the same structure.



HOSPITAL SAN LUCAS 1931



Original Hospital Buildings

The purchase of the Regional Hospital of Ponce was completed in 2000, in order to consolidate hospital medical services for the entire region. In 2007, its centennial year, the San Lucas Medical Tower was also inaugurated. The new medical complex is known as the Hospital Episcopal San Lucas Ponce and offers cutting-edge technology, making this world-class facility available to patients in Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond.

General Information

Conference Location:

This year's GEMN Global Mission Conference will be hosted at:

Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico
Recinto de Ponce
104 Turpeaux Ind. Park
Mercedita, PR 00715-1602
ponce.inter.edu



The city of Ponce, Puerto Rico is known as *La Perla del Sur* (Pearl of the South) because of its many beautiful neoclassical buildings and facades. It was founded in 1692 by Juan Ponce de León's great-grandson - Loíza Ponce de León. The heart of Ponce dates from the late 17th century and has been declared a national treasure. It consists of plazas and churches and highly decorative colonial homes, some glorious fountains and a unique fire station. Ponce is also an important trading center, situated on the coast, with one of the busiest ports in the Caribbean.



The conference itself will be hosted at the Universidad Interamericana de Ponce.

“La Inter” places an emphasis on excellence in training professionals in the fields of education, health, management and technical areas of industry and trade, with special attention given to technology and humanistic education.

The City of Ponce is eager to welcome you and to show you the many attractions of this beautiful city. Be sure to consider staying an extra day or two in Ponce to enjoy the sights. Tours and visitor information will be available at the conference.

Exhibits and Posters:

Tell us your mission story on a poster. Bring global crafts to share or sell. Bring mission-related materials and handouts for your ministry or mission organization. There will be time to share and display tables available (no charge for conference attendees; \$35 per display for non-attendees) during one or more of our evening events. Contact Karen Hotte for more information and to reserve exhibit space: gemn@gemn.org.

General Conference Questions:

Karen Hotte, Executive Director, gemn@gemn.org

Accommodations:

Conference accommodations at special discounted rates have been contracted with **two hotels** in Ponce: **Howard Johnson Hotel Ponce** and **Holiday Inn Ponce**. Breakfasts will be provided at the Universidad Interamericana. Hotel reservations should be made as early as possible; rates are subject to room availability.

Howard Johnson Hotel:

Howard Johnson Hotel is walking distance (4-5 min) from the Universidad Interamericana. Accommodations include free Wi-Fi, A/C, cable TV, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, in-room safe, iron/ironing board, outdoor pool, spa tub, fitness center, restaurant, business center, arcade. The hotel is pleased to confirm the following special rates for the conference; utilize code **CGHES1**. Rates are exclusive of 9% room tax:

Single: \$90 RATE	Double: \$90 RATE
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To reserve, **please contact the hotel directly** at:

Howard Johnson Hotel Ponce

103 Turpo Industrial Park

Ponce, Puerto Rico 00715

Hotel Reservations: **787-841-1000** (English is spoken)

Website: <http://www.hojo.com/hotels/puerto-rico/ponce/howard-johnson-hotel-ponce-pr/hotel-overview>

Holiday Inn Ponce:

Holiday Inn Ponce is approximately 12 minutes from the Universidad Interamericana by car. It is located seaside and features a casino, a restaurant, and an outdoor pool, free Wi-Fi in public areas, fitness center, bar/lounge, business center, arcade room, balconies, A/C, satellite TV, room service, coffee makers, hair dryer. Our conference is planning to provide limited daily transfers by van between the Holiday Inn Ponce and the conference. Please be aware, however, that there is a possibility that you may need to utilize a taxi at your own expense, especially if transferring during conference hours or during the night. Room rates are exclusive of room tax, currently 11%, and there is a two-night minimum. Triples are also available:

Single: \$ 110 RATE	Double: \$110 RATE
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To reserve, **please contact the hotel directly** at:

Holiday Inn Ponce

3315 Ponce Bypass, Road #2 Exit 221

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Hotel Reservations: **787-844-1200** (English is spoken)

Website: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/ponce/sjupn/hoteldetail>

When making reservations at either hotel, request the group rate for Global Episcopal Mission Conference or GEMN. If you plan to share a room, please specify the number of beds at the time of booking as well as your roommate's name(s). If you would like help with finding a roommate, GEMN will be maintaining a list of those who would like to share a room. Contact us at gemn@gemn.org for more information or if you would like assistance with your reservation.

Transportation:

Flights:

Conference attendees should plan to arrive and depart from San Juan Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU) or Ponce Mercedita Airport (PSE). (Please be aware that there are currently only two daily flights servicing Ponce (PSE); both are JetBlue flights, arriving and departing in the early morning hours between 1:30 am and 5 am with service to/from Orlando or JFK.) Flights into San Juan should be planned to allow for airport transfer options. Travel time from San Juan to Ponce is approximately 1 1/2 hours. We recommend, if possible, that conference attendees schedule their arrival in Puerto Rico on Tuesday, May 17th and their departure on Saturday, May 21st. **Those attending the Formation Program or the Train-the-Trainer Program should plan to arrive on Monday, May 16th.**

Airport Transfers Between San Juan (SJU) and Ponce:

We will be providing transfers by bus on a limited schedule between San Juan Airport, all terminals, and Ponce (\$50 roundtrip or \$30 one way). Buses will drop off and pick up at both the Howard Johnson Hotel and the Holiday Inn in Ponce. (We are also anticipating that we may be able to drop off in San Juan city on Saturday, May 21st for those who are interested in extending their stay; contact us for more information.) Transfers will be provided on the following schedule:

San Juan to Ponce, Tuesday, May 17th:

- **3 pm:** Bus departs SJU to Ponce, arriving in Ponce at approximately 4:30 pm
- **7 pm:** Bus departs SJU to Ponce, arriving in Ponce at approximately 8:30 pm
- **11 pm:** Bus departs SJU to Ponce, arriving in Ponce at approximately 12:30 am

Ponce to San Juan, Saturday, May 21st:

- **7 am:** Buses depart from both hotels in Ponce, arriving at SJU at approximately 9 am

Formation Program and/or Train-the-Trainer Attendees, Monday, May 16th:

- **Contact us** at registrar@gemn.org to coordinate your transfer to Ponce

Airport Transfers from Ponce Mercedita Airport (PSE):

Airport transfers from Ponce Mercedita will need to be arranged at the traveler's expense. Taxi service, depending on time and destination, should be approximately \$20 or less within Ponce. Car rentals are also available in Ponce.

Other Travel Options:

- **Rental Car:** A rental car may be a good option if you require additional flexibility with your travel schedule or if you are traveling with a team. Rental costs are similar to elsewhere in the US. Rentals are available at San Juan Airport and elsewhere through most major car rental companies. Driving in Puerto Rico is similar to driving in other US cities and suburbs; there is significant congestion, especially around San Juan; we do recommend that you bring or rent a GPS if you are planning to drive.
- **Taxi from San Juan:** Transferring to Ponce via taxi is possible, but extremely expensive (approximately \$170+ including 15% tip, one-way)

Parking:

Both hotels have complimentary on-site parking. Limited parking is available at the University for a nominal cost.

Education Programs

Formation Program for Global Mission Agents:



Our flagship GEMN Formation Program consists of two half-day sessions over a two-year period, held in conjunction with our annual GEMN Global Mission Conference. In addition to attending two Global Mission Conferences, students will explore mission theology, history, discernment, short-term mission themes, and project development. Participants are required to complete reading, fieldwork assignments, and a mission report, receiving certification as Global Mission Agents upon completion of the program. See our [GEMN Formation Program Page](#) for more information. The Formation Program will be held this year on Tuesday, May 17 from 9am to 3pm, prior to the start of the conference. Gini Peterson, Program Coordinator. Program Fee: \$65.

You can register for the Formation Program at the time of your conference registration. See www.gemn.org/2016-gemn-global-mission-conference for information and to register. Also check out our [Formation Program Brochure \(PDF\)](#).

Train-the-Trainer Program:

Our Train-the-Trainer Program is the next step for graduates of the Formation Program. Would you like to bring mission leadership training to your church, deanery, diocese or mission organization? This is your opportunity to become a certified trainer for the GEMN Formation Program for Global Mission Agents. The GEMN Formation Program was launched in 2003 as a discernment and training tool for mission, focusing on personal spirituality and discernment, fieldwork and readings. Previously offered only to participants at our annual GEMN Mission Conference, it is now being expanded to reach to diocesan and local mission groups. Those interested in being a trainer should be graduates of the Formation (or Certificate) Program, have a desire to guide others on their individual journeys, and a willingness to present trainings. The Train-the-Trainer Program will be held on Tuesday, May 17 from 3 pm to 6 pm. See the [Formation Program Page](#) and the [Train-the-Trainer Page](#) for more information. Register for the Train-the-Trainer Program at the time of your conference registration. Gini Peterson, Program Coordinator. Program fee: \$50.



2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference Fees

“God’s Mission with a World in Continuous Motion”

May 18-20, 2016

Ponce, Puerto Rico

Please Note: Each participant will receive all meals, three plenary sessions, choices of workshops on various mission themes, a site visit to local mission sites, a daily small group experience, daily worship, display tables on global mission topics, and many networking opportunities among those who are passionate about mission. Simultaneous English/Spanish translation will be available. Airport transfer options are provided as described above. **Fees do not include hotel or flights.** All conference fees must be received by April 30, 2016 in order to complete registration. **Those attending the Formation Program or the Train-the-Trainer Program on Tuesday should plan to arrive on Monday, May 16th.**

Conference Fees

Includes: Meals, All Materials & Activities, and Local Transportation

Wed, May 18, 8:00 am – Fri, May 20, 8:00 pm

Conference Fee - Early Bird Rate (Before March 15):	\$395 p/p
Conference Fee - Standard Rate:	\$435 p/p
Three-Day Local Fee* – Incl. all Meals & Activities:	\$150 p/p
Two-Day Local Fee* – Incl. all Meals & Activities:	\$110 p/p
One-Day Local Fee* – Incl. all Meals & Activities:	\$55 p/p
*Note: Local Fees are for Puerto Rico residents only	

Special Programs and Rates

Global Mission Formation Program

Tue, May 17, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Includes lunch during program and all materials)

Formation Program Fee: \$65 p/p

Train the Trainer Program

Tue, May 17, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

(Open to graduates of the Formation Program; Includes all materials)

Train the Trainer Program Fee: \$50 p/p

Airport Transfers:

Round-Trip Transfers by bus from San Juan to Ponce:	\$50
One-Way Transfer from San Juan to Ponce or Ponce to San Juan:	\$30
Round-Trip Formation Program and/or Train-the-Trainer Transfers:	\$50

Sightseeing in Ponce



Museo de Arte de Ponce (MAP)

The *Ponce Art Museum* is widely recognized as a world class, premier institution of Italian Baroque, French Academic, and British 19th-century art. It hosts an extraordinary collection of approximately 4000 art masterpieces in a building designed by famous architect *Edward Durell Stone* (New York's **Radio City Music Hall** and **Museum of Modern Art**), an amazing piece of art in itself, often referred to as the *Parthenon of the Americas*. Open Wed thru Mon (10:00am-6:00pm) – Admission \$6. Daily guided tours at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.



From top to bottom left to right: Parque de Bombas Firehouse, Entrance to Pontifical Catholic University, Lions Fountain in Plaza las Delicias, Methodist Church, Cruceta El Vigia, Playa La Guancha. Photos: Wikipedia.



Tibes Indigenous Ceremonial Center

Discovered by a local farmer in 1975, this Igneri (pre-Taino tribe) settlement, dating back to the first century (25 AD), constitutes the oldest astronomical observatory in the Caribbean and one of its most precious archaeological sites. A total of nine ancient courts and ceremonial parks, the largest indigenous cemetery in the region with 186 human remains, a museum depicting articles recovered at the site, an exhibition hall and other facilities for the general public. Guided tours Tue thru Sun (9 am-4 pm) – Admission \$3.

Hacienda Buena Vista Nature Reserve

This restored coffee hacienda museum truly is a 19th century “green” (water driven) engineering wonder. Visitors take a 2-hour tours by interpreter in a fascinating journey back through Ponce’s colonial history. You will be guided through the house of the Vives family, the slave quarters, the warehouse, the depot where the coffee processing machinery and the corn mill are lodged and their inspiring natural surroundings. Reservations required - 787.722.5834 Ext 240 – Wed thru Sun (8:30 am-3:30 pm) – Admission \$8.





Serralles Castle

A sugar industry museum located in an imposing hill top mansion overlooking downtown Ponce, with spectacular panoramic coastal views. Built in the 1920's by the wealthy family owners of the local rum distillery. Designed by famous Puerto Rican architect Pedro de Castro Besosa, in splendorous *Spanish Colonial Revival* style, it includes a restaurant with facilities for group activities, an auditorium, plus lush, manicured gardens and magnificent fountains. Illuminated at night, the castle offers all residents and visitors a romantic, nostalgic view from the town center below. Guided tours Tue thru Sun (9:30 am-5:00 pm) – Admission \$6.

Parque de Bombas

The emblematic Old Ponce Fire Station, right behind the cathedral at main Plaza Las Delicias, was originally built as the principal exhibit pavilion for an 1882 Trade Fair Expo. Designed by a Spanish Army architect who later became Ponce mayor (coronel Don Máximo Meana y Guridi), the black and red wooden structure was later turned into the City's main firehouse, a function which it served for more than 100 years. Its Gothic style exhibits a Moorish influence and is by far the most easily recognized landmark in the island. Today it serves as a small museum honoring Ponce's heroic firemen. Open 7 days/week (9:00 am-5:00 pm) – Free admission.



Municipality of Ponce

The Municipality of Ponce extends a warm welcome to all those attending the 2016 GEMN Global Mission Conference. They are delighted to share this beautiful and historic city with you and encourage you to explore this area of Puerto Rico. The city has many resources, sights and tours available to maximize your stay in Ponce. Check their website at www.visitponce.com for more information. The Municipality of Ponce has generously provided bus transit for our Thursday evening events.