

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”

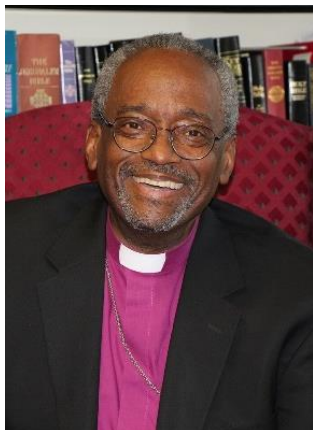
Migration, relocation, forced displacement, poverty, environmental degradation, and violence are certainly some of most critical issues that the world is facing, affecting virtually every area of global mission activity. We have invited Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Episcopal Migration Ministries, 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. Deborah Stein Ms. Stein has over 20 years of professional experience working with refugees both domestically and internationally, and has been with Episcopal Migration Ministries since 2000. Her career in refugee resettlement began in Tucson, Arizona where she worked for the local programs of the International Rescue Committee, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Church World Service, and includes posts at overseas processing entities in Zagreb, Croatia and Skopje, Macedonia. She has also lived and worked in Russia teaching English at the Barnaul State Pedagogical University in the Altai. Ms. Stein holds a B.A. in History and Russian Area Studies from Northern Arizona University.



The Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado de Carpio and The Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos Orench



Bishop Griselda Delgado, elected bishop of the Episcopal Church of Cuba in 2010, and the first woman in that role, will preach at our closing Eucharist. Bishop Delgado presides over the Cuban church of 40 congregations and some 10,000 Episcopalians. 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.