



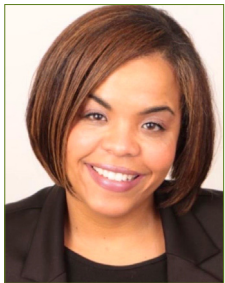
TEAMWORK

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) is a private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of race, social class or gender.

A TEAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT!

NEW SENIOR PASTOR OF PUC CHURCH

On July 25, 2020, Chanda M. Nunes, was “virtually” installed as senior pastor of the Pacific Union College Church located in Angwin, California.



Due to COVID-19, there were only 10 people in attendance, including Conference President Marc Woodson, who led the service.

Woodson presented three items to Pastor Nunes; a “Cross” Pen—for penning messages of truth, the master keys to the facility so that the church can be opened to do work for the Master, and the pulpit—that the Word of God may be preached with power and clarity.

Nunes preached a sermon entitled, “All Eyes on Me,” focusing on 2 Chronicles 20. During the livestream from the church she encouraged her congregation that in these times of uncertainty and transition, we may not know what to do—but “our eyes are on you [God]” (2 Chronicles 20:12, NIV). Nunes was welcomed with a “drive-by” welcome parade past her home, a refrigerator full

continued on back page

TWO WOMEN PASTORS ORDAINED

AT VIRTUAL CAMP MEETING

ON JULY 3, 2020, HISTORY WAS MADE AT THE ALLEGHENY EAST CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME TWO WOMEN PASTORS WERE ORDAINED AT A CAMP MEETING SERVICE. AND, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST-EVER ONLINE, VIRTUAL ORDINATION SERVICE IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.



Pastor Marleena Debrough of the Prentis Park Adventist Church of Portsmouth, Virginia, and Novella D. Smith, youth pastor of the Metropolitan Adventist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, were welcomed as ordained ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church and presented with official ordination credentials.

Conference President Henry Fordham III also presented them with a copy of the ministerial credential presented to Ellen G. White at Battle Creek, Michigan, on December 6, 1885. The document was

continued on next page

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1 Women Pastors Ordained
New Senior Pastor Installed at PUC Church

PAGE 2 Women Pastors Ordained

PLUS Andrea Jakobsons is new Senior Pastor

PAGE 3 TEAM Scholarship Stories - Rachel Arner and Jasmine Fraser (Scholarship Recipients)

PAGE 4 Bring Her Home! Yvonne Gameti

AWARDS Scholarships for 2020 total \$72,546

signed by George I. Butler and Uriah Smith.

The homily was presented by Dr. Hyveth Williams, pastor of Grace Place in Indiana, director of the Doctor of Ministry program and professor of Homiletics at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Her message entitled “Chosen” spoke of the gospel through the voices of women called to ministry. The theme Chosen invited the ordinands to accept their chosenness: chosen in holiness, chosen in righteousness, chosen through being saved and washed in the blood of Jesus.

Elder Gene Donaldson, ministerial director of the Allegheny East Conference presented the ordinands.

Marleena Debrough shared her sense of calling and described how she was supported by the person who was then her church pastor. Debrough has a Master’s degree in physical therapy and was successfully employed in what she thought was her life profession. During the five years she served her local church, young children to mature older people kept commenting, “You should be a pastor”; and, one day, she was even warned, “God is going to get you.” It was at a women’s conference in 2010, listening to a speaker encourage women to get educated for a man’s world, that she finally acknowledged her call to ministry. Debrough’s pastoral journey began when Conference President Henry Fordham III and his team invited her to serve as a pastor in the Allegheny East Conference. She served for four years and gained confidence from the feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Her goals for ministry include continuing her education in evangelism and family ministry. Ordination brought her to her

knees—grateful, honored, and humbled.

Novella Smith, at the age of 19, was invited to serve her local church as an elder. After completing an undergraduate program in healthcare, she was contemplating graduate



Novella Smith

studies when one evening she heard a voice telling her to “study theology.” She made an appointment with Bogdan Scur, a professor in the Washington Adventist University Religion Department, to ask what theological studies would involve and what it would mean to be a Pastor.

Smith’s goals center around her desire to create community through communication, building relationships, and meeting the needs of the congregation and the surrounding geographical community. She expressed gratitude for leading her to the Lord to her biological and church family and those she described as Sisters. A special note of gratitude was extended to Brenda Billings, the associate ministerial director for the North American Division.

The Ordination Charge by Northern New Jersey Area Leader Elder Norman Miles, addressed each ordinand separately, charging them to serve, to lead, and to share the Word of the Lord. He asked them to be like Paul to preach the full gospel of love and warn of the consequences of disobedience. He encouraged them to be students, to be fully engaged, and to be willing to suffer. In preparation for the pledge, Miles assured Smith and Debrough that they would receive full ecclesiastical recognition and authority.

Elder Gary Wimbish, Area Leader for the Metro Washington, D.C. Area, offered the prayer of dedication. As he shared the messages of the Old and New Testaments exemplifying the caring the two ordinands would need to demonstrate, he placed them in the hands of God to bless their ministry and to reveal His power in their lives.

Elder Peter Palmer, Allegheny East Conference vice president for administration, presented the certificates of ordination to Pastors Debrough and Smith, advising them to treasure this moment, when representatives of the 31,000 members of the Allegheny East Conference and 140,000 members of the Columbia Union Conference certified that they were called, prepared, and ordained.

A number of pastors, including Elder Fordham, gathered online to affirm, welcome, and celebrate the new pastors as they joined the ranks of 17 women already

continued on next page

serving as pastors in the Columbia Union Conference territory. As Elder Fordham stated, “The ministerial credential identifies who I am and Whose I am!” Fordham explained that he uses his driver’s license for driving across the states and his credential to validate his citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The official welcome as ordained ministers was offered by the associate ministerial director of the North American Division, Brenda Billingsy. She likened the event to an Olympic Moment and the carrying of the torch, Light in the Lord. Celebrating women as lights—sometimes condemned and sometimes celebrated—she stressed the essential role of the WICK, and welcomed the two pastors into the task force of the WICKs: Women Illuminating Christ’s Kingdom.

The music message, “So Send I You” presented by Jaqueline Brooks-Winston and Jerry Winston accompanied by Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Jr., expressed the heart of God’s mission for Pastors Debrough and Smith.

Pastor Maurice Taylor, Area Leader for Baltimore Area, closed the service with prayer, giving praise to God and petitioning for His presence in the hearts and lives of Pastors Debrough and Smith. Following the ordination service, the Metropolitan Church held a parking lot reception. Several participants in the ordination acknowledged the gender challenges of the church and what each pastor might encounter in her ministry. Elder Fordham, in particular, confirmed in a strong statement the authority to ordain women pastors as adopted by constituencies of the Columbia Union and the Allegheny East Conference. We encourage you to view the entire ordination service. You will be blessed by the message from all who were a part of this service, including the music, which was arranged and directed by Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Jr.

The online service is available at the following web address: <https://www.facebook.com/metrosda/videos/705020763564680/>

TEAM SCHOLARSHIP STORIES



RACHEL ARNER

Rachel Arner’s story is of a beginning, as a first year seminarian. From a very young age, she knew she was called to ministry. At 7 years old, Arner wrote her very first sermon, which even had slides! Over time, she continued to embrace God’s call. When she began her undergraduate studies at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan), after much prayer, she decided to study theology. Within a couple of years, she had started her own ministry online. At first, she started creating videos on YouTube about the Bible and encouraging people to trust Jesus. Then, in 2019, she launched her own podcast called “Preacher Girl,” where she shares words of encouragement from the Bible and about the hope we can have in Jesus. With listeners around the world, she continues to create episodes in order to share the gospel with her listeners. She also interviews highly esteemed guests from around the world who share their testimonies of how God has worked in their lives.

Arner is often invited to travel to different churches to preach and loves meeting new people everywhere she goes. She also is involved with Maranatha Missions, where she serves as staff on the Ultimate Workout mission trips during the summer. Her long-range plan is to serve in ministry wherever God calls her.

Arner recently graduated from Andrews University with a bachelor’s degree in religion and a minor in communication. The scholarships awarded to her from TEAM have enabled her to complete the final year of her undergraduate degree and begin her first year of study for the Master of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan.



JASMINE J. FRASER, PH.D.

Jasmine Fraser’s story is the experience of a triumphant transition from student to professor. In October 2019, Dr. Fraser, a recipient of TEAM scholarships for her PhD in Religious Education, was called to be an assistant professor of religious education at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan), an assignment that commenced in January 2020.

In March 2020, she was appointed director of the MA (Religious Education) program, and in July, she was appointed director of the PhD (Religious Education) program.

In reflecting on segments of the journey up to this point, Dr. Fraser says that the Word of God has been a constant guide. She asserts:

“I think of a time back in 2010 when I realized God was leading me to pursue a path that led to the seminary. I recall my attempts to reason my way out of the call, but God would not relent. Given the great financial constraint I was experiencing at the time, I remember asking God to show me a sign regarding how He would provide the finances for school. But that day, the only sign from Him was a salient message in 2 Corinthians 5:7: “We walk by faith and not by sight (NIV).” Needless to say, when I relented and moved in the direction God was leading, He then provided for all my needs using different sources, including TEAM.

I am eternally grateful to the members of TEAM for supporting me on my journey of faith.

CONGRATULATIONS

May God bless your ministry!



EQUALITY

TIMEFOREQUALITY.NET



SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN



SUPPORT

BRING HER HOME!

YVONNE GAMETI IS READY TO RETURN FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO TOGO AND BEGIN HER MINISTRY!



Pastor Gameti is the first Adventist woman from Togo to pursue a Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) to prepare her for pastoral ministry in the West Central Africa Division. With financial support from TEAM as well as from the ministerial director of

the West Africa Division and the president of Valley View University (Ghana), she graduated in May 2020 from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines. She has not been able to leave the Philippines following her graduation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since May, flights from the Philippines to Togo have not been possible because the Togo borders have been closed. Now Togo is open, but the Philippines is in lockdown. We are hopeful she will be able to return to West Africa by the end of September or the beginning of October 2020 as regular flights becomes available.

The “Bring Her Home” funding campaign requests your support to bring Pastor Gameti home to Togo. A total of \$3,100 is needed for airfare, the COVID test (prior to boarding the plane), visa departure fees, and for housing through September.

Support TEAM as we work together to bring Pastor Yvonne Gameti home to Togo!

Donations are preferred by check. Write on the memo line – “Bring Her Home” campaign.

Mail your check to TEAM at Post Office Box 7816, Langley Park, MD, 20787-7816.

Thank you for your support!

NEW SENIOR PASTOR AT PUC continued from p.1 of local produce, baked goods, and other gifts.

About Pastor Nunes

Pastor Chanda M. Nunes was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, by two God-fearing Jamaican parents. She recognized her call to ministry at the age of 9, and credits many church leaders who acknowledged this—and took a risk on her as a young person by assigning her to various leadership roles.

Nunes is a graduate of Burman University, formerly Canadian University College, (BA, Religious Studies; minor, Biblical Languages), and Andrews University (Master of Divinity). She received a TEAM scholarship in 2003.

Nunes began her pastoral ministry in 2003, serving the Alberta Conference at the College Heights Adventist Church on the Burman campus. From 2008 to 2015, she served the Kansas-Nebraska Conference at the New Haven Adventist Church in Kansas City, where she was the first Black pastor ever to serve in the conference, as well as the first Black female pastor to serve in the Mid-American Union. During that time, she was commissioned (2011).

Nunes later served the Northern California Conference at the Capitol City Adventist Church in Sacramento. She was the first Black female pastor to serve in this conference. In June 2018, she was ordained. As of July 1, 2020, she became the first Black pastor and first woman to serve as the senior pastor for the PUC Church.

Congratulations can be sent to Pastor Nunes at cmnunes@gmail.com.

Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry

P.O. Box 7816 • Langley Park, MD 20787

Phone: (301) 332-1844 • Email: bhab8@aol.com

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS – 2020 - \$72,546
THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAM SO FAR IN 2020:

Eunice Adwar Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Everlyne Ager Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Zilpah Akenga Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Elizabeth Ante Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Rachel Arner MDiv	SDA Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Suzanne Ashley MDiv	Regent College, British Columbia
Tanay Diaz Ayala Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Joyce Bamai Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Penny Brink Master's	Fuller Theological Seminary, California
Leah Burgess MDiv	Howard University Divinity School
Leivis Castillo Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Daliris Castaneda Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Elaine Cruz MDiv	Adventist Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Gil Maria Diaz Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Thandazile Dube Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Ilia Ferran Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Xue Mei Fu MDiv	SDA Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Yvonne Gameti MDiv	AIAS, Philippines
Inelys Gonzalez Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Marielvis Gonzalez Undergraduate	SETAI, Seminary
Yadira Gracia Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Milca Gutleber Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Vanessa Hairston MDiv	SDA Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Mercy Huiko Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Bittok Jepchirchir Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Lydia Jepkirui Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Johanna Jurke Undergraduate	Bogenhofen Seminary, Austria
Juliah Kemunto Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Yunelkys Lopez Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Doris Maranga Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda

Ana Maurin Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Winfreda Mitekaro Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Yobely Mogollon Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Yosleydis Morales Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Rebecca Moses Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Rosaline Munene Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Damaris Mwanzuka Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Lucy Njeru Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Ramlah Noah Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Gravine Nyaata Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Jane Odero Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Susan Odidi Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Susan Odoyo Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Rosemary Okeyo Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Alice Okumu Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Peninah Ondieki Diploma	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Priscah Ondwari Undergraduate	Univ. of Eastern Africa, Kenya
Isabella Onkoba MA-Chaplain	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Veronica Otworri Undergraduate	Bugema University, Uganda
Grace Oyugi Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Kerth Payne MDiv	SDA Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Divinia Reynolds Master's	Newbold College, UK
Yolanda Rodrigues Undergraduate	Washington Adventist University
Mariam Samo PhD	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya
Evelyn Sandoval Undergraduate	River Plate University, Argentina
Graciela Suarez Undergraduate	Cuba SDA Seminary
Yamaris Torres Undergraduate	UNAC, Colombia
Luz Vivanco Master's	Adventist University of Peru
Annia Vives, MD PhD	SETAI, Montemorelos, Mexico
Xiaorui Wang MDiv	SDA Theo. Seminary, Andrews
Martha Yusuf Master's	Adventist Univ. of Africa, Kenya

Thank you for your support for TEAM in 2020!

ON THE MOVE! ANOTHER WOMAN PASTOR BECOMES SENIOR PASTOR



Andrea Jakobsons

Pastor Andrea Jakobsons, formerly an Associate Pastor at the Spencerville Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, has been appointed the Lead/Senior Pastor at the Kettering SDA Church in Kettering, Ohio. She is the first female pastor to be appointed Senior Pastor of the Kettering Church!

Andrea Jakobsons was born in the Czech Republic and had to learn English when the family moved to the US right before her freshman year in high school. She is married to Michael Jakob-

sons, who makes sure that life is not boring. He has worked in education for many years as a principal and an associate superintendent. After finishing the seminary Andrea worked as a Bible teacher and then as a youth and young adult pastor at the Spencerville Church before transitioning to the Kettering Church. She loves teaching the Bible and seeing people grow in their relationship with Jesus while also taking time for friends, art, working out, hiking and biking.

Congratulations can be sent to Pastor Jakobsons at: Andrea@ketsda.org

6 WEEKENDS BEGINNING OCTOBER 10, 2020

ASSOCIATION OF ADVENTIST WOMEN PRESENTS:

FINDING PURPOSE

in uncertain times



A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE



Oct 10
Linda Becker
Leadership



Oct 17
Sheryll Prinz-McMillan
Self-Care



Sabbath Vespers
On demand
all time zones
Association of Adventist Women and Loma Linda University Church



Oct 24
Sandra Roberts
Ministry



Oct 31
Joy-Marie Butler
Service



Nov 7
Gwendolyn Winston Foster
Health



Nov 14
Lori Barker
Community

5 p.m. PST

<https://www.lluc.org/live>

www.associationofadventistwomen.com