



Methodist Church In The Caribbean And The Americas (MCCA)



## Bahamas/Turks and Caicos Islands Conference

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### YOUTH ENCUESTRO UPDATE

From: Rev. Kelli D. Jolly, Chairperson BTCIC Planning Committee  
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25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

**SUBJECT:** 2024 MCCA Youth Encuentro

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!  
The Youth Encuentro Planning Committee of the Bahamas/ Turks and Caicos Islands District has met on several occasions to set primary details to share with the remaining Districts at this time and would like to note the following information so that Delegate selection and fundraising may begin. Please note that some details are subject to change.

**Youth Encuentro Dates:** Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, to Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

**Travel Days:** July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> - the District cannot be responsible for anyone outside of these days. ***Do not book to arrive before July 22<sup>nd</sup> or leave after July 29<sup>th</sup>.*** Cost of travel is not included in the registration fee.

**Venue:** SuperClubs Breezes Hotel, Nassau Bahamas

**Registration Total:** \$1,150 USD Per Person

Registration Payment Details:

1<sup>st</sup> Payment Deadline: June 16, 2023, \$150 USD – Indicates who is attending

from your District. 2<sup>nd</sup> Payment Deadline: October 16, 2023, \$500 USD

3<sup>rd</sup> Payment Deadline: February 16, 2024, \$500 USD

All funds are to be received via the BTCIC Treasurer, Mr. Jerry Rolle, on time with firm deadlines. Official Registration forms are forthcoming.

**Overseas Wires:**

Bank of America – New York Branch

New York, NY

ABA#026009593

A/C#6550619464

For Credit to Commonwealth Bank Ltd

For Further Credit to The Methodist Church Bahamas Turks & Caicos Islands Conference and Acct#2001939

***Local Third-Party Transfer (Within The Bahamas):***

Commonwealth Bank Ltd

East Bay St.

Nassau, Bahamas

Transit No: 21102

The Methodist Church Bahamas Turks & Caicos Islands Conference

Acct#2001939

***WHEN TRANSFERRING: Please account for an exchange rate of \$0.9950 Bahamian to \$1USD and Commonwealth Bank's fee of \$22.50 per transfer from outside the Bahamas***

***And for the fee of \$6 within the Bahamas outside of Nassau Bahamas or from another local bank.***

***Please also notify us by email that you intend to transfer so that we may notify the bank to expect it as required.***

**Maximum Encuentro Capacity – 250 persons Total, divided as follows:**

Bahamas/ Turks and Caicos 30 Delegates, 3 Chaperones – No more than 33 total

Belize/ Honduras 20 Delegates, 2 Chaperones – No more than 22 total

Guyana 15 Delegates 2 Chaperones – No more than 17 total

Haiti 10 Delegates, 2 Chaperones – No more than 12 total

Jamaica 39 Delegates, 4 Chaperones – No more than 43 total

Leeward Islands 49 Delegates 4 Chaperones – No more than 53 total

Panama/ Costa Rica 15 Delegates 2 Chaperones – No more than 17 total

South Caribbean 49 Delegates 4 Chaperones – No more than 53 total

**Age Group:**

- Participants must be in the age group 15-25. They must have reached the age of 15 on or before July 22nd 2024 and similarly, must not be older than 25 years on July 22nd 2024.
- Chaperones/Group leader should be 26 years and over as at July 22nd 2024.

### **Delegate Criteria**

Circuits are asked to carefully select the young persons who will attend the Encuentro and who, in effect, will be ambassadors of their district and their country. The following criteria/guidelines are:

- Participants must be currently active in their congregations/youth groups
- Participants should commit to continued active involvement in their congregations/youth groups and or the circuit Youth Commission/Youth Work.
- They should be prepared to take up leadership roles.
- They should be teachable
- Each participant must present a verbal report at his/her congregation on an appropriate Sunday after returning from the Encuentro.
- Participants must submit a written report to their Ministers, who will relay information to the Circuit.

Committee which will then be forwarded to the District's Christian Education Committee.

### **Chaperone Criteria**

- Persons selected must be currently in active work at the congregational or circuit level
- Persons should have an understanding of the challenges faced by youth and be able to assist or lead discussions in Bible study groups during the Encuentro.
- Persons must commit to maintaining a working relationship and providing guidance for youth at the circuit/congregational level on return.
- Chaperones must be confirmed members in good standing in the Methodist Church and be familiar with the moral and ethical standards of the Methodist Church (Not optional).

### **Culture:**

Two time periods for culture during the week will allow a showcase of native entertainment with adequate time for multi-country Districts.

During the week of activities, each District is expected to display and share the culture of their member countries with the rest of the MCCA. Participants should therefore prepare a brief cultural presentation. Districts may be expected to display information/memorabilia of the work of the Methodist Church in their Circuits and Districts and engage in discussion accordingly.

**Immigration:** Please visit [www.bahamas.gov.bs](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs) for links to begin reviewing listed country and visa requirements. There you will also find the form for a Bahamas Visitor's Visa, depending on your country of origin.

Our team has persons at the Ministry of Tourism, that will assist in making the process as smooth as possible for everyone. upon entry with correct documentation. • All participants must have a valid passport for entry into Nassau, Bahamas. **Do not book to land on any other Island in the Bahamas except for Nassau (New Providence)**

- All participants must travel on a valid return ticket.
- It is suggested that all participants must have a US visa

### **Theme: "WORTH IT TO CHRIST"**

The theme for the Encuentro surrounds the word WORTH, reflected each day in devotions with a letter designated for each day - given that our young people struggle in these times with stress, anxiety, depression and joblessness in light of this pandemic, we agree that we want to use this opportunity to make sure they leave understanding their inherent worth in God outside of anything they can do or be or have or earn.

### **Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16 NRSV**

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

### **Preachers and Facilitators:**

Welcome Service and Closing Service Resource Persons needed:

Preachers - welcome and closing services - Suggest Younger but progressive/ knowledgeable of the Unified Strategic Direction and effective preachers preferred for the services with a balance of women and men

Some services and events will be live streamed, but there is no availability for a full hybrid conference at this time. Delegates must be present in person.

Bible Study Resource Persons Needed - Suggest Bishop Juan Simpson be responsible for the Bible studies based on the USD made relevant to youth.

### **Outdoor Witness and Outreach:**

The two will be combined in one event Saturday - partly due to safety reasons and high crime at night. These events will be in the morning with a march of witness and on park event - worship service as well as outreach to that community with free haircuts, book drive, counseling and more.

### **Workshop Topics (Tentative):**

1. HANDS FOR CHRIST NATIVE STRAW WORKING WORKSHOP
1. MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE MUSIC WORKSHOP
1. DANCE YOUR BURDENS OFF DANCE WORKSHOP
2. STOMP SATAN DOWN MARSHAL ARTS WORKSHOP
2. HOW TO NOT BE A BROKE YOUNG PERSON OF FAITH - FINANCE
2. THE PATH TO MINISTRY FOR ME - AM I WORTHY?
3. WHAT DOES GOD LOOK LIKE? - DECONSTRUCTING COLONIAL TOOLS OF FAITH
3. BEING A CHRISTIAN STEWARD OF MY MENTAL HEALTH IN HARD TIMES
3. A LIVING FIRE - WHAT WORTH DO I BRING TO THE MCCA TABLE?

*Delegates will choose one Workshop 1 and one Workshop 2. Everyone will attend each workshop 3*

**PLEASE REVERT ALL FORMS, INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS TO THE BTCI ENCUENTRO PLANNING COMMITTEE'S EMAIL: [encuentrobtci@gmail.com](mailto:encuentrobtci@gmail.com)**