

# ADVOCACY

## Along Together: Gender, Faith & Mission

Written by Berlonne Jones-Sealy

The Diocesan BSR, in its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, identified *The Promotion of a Just and Equitable Society* as its main theme. The areas of focus for the 2021/22 programme year are Gender Justice and Creation of Youth Social Activists.

With this in mind, the 2021-2022 work plan for the NW RBSR will focus on Gender Justice. To this end we present **Along Together: Gender, Faith & Mission** a ten-week short course providing ministry leaders with a helpful introduction to gender and justice, in the context of Christian faith and mission.

### The Course Goals

- ◆ To Equip prophetic voices in intergenerational Church mission for equitable societal transformation
- ◆ To Deepen insights on gender inequality and injustice
- ◆ To Encourage conscious reflection on spirituality and on responses for public witness and building community partnerships

Using a missiological approach, the sessions will explore and clarify the understanding of gender patterns, meanings, systems and structures that are embedded in the social relations and socio-political dimensions of life within congregations and communities.

Participants will be enabled to consciously reflect on their spirituality and responses for public witness, through an array of theological perspectives and Christian voices on gender inequality and injustice.

The course begins September 30<sup>th</sup> and ends December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021. Participants who complete the course will receive a certificate. See registration detail below.

### Registration Link

Registration for the course must be completed using the link provided below. The course will run for ten sessions starting September 30, 2021, on Thursdays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Registration opens on September 16, 2021.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/168478615073>

For further information you can email NWR BSR Assistant Secretary at [northwestregion.bsr@gmail.com](mailto:northwestregion.bsr@gmail.com)

### COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1: Gender and Faith: *Why talk about it?*

Module 2: Gender and the Missionary Church: *Historical and contextual analysis*

Module 3: Gender dynamics in daily life: *Circles of care; access to service; intergenerational issues; margins and intersections.*

Module 4: Power, Status and Value: *Economic, ecological and social justice; insecurity and violence*

Module 5: Mission of transformation: *Restoration of identity; Voice and agency; Caregiving and social bonds; Building resistance.*

Module 6: Challenges for the Church: *Inclusive discipleship and mission; Men, internalization and liberation; The Power to reimage.*

Module 7: Being Called: *Modeling equality through faith formation and mission. Next steps.*



# FUN FACTS

## Our Stories: Expectations

Written by Tishonne Francis

Have you ever seen the movie 'Daddy Daycare,' a comical depiction of two recently unemployed fathers establishing a day care to make ends meet. Well I have, and other than the obvious comical intent, what really stood out was initial disbelief and overall lack of expectations that these men could actually run a day care, with children. Why? Maybe because no one expects men to stay at home? And for argument sake, what if we did expect this, would you take your child to a day care that says Uncle Francis's Day Care and Pre-school over Auntie June's? Think about it for a moment and if you find yourselves having to take time to consider it you may have expectations, well gendered ones.

From the day we were born we have grown with, socialized into and have been generationally indoctrinated to expect that there are things men do and women do? We anticipate masculinities and femininities to present themselves as we have vicariously learnt them. Whether we realise it or not, we have come to identify men as hunters and women as gathers. Silently these gendered roles have become the normal way of existing.

So what happens when our expectations are not met? Do we say "Daz not how it is?" Or do we recognize that maybe it's time to take off the gender lens and view things more clearly? At the end of the day, are we not all 'One in Christ?'

- ⇒The Proclamation of the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill took place on June 10, 2020
- ⇒The First — Wave of Caribbean Feminism can be dated back to the early twentieth century
- ⇒In 2018, the GORTT adopted the National Policy on Gender and Development. If you haven't read it as yet here is where you can: <http://www.opm-gca.gov.tt/portals/0/Documents/National%20Gender%20Policy/NATIONAL%20POLICY%20ON%20GENDER%20AND%20DEVELOPMENT.pdf?ver=2018-03-08-134857-323>

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sep 8** International Literacy Day
- Oct 2** International Day of Non-Violence
- Oct 10** World Mental Health Day
- Oct 11** International Day of the Girl Child
- Nov 25 - Dec 10 2021:**  
**16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**
- Nov 19** International Men's Day
- Nov 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Dec 1** World Aids Day
- Dec 10** Human Rights Day



## GALATIANS 3: 26-28

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,..., There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*