

World Day of Prayer International Committee – June 16-18, 2022
Caribbean and North America Regional Representative Candidates

Self-Introduction and Biography

1. Alexandrina Wong, WDP Antigua
2. Ruth Phillips, WDP Barbados
3. Stephanie McClellan, WDP Canada



Name: Alexandrina Wong
WDP Committee: Antigua
Church Denomination:
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My name is Alexandrina Wong and I hold a certificate in the study of Homiletics. I have served as branch leader of my women's church group, Mother's Union, and as secretary, who coordinated community and church based activities, of the WDP Antigua committee prior to becoming the current Chairperson for the last two terms.

My experience and faith in God and the power of prayer, both public and private, has equipped me for leadership positions at the regional level in the Caribbean Women's Association (CARIWA). Over the years, my sojourn as a district nurse midwife has deepened my practice of faith as I ministered to women and families in the community. I am an astute professional business woman with a background in Health and Gender Studies and knowledgeable in ICT, a skill used to conduct training as an alternative to face to face meetings.

Through Community Outreach and Engagement services to women and families affected by Gender Based Violence (GBV), in partnership with both state and non-state actors through funding support mainly from external donors, I use try to strengthen the faith of many and offer prayer as a pathway to the healing process. Singing (both on church and community choirs) and going to the beach are my main hobbies. As the matriarch of my maternal side of my family, I assist with spiritual care and guidance to family members on a regular basis. My skills include public speaking, policy development & analysis and Training in Social cultural and other related areas.

My most recent professional acquisition is the successful completion of an online training in Understanding Stigma and Discrimination and Cognitive Behaviour conducted by Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and community and workplace counseling (UWI Cavehill).



Name: Ruth Valentine Ermeta Phillips

WDP Committee: Barbados

Church Denomination: African Methodist Episcopal (AME)

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My name is Rev. Ruth Phillips and I graduated from Codrington College (Seminary) and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus with a BA Theology (Honors). I was ordained Itinerant Elder with the African Methodist Episcopal Church in April 2010, and for four years pastored the largest of three AME Churches in Barbados at that time; they are now four churches. I now pastor my third congregation with great anticipation.

I describe myself like the woman at the well, (if you know your Bible stories) she was seeking for things that could not satisfy, and then she heard her Saviour speaking who said, “draw from my well that will never run dry”. Like Hannah, I bore my soul to the Lord and He blessed me with one son Serge, who has been ministering in the church as a drummer since he was 4 years old. Like Queen Esther, I will go into the King for the people's sake, and if I perish, I will perish. I never thought of being a Pastor, far less more dreamt about it, but I have been a Pastor for the past twelve years and can only see the sky as my limit. On the other side of the coin, I have been working with the Tourism Industry since 1988, at various levels of the spectrum. Working with people is my way of life. I am a communicator who influences and attracts others to the movement. I am a preacher and a motivator who is not afraid of the crowd.

World Day of Prayer has allowed me to meet many Christian women of different ethnicities and Christian denominations. It has helped me to appreciate the greatness of God, by seeing how Christianity looks in person. It has taught me how to be the best Christian person that I can be. It is humbling to know that there are others who go through the feelings that I go through as a Minister and Christian, and they are in a different country.

For the past fourteen years I have represented WDP locally, was the featured speaker at Women Associations at several churches, attended celebrations with the Women of Excellence, acted arbitrarily with an organization for women who have been abused, and attended the World Conference of Churches in Jamaica on behalf of WDPIIC during my first term as Regional Representative. I have, with the help of the local committee, organized an annual symposium to educate people about the World Day of Prayer and to prepare them for the service in March.

My vision for the next 100 years of WDP is to see the leadership work on making the first Friday in March be recognized as a holiday worldwide, in which all governments and church denominations have it placed on their calendars to celebrate, for the Executive Committee to be 50% comprised of youths, and for every island state and nation in the world to have a local WDP committee.



Name: Rev. Stephanie McClellan

WDP Committee: Canada

Church Denomination: United Church of Canada

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I am an ordained minister within the United Church of Canada and an active member of women's ministries. Born in Ontario (Central Canada), I did my seminary degrees in British Columbia (West Coast) and have served all my ordained ministry in rural Newfoundland and Labrador (East Coast). Living in different regions of Canada has given me life experience in large cities and small villages with different cultures and needs.

Growing up, my family hosted over 100 foster children who were placed in our loving home from emergency trauma situations in their own.

Social justice was born into my brother and me. That early start fueled my lifelong passion for inclusion and social justice.

After moving to Gander, NL, I led three Exposure Tours to Guatemala to raise awareness about families that live and work in the Guatemala City Dump. These tours helped Canadians see some of the poverty issues in the world firsthand. In 2016-2017, I chaired a community committee "Lewisporte Refugee Outreach" that hosted three Syrian Refugee Families.

World Day of Prayer has been part of my life for over 20 years. I enjoy the ecumenical community and have been a participant, speaker or part of the leadership planning team for local, provincial and national events. It is very fulfilling to use my passion for justice and experience with retreats, special events, children's ministry, team building, and communication. I am excited to be part of the WDP movement in a time when we are creatively transitioning from the traditional World Day of Prayer across Canada to online events and ways to engage younger women in justice work through informed prayer and prayerful action.

In 2017, I was elected to, and continue to serve on, the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, home of World Day of Prayer in Canada. I have held several roles including Personnel Chair, Marketing and Communication team, Grant Review team, and the World Day of Prayer team. My current term as President will be fulfilled in Autumn 2022 at which time I will serve as Past President for another year.

As a Board Member in WDP Canada, we are all asked to identify our skills and gifts that will benefit the full team. Mine are highlighted as writing, liturgy, video production, creativity, grant writing, marketing, public relations, speaking, teaching, and strategic planning.

Since high school, I have been actively involved in providing all-inclusive programming for children, youth and adults as I develop and implement curriculums, activities, pastoral care and creative worship. I have basic fluency in American Sign Language, and I serve as an accessibility consultant for churches and communities. One of the Special Projects that I have led for WDP has been the Kids Pray Too video service involving children and youth who are encouraged to pray and make a difference in the world through justice.

I joined WDP Canada in time to celebrate our 100th anniversary. There were celebrations across Canada to celebrate throughout the year and I was the coordinator of an event hosted in Newfoundland and Labrador. This retreat, and the Toronto event, inspired me because of the ability to call women to pray for action in justice issues. This call to prayer was accompanied by informed awareness campaigns about human trafficking, Thursdays in Black and family violence. Knowledge and prayer are power.

My vision for World Day of Prayer over the next 100 years would be to continue developing the movement of World Daily Prayer using our past writing country resources and creative prayer practices throughout the year to broaden the reach and impact of worldwide prayer. This would help move the focus of praying for justice from one day to every day of the year. Using technology and creativity, we can work together to attract younger women to be inspired by informed prayer and prayerful action, enriched by leadership roles, and challenged to be rooted in prayer and active in justice making.

While I believe that I have many skills and gifts that could benefit WDPIC, I also know that serving as one of the CANA Representatives would offer me a rich experience of being part of a global team of incredibly capable women, with many languages, life experiences and cultures, so that we can complement one another as we make a worldwide impact to restore hope to women and children touched by injustice.