

# Intimate Conviction

An international conference examining the **church** and **anti-sodomy laws** across the Commonwealth

**October 12–13, 2017**

Eon Nigel Harris Council Room  
The University of the West Indies  
Regional Headquarters  
Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica

**[aidslaw.ca/intimateconviction](http://aidslaw.ca/intimateconviction)**



AGENDA

# Thursday, October 12

Day 1

8:30 – 9:00      **Devotions:** Venerable Patrick Cunningham,  
Archdeacon of Kingston

9:00 – 9:10      **Welcome and Introductions:** Very Rev. Fr.  
Sean Major-Campbell (host pastor)

9:10 – 9:30      **Keynote:** Most Rev. Dr. John Holder,  
Archbishop of the West Indies

9:30 – 9:45      **Address:** The Commonwealth Secretariat

9:45 – 10:00      **Address:** Lord Anthony Gifford, Q.C.

**10:00 – 10:15      Coffee Break**

10:15 – 11:45      **PANEL 1:** The Anglican Church and  
Decriminalisation (Global North Perspective)

11:45 – 13:15      **PANEL 2:** The Anglican Church and  
Decriminalisation (Global South Perspective)

**13:15 – 14:00      Lunch (provided)**

14:00 – 15:30      **PANEL 3:** Other Churches and  
Decriminalisation (Global North Perspective)

15:30 – 17:00      **PANEL 4:** Other Churches and  
Decriminalisation (Global South Perspective)

AGENDA

# Friday, October 13

Day 2

- |                      |                                                                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 – 9:00          | <b>Devotions:</b> Venerable Patrick Cunningham,<br>Archdeacon of Kingston |
| 9:00 – 10:30         | <b>PANEL 5:</b><br>Gender, Decriminalisation, and the Church              |
| <b>10:30 – 10:45</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                       |
| 10:45 – 12:15        | <b>PANEL 6:</b><br>HIV, Decriminalisation, and the Church                 |
| <b>12:15 – 13:00</b> | <b>Lunch (provided)</b>                                                   |
| 13:00 – 14:30        | Building an Ecumenical Dialogue for<br>Decriminalisation                  |
| 14:30 – 15:00        | Conference Closing and Evaluation                                         |

## MODERATOR

# Very Rev. Fr. Sean Major-Campbell



Fr. Sean Major-Campbell, J.P., is an Anglican Priest and an avid human rights advocate. He formerly served as Rector of the Anglican Church in the Cayman Islands, Rector of the Westmoreland Parish Church, and is now Rector of Christ Church in Vineyard Town.

While in the Cayman Islands, he exercised advocacy as a member of the Cayman AIDS Foundation, a member of the Jamaican Consulate, a board member of the Cayman Crisis Centre, and a regular newspaper columnist.

He holds a Diploma in Ministerial Studies from the United Theological College of the West Indies, a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the University of the West Indies, and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling from St. Stephen's (Alberta, Canada).

Fr. Sean is one of two recipients of the 2015 Ubuntu – Essence of Humanity Award (Trophy Category). He was recently appointed the Rural Dean of Kingston.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Most Rev. Dr. John Holder**  
Anglican Archbishop of the West Indies



Archbishop Holder has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology, a Master of Sacred Theology degree, and a PhD in Old Testament Studies, among other academic accolades. He has held many scholarly and teaching roles in the Caribbean and around the world in the field of theology. In 2000, he became the Bishop of Barbados and in 2009, he assumed the role of Archbishop of the Caribbean. He has also written numerous publications such as *The Bible in the Anglican Tradition — The Bible and Human Sexuality: A study of two critical areas of Pastoral Concern* and *Sexuality in*

*the Old Testament: The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality* among numerous others. He has received many prestigious awards including the Long and Dedicated Service Award from Codrington College and the Errol Barrow Award for contribution to theology. In addition, he was given an Honorary Doctor of Laws of UWI and the CBE. He has served as chair or member on many esteemed boards and committees, including a tenure as chairman of Interfaith group — HIV/AIDS Commission from 2003 to 2008.

SPECIAL ADDRESS

**Justin Pettit,  
Commonwealth Secretariat**



Justin Pettit is an Officer in the Human Rights Unit at the Commonwealth Secretariat. His work focuses on the international human rights machinery, strengthening national institutions, and issues surrounding implementation of human rights

standards. He was previously a lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Roehampton and a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Essex School of Law. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Essex.



**A peace-building  
Commonwealth**

## SPECIAL ADDRESS

# Lord Anthony Gifford, Q.C.



Called to the Bar of England and Wales (1962), Lord Anthony Gifford, Q.C. is also a member of the Northern Ireland Bar and the Jamaican Bar (1990). He was the founder of the North Kensington Law Centre, the first law centre established in Britain in 1970 to ensure accessible legal resources to all. He is an associate tenant of Doughty Street Chambers in London.

Lord Gifford maintains an active law practice in Jamaica as Senior Partner in the firm of Gifford, Thompson & Shields. He has been Counsel in many human rights cases, including *Dudgeon v UK* in 1981 in the European Court of Human Rights, which held that the

right to respect for private life of a gay man had been violated by the buggery law in Northern Ireland. He represented appellants in the cases of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four.

Author and lecturer, Lord Gifford was a frequent speaker in the House of Lords on human rights issues, and is a member of the Management Committee of the Independent Jamaican Council for Human Rights. He has been a member of missions for Amnesty International and other human rights organisations to Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Pakistan, Chile, and Grenada. He is a member of the National Council on Reparations.



## FOREWORD

# The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG\*

From far away Australia, I send greetings of peace and friendship to the Commonwealth Caribbean. I welcome the conference in Jamaica called to discuss the role (past, present and future) of faith communities across the region in ending the criminalisation of citizens based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. This is an initiative to be welcomed on at least three levels:

- **Spiritual:** Because it is necessary to reflect the love and mutual respect for one another that lies at the heart of most of the world's religions, but particularly for Christians who follow the loving message of Jesus Christ.
- **Political:** Because the current persistence of colonial laws targeting sexual minorities and their sexual acts constitutes a serious overreach of the proper function of the criminal law in a modern, diverse and democratic society.
- **Healthcare:** Because the retention of such laws impedes the messages essential to reducing infections with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Moreover, it impedes access by those infected to prompt treatment, which speeds the reduction in infections in the wider society.

I welcome the leadership of bishops of the Anglican tradition in supporting, and participating, in this conference. I myself was raised in the Anglican tradition. I am proud to be a member of this global community. Because of its history, the Anglican Church has always been a place of diversity and dialogue for those of the High Church and those of the Evangelical tradition.

This conference convenes on the 50th anniversary of the first steps taken in England and Wales to repeal the anti-gay sodomy laws that were exported throughout the British Empire. That repeal followed the Wolfenden Committee report which found that the attempt to enforce such laws against LGBT citizens constituted an overreach of the criminal law. Criminal law should be confined to serious wrongs involving public activity and a complaining victim. It should not snoop into private conduct in people's bedrooms where consenting adults are involved. To do this is a serious excess of governmental power. Gradually this principle has been accepted in countries that were once part of the old British Empire: UK, Ireland, United States, Canada, Australia,

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\*Justice of the High Court of Australia (1996–2009); Member of the Eminent Persons Group of the Commonwealth of Nations (2010–2011); Commissioner, UNDP Global Commission on HIV and the Law (2011–2012).



New Zealand, South Africa. But a log-jam has arisen in securing reform in the Caribbean.

In 2009, I participated in the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on the Future of the Commonwealth of Nations. Our chair was Tun Abdullah Badawi, an Islamic scholar and former Prime Minister of Malaysia. Our rapporteur was Sir Ronald Sanders, a distinguished Caribbean diplomat. Unanimously, the EPG recommend that Heads of Government of all Commonwealth countries “should take steps to encourage the repeal of discriminatory laws,” including those targeted at LGBT citizens. We proposed a Charter of Commonwealth Values, which has been adopted and signed into force by the Queen. It upholds the principle of equality without discrimination. The time has come for the Commonwealth Caribbean to act on that value.

I welcome the political opening for action proposed by the Government of Jamaica. However, calling for a referendum is the wrong path in a parliamentary democracy. If a referendum to abolish the ‘White Australia’ policy had been held at the time when Australia’s Parliament began to demolish discriminatory laws against people on the grounds of race and skin colour in 1966, it would not have been carried. Discrimination on grounds of race is unscientific. But it has, like slavery, some Biblical

supporters. In Australia, our parliament did the right thing. It did not introduce an obstacle of a referendum. Where unscientific prejudice exists, it should be removed from the law. That still leaves those in faith communities to hold to their beliefs. But it removes enforcing those beliefs on others who believe differently.

Finally, there are strong practical reasons for change. Strong UN data demonstrates that countries which criminalise LGBT people have higher levels of HIV infection. This is for the simple reason that criminalisation drives people into the shadows. It impedes their access to advice, knowledge and support. It restrains them for seeking out treatment and care. Yet that treatment reduces the spread of HIV throughout society. This is therefore a step that should be taken.

For 40 years in Australia, I have held high constitutional offices. During the whole of that time, I have been supported by my partner, Johan. Such support is good for health and for truth in society. We should turn away from prejudice, which science does not sustain. We should return to the central message of our religion: love for one another. We should abandon the overreach of criminal law. We should contribute to reducing the spread of AIDS and the even greater epidemic of discrimination. ✠

## PANEL 1

# The Anglican Church & Decriminalisation (Global North Perspective)

Commonwealth anti-sodomy laws initially reflected Church of England teaching. Fifty years after their repeal in England, this panel explores the past, present and future impact of the Anglican Church in the global north on these laws.



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Terry Brown**  
Anglican Church of Canada



**Rev. Winnie Varghese**  
The Episcopal Church



**Capt. Rev. Tom Decker**  
Anglican Military Ordinariate,  
Canada



**Rt. Rev. Dr. Alan Wilson**  
Church of England



**Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## PANEL 2

# The Anglican Church & Decriminalisation (Global South Perspective)

Commonwealth anti-sodomy laws initially reflected Church of England teaching. Fifty years after their repeal in England, this panel explores the past, present and future impact of the Anglican Church in the global south on these laws.



**Rt. Rev. Matthias  
Mededues-Badohu**  
Church of West Africa



**Very Rev. Michael Weeder**  
Anglican Church of Southern  
African



**Rev. Canon Garth  
Minott**  
Anglican Church of Jamaica  
and the Cayman Islands

## PANEL 3

### Other Churches & Decriminalisation (Global North Perspective)

There is a wide array of Christian Churches across the Commonwealth that hold different beliefs on criminalisation of private consensual same-gender intimacy. This panel seeks to create a dialogue that includes these important voices from the global north.



**Rev. Basil Coward**  
United Church of Canada



**Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin**  
Metropolitan Community Church



**Mr. Francis DeBernardo**  
New Ways Ministry



**Dr. Keisha McKenzie**  
Seventh Day Adventist



**Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo**  
United Church of Canada



**Dr. Matthew Waites**  
University of Glasgow

## PANEL 4

### Other Churches & Decriminalisation (Global South Perspective)

There is a wide array of Christian Churches across the Commonwealth that hold different beliefs on criminalization of private consensual same-gender intimacy. This panel seeks to create a dialogue that includes these important voices from the global south.



**Rev. Marvia Lawes**  
Jamaica Baptist Union



**Rev. Jide MacCauley**  
House of Rainbow



**Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis**  
United Church in Jamaica and  
Cayman Islands

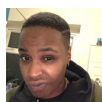


**Rev. Dr. George Zachariah**  
Mar Thoma Church

## PANEL 5

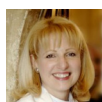
### Gender, Decriminalisation, and the Church

The criminalisation of same-gender intimacy between women is less popular in the Commonwealth than that of men. However, women still experience the direct and indirect effects of criminalisation. This panel will therefore endeavour to investigate the intersection of gender issues and decriminalisation.



**Ms. Cynthia Ci**

House of Rainbow



**Rev. Canon Rosie Harper**

Church of England



**Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo**

United Church of Canada



**Ms. Angeline Jackson**

Metropolitan Community Church



**Ms. Philippa Drew**

Kaleidoscope Trust



**Rev. Marvia Lawes**

Jamaica Baptist Union

## PANEL 6

### HIV, Decriminalisation, and the Church

The Caribbean has the second-highest HIV prevalence rate after sub-Saharan Africa. Many stakeholders involved in the regional HIV response have identified the region's anti-sodomy laws as contributing to this statistic. This panel seeks to investigate the relationship between the HIV epidemic, the anti-sodomy law, and the church.



**Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis**

United Church in Jamaica and  
Cayman Islands



**Dr. Keisha McKenzie**

Seventh Day Adventist



**Rev. Phumzile Mabizela**

INERELA+



**Mr. Ian McKnight**

Global Interfaith Network



**Rev. Jide Macaulay**

House of Rainbow

# PANEL 7

## Building an Ecumenical Dialogue for Decriminalisation

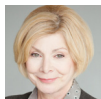
This panel will be a discussion open to all speakers. It will be an opportunity to share any issues that were not completely addressed in the previous panels and to start a dialogue among Christian groups on the issue of decriminalisation.



**Mr. Jonathan Cooper**  
Barrister



**Rev. Colin Coward**  
Church of England



**Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo**  
United Church of Canada



**Rev. Canon Rosie Harper**  
Church of England



**Most Rev. Dr. John Holder**  
Anglican Communion



**Dr. Randall Miller**  
Arcus Foundation



**Damien Marcus Williams**  
Non-denominational Christian

## AFTERWORD

### Baroness Barker

*“Religion without humanity is very poor human stuff.”*

– Sojourner Truth

Every journey starts with one simple step. Throughout history, the attainment of human dignity and social enlightenment has been achieved when politicians and people of faith have become a joint force for good. The abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women are but two examples of great achievements.

The equality which LGBT+ people in the UK enjoy today exists because many years ago pioneers found the courage to debate and discuss fears and experiences with opponents who did not understand. Eventually hope triumphed, and **everyone** benefited. We were once where you are now and we stand ready to support you as you draw a roadmap to a confident, inclusive Jamaica.

Have faith, hold your conviction and good will prevail. ✚

## AFTERWORD

### David Walker, Bishop of Manchester

Look down as you turn between the restaurants and shops of Deansgate to enter Church House, the offices of the Bishop and Diocese of Manchester, and you will see one of the paving stones is rainbow coloured. Look up, and to the side of the door a brown plaque commemorates the foundation of the movement that led to the 1967 decriminalisation of sex between men over the age of 21. It was my privilege to take part in the ceremonies to dedicate this memorial in 2014, on the 50th

anniversary of the forming of a local committee for the Northwest of England. This group rapidly grew into the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, which led the battle to achieve decriminalisation.

The move for decriminalisation was widely supported by the Church of England bishops and archbishops of the day, but none more so than Ted Wickham, then Bishop of Middleton, one of the suffragan bishop posts within the Diocese of Manchester. Ted was

an extraordinary pioneer for the mission of the church in reaching men in the reality of their lives. In 1950s Sheffield, struck by the limited engagement of the church with the working class men who had returned from the trenches of the Second World War, he founded the Industrial Mission movement, which provided chaplaincy in factories, mines and other workplaces. His chaplains, of whom after his time I was one, soon discovered the link between pastoral care and the demands of social justice.

Wickham's personal contribution, and the wider role of bishops in the House of Lords and beyond, to supporting decriminalisation, owed much to the Church of England's particular role as the Established Church. In the 1940s, Archbishop William Temple, who served successively as Bishop of Manchester and Archbishop of York before being appointed to Canterbury, coined the phrase that the church is 'the only organisation that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.' Temple argued that were social justice and the saving of souls ever to be in conflict then the latter must prevail, but, he went on to say, such conflict should never in practice arise. The work of saving souls and of improving the conditions of human life are part and parcel

of the same mission. Temple's collaboration with the Labour politician Beveridge led directly to the formation of the post-war welfare state with universal free healthcare and state support for the sick and unemployed.

Consistent with Temple's phrase, every priest licenced or instituted to a parish or benefice in the Church of England shares with their bishop in the 'cure of souls' of all those who reside in or belong to their parishes. Clergy have a responsibility not merely for the nurturing and well-being of those who come to church, or who profess themselves to be Christians, but for all who live in their patch. In the campaign for decriminalisation this meant that church people could make a distinction between whether homosexual acts were consistent with Christian teaching and whether they should be illegal. Bishops in the 1960s may have held widely differing views as to whether homosexual activity was or was not always a sin, but many of them could agree that this was no longer a matter for the criminal law to regulate. The well-being of society would be served better by releasing gay men from the fear of prosecution. The Church of England might continue, and indeed it does to this day, to struggle with questions of morality in relation to same-sex relationships, but from



henceforth it was to be a matter for the Church and its teaching, not for the criminal courts. Following the decriminalisation of male homosexual acts in 1967 (sex between adult women had never been illegal in England), later legislation saw the age of consent for such acts brought down from 21 to 18 and then subsequently harmonised with the age of heterosexual consent at 16.

Formal recognition of same-sex relationships took place in 2005 with the advent of civil partnerships; this was followed in 2014 with the extension of civil marriage to same-sex couples. These most recent changes fall far beyond the scope of decriminalisation, and have taken place against a background of concern, particularly with regard to marriage, from religious leaders including some within the Church of England. Undoubtedly, decriminalisation paved the way for these later changes, and the formal support for same-sex relationships offered through partnership and marriage ceremonies has played a major role in liberalising attitudes both in the church and in wider society.

Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York have made public their opposition to the criminalisation of homosexuality, and have corresponded in

that regard with the leaders of those Anglican Communion provinces who continue to oppose decriminalisation or who support secular campaigns to strengthen criminal penalties. The small number of English Anglicans who continue to support the retention or strengthening of criminal sanctions in other parts of the world may be motivated more by the concern that decriminalisation is the first step along a road towards acceptance and inclusion, in church as well as elsewhere, rather than a belief that civil society should use the system of criminal law to uphold distinctive elements of Christian moral teaching.

Fifty years on from when Bishop Wickham's committee led to decriminalisation, many churches, especially in large cities such as Manchester, take an inclusive attitude towards same-sex relationships. LGBT Christians, lay and ordained, play important roles in the mission and ministry of their churches. After the retirement of my predecessor in 2013, it was appropriate that the diocese in which the decriminalisation campaign had begun should be the first to produce and make public a person specification requiring the next appointee to be someone who would have the confidence of, among others, the LGBT communities of the diocese. †

## AFTERWORD

# Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS

The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) welcomes this ground breaking international conference on the role of the church (past, present and future) in the decriminalisation of private, consensual same-gender intimacy.

This conference comes at a time when the phased implementation of the PANCAP Justice for All (JFA) Programme initiated in 2013 has been and continues to be the subject of discussion among parliamentarians, faith leaders, youth and civil society. The JFA Roadmap is aligned to 2016 United Nations High-Level Meeting Political Declaration: fast tracking the end of AIDS by 2030 provides the frame of reference for the region's response to stigma and discrimination. The JFA Roadmap includes among its 15 actionable recommendations sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality with special attention to reducing violence against women and girls with the support of men and boys, and the reduction and abolition of punitive laws that contribute to the persistence of HIV-associated

stigma and discrimination toward persons living with HIV, men who have sex with men, and sex workers.

The PANCAP Regional Consultation of Religious Leaders, convened in Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, on February 1–2, 2017, brought together 55 religious leaders from 14 Caribbean countries representing Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i and Voodoo religions. It was coordinated by the Planning Committee of Religious Leaders and PANCAP and focused on the theme *Religious Leaders' Contribution to the End of AIDS by 2030*. Among the 10 recommendations that emanated from the consultation was the directive to faith leaders to explore the JFA Roadmap's short- and medium-term actionable recommendations. The main focus was to enable religious groups and organisations to effectively address the gaps in prevention and treatment interventions and continue constructive dialogue on 'how to proceed with those elements yet to be resolved'. Among those elements yet to be resolved is the abolition of punitive laws that criminalise private, consensual

same-gender intimacy. The establishment of national faith leaders' networks in eight countries that so far have held follow-up consultations to the regional forum is an indication of the general commitment of faith leaders to contribute to the end of AIDS.

In his keynote address to the Regional Consultation of Faith Leaders, Professor Clive Landis of The University of the West Indies contended that the scientific developments have led to the conclusion that antiretroviral therapy (ART) delivers a life-saving benefit to persons living with HIV by abolishing end-stage AIDS. But the power of ART extends to a public prevention benefit as well. 'Treatment as Prevention' is the scientific breakthrough of the decade showing that persons living with HIV who achieve viral suppression on ART are non-infectious. Hence, an important avenue to ending AIDS is removing societal barriers that stand between persons living with HIV and effective ART treatment. Everyone, including the faith community, therefore has a rational self-interest in eliminating stigma and discrimination in order to create a supportive environment where people feel secure enough to know their status, to access ART medication and to achieve viral suppression. These attitudes will

have the effect of lowering HIV viral load in the population and hence limit HIV transmission in society.

This conference provides a unique opportunity to bring together church leadership to engage in respectful dialogue on anti-sodomy laws across the Commonwealth in the context of England's repeal of these laws 50 years ago. We are aware that while there is common agreement on church doctrine, there are varied positions on repealing or retaining the sodomy laws. I therefore urge participants to use the conference to engage in constructive and practical discussions on how the church as a collective can sustain the dialogue required for resolving this issue. †

# SPEAKERS

## **Bion Bliss**

Bion N. Bliss joined the US Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 2009. Prior to coming to Kingston to serve as Political Officer in 2015, Bion was the Political and Economics Chief at the US Consulate in Guadalajara. Before that, Bion served in New Delhi from 2010–2012, where he coordinated the US-India Strategic Dialogue, worked on issues such as refugee protection and trafficking in persons, and served in the non-immigrant visa and American citizens services units. He served as Peace Corps Volunteer in South Africa from 2004 to 2006, where he worked with local NGOs to build their capacity to provide healthcare services, particularly HIV testing and counselling. He hails from Bethesda, Maryland. Bion received a BA in Political Science from Davidson College and a Master in Public Administration from the University of Washington in Seattle.

## **Terry Brown**

Bishop Terry Brown, a Canadian, is the retired Bishop of Malaita in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Currently he is Bishop-Rector of Church of the Ascension in Hamilton, Ontario, and Adjunct Lecturer in Theology of Mission at Trinity College in Toronto. Originally from the US, he has a doctorate in church history from Trinity College and worked for 11 years as Asia-Pacific Mission Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Canada, based in Toronto and travelling extensively around the Asia-Pacific region, before returning to Solomon Islands as bishop. He is the editor of *Other Voices, Other Worlds: The Global Church Speaks Out on Homosexuality* (2006), a collection of 24 essays from around the Anglican Communion reflecting positively on non-binary sexuality. He continues to research, write, and teach in areas of Pacific and Canadian church history, church and society, mission and sexuality.

## **Cynthia Ci**

Cynthia Ci is a film graduate from London who believes nothing is better than serving the Lord. She first came across House of Rainbow Fellowship in 2013 while looking for a wholly accepting Christian ministry. A few years after graduation, Cynthia set out to make her beliefs a reality. Having felt out of place for many years within other ministries, she felt House Of Rainbow to be a breathe of life and a calling from God to serve a community aligned with many thoughts. House of Rainbow, where

Cynthia serves on the board of directors, is a ministry that is totally dedicated to bringing hearts to God. Outside of the ministry, Cynthia lives a simple life, playing a lot of PlayStation 4 and assisting her friends and family. Her community passion includes helping the homeless projects in London. She enjoys photography, filming, and dance clubs.

### **Johnathan Cooper**

Jonathan Cooper is a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, London, and an internationally recognised human rights specialist. Jonathan has been involved in a number of important LGBT+ human rights cases. These include the UK's gays in the Armed Forces case, which established the right to serve for LGBT people before the European Court of Human Rights, as well as cases establishing equal treatment rights for trans people across the EU. Jonathan has written extensively on LGBT+ rights, and he was one of the drafters of the UK Declaration of Rights of People Living With HIV/ AIDS. More recently, Jonathan has assisted LGBT+ people in countries which criminalise homosexuality to bring legal challenges. He has been involved in cases in Belize, Kenya, Uganda, Jamaica, and Indonesia, among others. Besides bringing cases to European courts, Jonathan has petitioned the UN and the Inter-American system. He has also worked within the African human rights framework. In 2007, Jonathan was awarded an OBE from the British Queen for services to human rights. He tweets about LGBT+ human rights (amongst other things) at @jonathancoop.

### **Basil Coward**

Basil Coward has served in the congregational ministry for 25 years. He is a registered psychotherapist in Ontario, a faculty member and counsellor at George Brown College, and a writer. His work is integrated into one practice of accompanying others on the journeys in life. He holds Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. Basil is Queer and deeply rooted in stories of gospel, a Bajan/Torontonian, and father of two young adult children. Basil expresses gratitude to Victoria Square United Church and George Brown College for the gift of a Sabbatical year that afforded renewal and time to edit two manuscripts: 1) *Broken, Weird & Lovely on the Camino*, a critical reflection of his experience walking 786 kilometres on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, and 2) *20 Ounces of Salvation*, a manuscript of poetry. Basil currently holds a Louisville Institute 2017 Study Grant for the project 'Wouldn't It Be Nice to Take My Whole Body to Church?: The Embodied Struggles for Spiritual Wholeness of Black LGBTQ+ Folks in Toronto'.

## **Colin Coward**

Colin Coward describes himself as a contemplative activist. After 17 years of ministry as a Church of England priest in London, in 1995, he founded Changing Attitude, campaigning for equality in ministry and relationships for LGBTI people in the Church of England. The Archbishop of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndugane, invited Colin to address the subsection dealing with human sexuality at the Lambeth Conference in 1998.

From this experience, Changing Attitude extended its campaign to the worldwide Anglican Communion. A prayer life rooted in contemplative spirituality underpins Colin's strategic and campaigning zeal. Colin's faith is rooted in his experience of God as the energy of unconditional, infinite, and intimate love incarnated in Jesus the Christ, and infusing all creation. Colin believes the 'face' of Christianity is being transformed by the life sciences, globalisation, climate change, and evolution, with conflicts over human sexuality acting as a surrogate for more profound emergence of faith worldwide. In 2014, the Queen awarded Colin an MBE for services towards equality, recognising the work of Changing Attitude in the church.

## **Francis DeBernardo**

Since 1996, Francis DeBernardo has served as Executive Director of New Ways Ministry. He has conducted programs on LGBT issues and Catholicism in religious and secular settings throughout the United States, Latin America, and Europe. He has published articles in *Commonweal Magazine*, *National Catholic Reporter*, and *The American Catholic*, and he is the author of *Marriage Equality: A Positive Catholic Approach*. He is the editor and main contributor to Bondings 2.0, a daily blog of news and opinion covering Catholic LGBT topics. He was the keynote speaker at the conference on religion and LGBT issues at the first World Pride event in Rome, Italy, and was a featured speaker at an interfaith conference at World Pride 2012 in London, England. In October 2015, he was given press credentials by the Vatican to cover the Synod on the Family in Rome, where he raised the issue of criminalization laws with bishops and Vatican officials at the meeting.

## **Tom Decker**

Rev. Thomas Decker is an Anglican priest serving as a military chaplain currently assigned to the Canadian Forces Base in Kingston, Ontario. Before joining the Anglican Military Ordinariate, he served as a priest in the Diocese of Niagara. He has earned two graduate degrees (MA in

Philosophy and Master of Divinity) from the University of Vienna, Austria, and has engaged in doctoral-level studies at the University of Vienna, the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. He specializes in Old Testament Studies with a research focus on the Book of Job and the emergence of the Joban genre in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

### **Cheri DiNovo**

Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo has been the Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale–High Park in Ontario, Canada since 2007. Cheri is also an ordained United Church Minister who performed Canada's first legalized same-sex marriage. She is the winner of several major awards including the Lambda Literary Award in Washington, DC, for spirituality and religion for her book *Qu(e)rying Evangelism*. Cheri has been a 40+ year activist for LGBTQ issues. She was the only woman in Canada to sign the We Demand statement in 1971 — the first demand for gay rights on Parliament Hill. In 2012, Cheri succeeded in getting *Toby's Act* passed, an amendment to the Ontario Human Rights Code to include gender identity and gender expression — the first of its kind in North America. She made history again in 2015 by successfully passing Bill 77, which prohibits 'conversion therapy' for youth (therapy intended to prevent young people from identifying as LGBTQ).

### **Philippa Drew**

Philippa Drew is a Trustee of the Kaleidoscope Trust, a UK-based organisation that works to uphold the human rights of LGBT people internationally; a Trustee of the Human Dignity Trust (UK), which supports legal action to decriminalise homosexuality; and a Stonewall Ambassador. From 2013 to 2016, she was Chair of the Doughty Street Group of organisations concerned with the persecution of LGBT people outside the UK. She volunteers one day a week at Cancerkin, a cancer support charity at the Royal Free Hospital, London. In 2006, after a 34-year career in the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the Department for Culture Media and Sport, Philippa retired from the FCO as Director of Global Issues with the responsibility among other issues for human rights, climate change, sustainable development, the UN, and the Commonwealth.

### **Robert Griffin**

Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin is the Executive Minister at the Sunshine Cathedral



in Fort Lauderdale. Previously, he served Sunshine Cathedral as the Director of Religious Education and the Chief Programming Minister. In addition to his service at Sunshine Cathedral, over the years Robert has been a youth minister, a military chaplain's assistant, the founding pastor of a congregation, the HIV Field Programming Manager for Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), the Program Director for MCC's Office of Clergy Development, and the special assistant to MCC's Presiding Elder. Dr. Griffin has also served as the Vice-Chair of MCC's Governing Board and on the Episcopal Divinity School's Board of Trustees. Dr. Griffin was licenced a Baptist minister in 1984 and ordained in MCC in 1998. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Florida Center for Theological Studies.

### **Maria Carla Gullotta**

Maria Carla Gullotta was born in Rome, Italy. She has a Master's degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures from Sapienza University of Rome and a Master's degree in American Literature. She worked as a teacher, later becoming the leader of the teachers' trade union Confederazione dei Comitati di Base (Cobas). She came to Jamaica in 1988, and since 1990, she has been living in Portland, near San San, where she owns a guest house. She runs a reggae company together with an Italian partner, producing reggae shows and festivals in Europe. She has been the coordinator of Amnesty International for Jamaica for 11 years. She is the coordinator of the NGO Stand Up for Jamaica. Since March 2008, she has been the Italian Honorary Consul in Jamaica. She has four children.

### **Rosie Harper**

Rev. Canon Rosie Harper studied at Birmingham University, followed by post-graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music. She worked as a professional singer. Further studies included an MA in Philosophy and Religion from the University of London (Heythrop College). She is now Vicar of Great Missenden and Chaplain to the Bishop of Buckingham. She is chair of the Oxford Nandyal Education Foundation, an education charity in rural India. A member of General Synod, Rosie speaks and writes extensively about theology and culture, including presentations at the Hay Book festival and the Royal Festival Hall. She has broadcast and written for *The Guardian* as well as being a panel member for BBC's *Any Questions?* She is deeply committed to working for issues of justice and equality within and beyond the church.

### **Angeline Jackson**

Angeline Jackson is an LGBT human rights activist, HIV/AIDS educator, life coach, and co-founder and Executive Director of Quality of Citizenship Jamaica. From 2010 to 2015, she served as the associate director of Youth Guardian Services. She currently serves on the Global Advisory Board of Alturi. Angeline has presented at various events and panels including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force: Creating Change, and Founders Metropolitan Community Church. She has received the 2014 Saint Paul's Foundation for International Reconciliation Hero Award, the 2016 Troy Perry Medal of Pride, and the Florida Youth Pride Coalition's 2017 Icon Award for her work on LGBT rights in Jamaica. In 2015, former US President Barack Obama recognized Angeline as one of the island's remarkable young leaders. Angeline is a three- year Fellow of the Salzburg Global LGBT Forum.

### **Marvia Lawes**

Marvia Lawes is a public education professional and public theologian, and currently a radio talk show host at Love101FM. Previously, she was a pastor at Jamaica Baptist Union. She has a BA (Hons) in Theology from the University of West Indies, a Diploma in Ministry from the United Theological College of the West Indies, and a Master of Sacred Theology in Historical Theology from Christian Theological Seminary. She specializes in the media, counselling, life/relationship coaching, training and workshop presenting, research, project proposal writing, project planning and coordination, web publishing, and social media.

### **Marjorie Lewis**

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis is a minister of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. She has served as a pastor of churches in rural Jamaica, and as Christian Education and Youth Director for the former Disciples of Christ in Jamaica. Her ministry has included work in community development, notably as Project Officer for Oxfam UK, and as a consultant to the Jamaican government. Experienced in ecumenical relations, Rev. Lewis has worked with the Caribbean Conference of Churches and has served as the General Secretary of the Jamaica Council of Churches. Between 2010 and 2015, Rev. Lewis served as President of the United Theological College of the West Indies. Since January 2016, she has been based in Nova Scotia, Canada, conducting research on ministerial formation. She continues to serve in ecumenical contexts as

a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches' Working Group on Women's Ordination, The World Council of Churches' Reference Group on Human Sexuality and the WCC's Pan-African Women's Ecumenical Empowerment Network.

### **Phumzile Mabizela**

Rev. Phumzile Mabizela is the Executive Director of the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS (INERELA+). She is a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, UNESCO Eastern and Southern Africa Commitment High-Level Group, International Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy Reference Group, SANAC Legal and Human Rights Task Team, and Ujamaa Centre for Community Research and Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM), and a board member of Sonke Gender Justice. Before joining INERELA+, she was employed by Norwegian Church Aid as the Senior Policy Advisor on Gender Justice in Southern Africa. Prior to that, she was the Chief Executive Officer of the KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council, which is one of the Provincial Councils of Churches in South Africa. Rev. Mabizela is a passionate gender, HIV, and AIDS activist who is openly living with HIV.

### **Jide Macaulay**

A British-Nigerian born in London and a Christian minister since 1998, Jide Macaulay is the founding Pastor and CEO of House Of Rainbow CIC. He is an inspirational speaker, author, poet, pastor and preacher, and HIV activist. Jide holds a degree in law, a Master's degree in Theology, and a postgraduate certificate in Pastoral Theology. Jide focuses his ministry on inclusion and reconciliation of sexuality, spirituality, and human rights. He writes for various Christian and secular journals and has authored several books, including *Poetry Inspired* (2001) and *Pocket Devotional for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Christians* (2005). He has won several awards, including the 2003 and 2007 Man of the Year Black LGBT Community Award for his work helping people of faith. From 2007 to 2013, he was an executive board member and the co-chair of Pan Africa.

### **Keisha McKenzie**

Keisha E. McKenzie is a communications consultant and program director of Believe Out Loud, which empowers LGBTQIA Christians and allies to work for justice. Born to Jamaican parents in the UK, Keisha studied at Northern Caribbean University. She later completed graduate degrees in

technical communication and rhetoric, and founded McKenzie Consulting Group, a communication, strategy, and social good firm. Keisha has served on the board of Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, the peer support group for current and former LGBTQIA Seventh-day Adventists and allies. She participates in Adventist congregations in Maryland and New York, and appears in *Enough Room at the Table*, a film on faith, gender, and sexuality in theologically conservative traditions. Keisha now lives in Maryland and Harlem, New York City.

### **Ian McKnight**

For over two decades, Ian McKnight has been at the forefront of civil society's advocacy for the preservation of the human rights of vulnerablized communities such as LGBT, sex workers, people living with HIV, prisoners, youth-at-risk, people who use drugs, and people living with disabilities. He has done so primarily through organizations (some of which he co-founded) such as Jamaica AIDS Support for Life; the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All Sexuals and Gays; Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition; Sex Worker Coalition of Jamaica/Caribbean; and the Ashe Performing Arts Ensemble. McKnight attended the University of the West Indies where he attained a Bachelor's degree in Theology and a Master's degree in Communication for Social and Behaviour. McKnight also holds a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from Nova Southeastern University. He has been involved in interfaith dialogue and is committed to the creation of affirming spaces for vulnerablized communities. He is a board member of the Global Interfaith Network.

### **Matthias Mededues-Badohu**

Matthias Mededues-Badohu is the Anglican Bishop of Ho, Ghana, in the church of the province of West Africa, and the episcopal secretary of the province. His mission is to be an advocate of bringing people to walk together with their differences. He is a member of the Indaba project within the Anglican Communion worldwide.

### **Randall Miller**

Having worked for the past twenty-five years in a variety of sectors, including academic, philanthropic, religious, and social justice, Randall Miller is currently Director of the Global Religions Program at the Arcus Foundation, a US-based philanthropic institution dedicated to supporting LGBT Social Justice and Great Apes Conservation. Prior to joining Arcus, Randall led a six-year grant-making initiative at the Evelyn and Walter

Haas, Jr. Fund that invested US\$9 million in faith-based organizations committed to LGBT equality. This has been credited for helping to cement the pro-LGBT policy changes in the Episcopal Church (US) and the United Church of Christ, strengthening successful repeal efforts in the Evangelical Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches (US), and helping to make marriage equality a legal reality in the US. Randall's other professional engagements include a stint as executive director of the National Task Force on AIDs Prevention, as well as a five-year faculty appointment in Christian Ethics and Leadership at the Pacific School of Religion. Randall holds a PhD in ethics and social theory from the Graduate Theological Union.

### **Garth Minott**

Canon Garth Minott lectures in the field of Practical Theology at United Theological College of the West Indies, where he has served as Deputy President and Acting President. A graduate of the University of the West Indies and McGill University, Canon Minott is currently pursuing a PhD degree focusing on Christian ethics, social justice, and HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean. He is also a consultant to NCTVET on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in Curriculum, Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT). Canon Minott is a member of the Religious Groups Steering Committee of the Jamaica Council of Churches, and Chair of the Jamaica AIDS Support for Life. Recently appointed Canon of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Canon Minott received the CIBC Unsung Hero award for his work in the area of HIV and AIDS, and was acclaimed as a trailblazer in the field of social justice advocacy for people living with HIV.

### **Kevin Robertson**

Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson is Area Bishop of York-Scarborough at the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. Before being elected bishop in 2016, Bishop Robertson was the incumbent of Christ Church, Deer Park, and the Regional Dean of the Eglinton deanery. He previously served as the liturgical officer for the York-Scarborough area, incumbent of St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, and incumbent of St. Peter, Oshawa. Bishop Robertson has a Master of Divinity (Hons) from Trinity College at the University of Toronto and a BA (Hons) from Huron College at the University of Western Ontario. He was ordained deacon in 1997 and priest in 1998. Bishop Robertson and his partner Mohan have two children and live in Toronto.

## **Winnie Varghese**

Rev. Winnie Varghese is the Priest and Director of Justice and Reconciliation at Trinity Church Wall Street. She oversees the domestics grants program, direct service and outreach, and programming in areas of service and justice. Previously, Rev. Varghese was the rector of St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery. She has served as the Episcopal Chaplain at Columbia University (2003–2009) and as the curate at St. Alban's, Westwood, and Episcopal Chaplain to UCLA (1999–2003). She has a BA in Religious Studies from Southern Methodist University and a Master in Divinity from the Union Theological Seminary. As an intern in the Episcopal Service Corps (1994–1996), she worked with the Mental Health Association of Los Angeles as an outreach worker to people who were homeless and living with severe mental illness. She is a blogger for *The Huffington Post*, author of *Church Meets World*, editor of *What We Shall Become*, and author of numerous articles and chapters on social justice and the church.

## **Matthew Waites**

Dr. Matthew Waites is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Glasgow. His academic research focuses on international debates over human rights for LGBTI people. He is the co-editor of *Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the Commonwealth: Struggles for Decriminalisation and Change* and 'The Global Politics of LGBT Human Rights', a Special Issue of *Contemporary Politics*. He also co-edited issues of *The International Journal of Human Rights* in 2010 ('Sociology and Human Rights: Confrontations, evasions and new engagements') and 2012 ('New Directions in the Sociology of Human Rights'), and 'The Sociology of Human Rights', a Special Issue of *Sociology* in 2012. Peer-reviewed journal articles include 'LGBTI organisations navigating imperial contexts: The Kaleidoscope Trust, the Commonwealth and the need for a decolonizing, Intersectional intersectional politics' in *The Sociological Review* (2017).

## **Michael Ian Weeder**

Michael studied for the Anglican priesthood at St Paul's Seminary, Grahamstown, in the Eastern Cape. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1985 and served as the Secretary of the Black Clergy Association. In 1992, he was appointed to the staff of Archbishop Desmond Tutu as director of the Anglican Board of Social Responsibility (BSR). He has a BA (Hons) and an MA in History from the University of the Western Cape. Michael is a founding member of December 1st, a social movement formed to

work around the memory and legacy of slavery. As part of that project, he co-produced a movie, *Lydia Williams: A Fervent Simplicity*, an insight into slavery at the Cape. He is Dean of the Anglican Cathedral of St George the Martyr in Cape Town. He serves on the board of governors of St George's Grammar School in Mowbray. Michael is Archbishop Emeritus, Desmond Tutu's representative on the PEACE and Dialogue Platform, an international peacemaking initiative of Nobel Peace-prize laureates.

### **Damien Marcus Williams**

Damien is a Grenadian immigrant to Jamaica whose initial sojourn in Jamaica was to pursue studies in theology. His training in education, media, theology, and leadership prepared him for his work in the Christian ministry as well as his foray into the field of human rights advocacy. He has also garnered experience in project design, management, and evaluation. During his leisure time, this former teacher of English and literature and former radio talk show host enjoys blogging, for which he received a Jamaica Blog Award in the category of Best Lifestyle Blog. Damien is a multi-talented individual, gifted in the performing and creative arts and serves Ekklesia Bible Fellowship as a worship leader, soloist, social media coordinator, and preacher/bible teacher. Damien has a passion for marginalised people, to whom he believes he is specifically called and asserts that the Gospel is for ALL men.

### **Alan Wilson**

Rt. Rev. Dr. Alan Wilson holds a degree in Theology from the University Cambridge, where he was a history scholar, and a doctorate in historical theology and ecclesiology from the University of Oxford. He has worked as a parish priest in Reading and Berkshire, as well as in adult education at the University of Reading, and served as a prison chaplain at Reading Gaol. Since 2003, he has been area bishop of Buckingham in the Diocese of Oxford, and chair of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, which serves 285 state schools in the Thames Valley. He has been a notable voice among current serving English bishops in support of same-sex marriage and is the author of *More Perfect Union?: Understanding Same-Sex Marriage* (2014).

### **George Zachariah**

Dr. George Zachariah serves The United Theological College, Bangalore, India, as professor and chair of the Department of Theology and Ethics. He is a member of the Mar Thoma Church, a reformed church in India



with an Eastern liturgical tradition, which is in full communion with the Anglican Church. He is a member of the Task Force on Human Sexuality of the National Council of Churches in India, and is actively involved in the ecumenical campaigns to decriminalize homosexuality. He is the editor of *Disruptive Faith, Inclusive Communities: Church and Homophobia* (2016). †

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This conference was made possible by the generous support of

Anglican Military Ordinariate, Canada  
Anglicans for Decriminalization  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts  
Quality of Citizenship Jamaica  
Round Hill Hotel and Villas  
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# NOTES

