

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LIBERIA HONORS OUTSTANDING MEMBERS

The Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL) has honored several members of the church who have contributed outstandingly towards the mission and enhancement of the ECL. Speaking at the closing service of the 87th Diocesan Convention of the ECL held at the Epiphany Chapel on Cuttington University campus on Sunday, March 5, 2023, the Chairman of the awards committee, Bro. Seward Montgomery Cooper, Chancellor of the ECL, said recipients of the awards have put in any two of their time, talent and treasure in the work of the Episcopal Church of Liberia.

He said the awards bear the name of two faithful members of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, now departed. The awards include: The E. Bolling Robertson Award and the Eugene H. Cooper Award.

Those honored for the E. Bolling Robertson award were:

The Venerable Sie Sunday Freeman, - Archdeacon of the Southwestern Archdeaconry in appreciation for his assiduous service spanning over two years (2020 – 2022) as Vicar General of the Diocese during the sudden illness of Archbishop Jonathan B.B. Hart. Venerable Freeman diligently held the Diocese together during that critical period.

The Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dunor, - priest-in-charge of the Advent in Lofa Region. He planted the highest number of churches in Lofa County; extends his evangelism to the Guinea and Liberia borders; spreads the Gospel through education. He has established two elementary schools and three agriculture projects covering over 100 acres to support ministry work.

The Venerable Thomas H. Williams, - Archdeacon for the LOBONI Archdeaconry has expanded the work of the ECL in the area that covers Lofa, Bong, and Nimba counties. His commitment and leadership have brought many to Christ. He established the St. Stephen Extension High School in Pleebo, Maryland County; during his leadership St. Monica Episcopal Church was established in Ganta, Nimba County.

The Venerable Thomas Smith-Retired Priest- has for many years rendered service to the Diocese even beyond his retirement.

The Reverend Roberta Phillips-Retired Priest- served as Administrator during the episcopacy of Archbishop George D. Browne, as a priest-in-charge, and as principal of the BW Harris Episcopal School. She has left a mark on the minds of hundreds of parishioners and students.

The Reverend Benedict Sele Vani- Retired Priest- served God and the Diocese in several assignments, including in Gbarnga, Bong County, where he persuaded and baptized a young man as a Christian. That person is today the Episcopal Bishop of Liberia.

The Venerable Prince T. Wreh- Retired Priest-, recently retired from active clerical work, he labored extensively for the Diocese and serves at the Cuttington University School of Graduate & Professional Studies where he chairs the Department of Theology.

The Reverend Abeoseh M. Flemister- Retired Priest- is the first Liberian head of the Christian Education Department of the Episcopal Church of Liberia. She was an early ambassador promoting the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) not only in Liberia but elsewhere and has been involved in soliciting and creating scholarship opportunities for thousands of Liberian children.

The honorees for the Eugene Cooper Award this year goes to the following laypersons:

Sis. Anna Kawreh of St Thomas New Kru Town, at nearly 100 years of age, she is senior member of the ECL, served as junior warden, usher, ECW president, and advisor of the ECWL. She is a well-known prayer team leader.

Bro. George W. Wallace, Jr., St. Thomas, Camp Johnson Road(CJR), although in his eighties and having served in high Governmental positions, including in public service as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Liberia, he has never wavered in service to the ECL where he serves as a lay minister, a lay reader, and a member of the Cathedral Chapter

Bro. Clemenceau B. Urey- born into a Presbyterian family, his education in an Episcopal School led him to the Episcopal denomination. He has been a devoted servant evidenced by his many years of leadership as Chair of the ECL Pension Board, member of the vestry at St. Stephen; he has serviced as an acolyte and as a lay reader.

Sis. Patty McClain Peter, – St. Peter, Gbarnga, has for 10 years served as Bishop’s Committee Co-chair during which she had a rectory constructed; fenced the church and school; established 10 acres of land for oil palm production; chairs the school board; and for the past 5 years has given a monthly stipend to the priest-in-charge.

Sis. Hannah Abeodu Bowen Jones, St. Thomas CJR, has for years used her background in history to aid the ECL and with her late husband Bro. A.E. Nyema Jones, contributed immeasurably to the St. Thomas parish and the Diocese. Even now in her retirement, she has renovated a building at St. John Episcopal School and has provided an organ for her parish.

Sis Ida Jensen, St. Martin – Yekepa, Nimba County; She has been Co-chair of the Bishop’s committee for more than 20 years. As a lay reader, she kept the doors of the church opened; reopened St. Martin Episcopal School and reopened St. Martin Elementary School, which she upgraded to a junior high school and constructed additional 8 classrooms.

Bro. James B. Doeteh- All Saints Episcopal Church, Banna, Sinoe County; He is over 80 years old and has been a dedicated catechist in the Sinoe region.

Bro. Samuel H. Farr -Bishop Samuel David Ferguson Chapel, Webbo, River Gee; He is more than 86 years old and has served as lay reader for over 50 years. He kept the doors of the chapel opened when there was no priest assigned. He is a committed servant.

Bro. D. Elwood Dunn- is an authority on the history of Liberia and has written extensively on the history of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, which he has published in two volumes covering the Church in Liberia from 1836 to 2021.

Sis. Annie Martin- served for many years as executive secretary/assistant to Archbishop George D. Browne.

Sis. Amelia Ward- served for many years as Chair of the Planning & Development Board where she brought her experience as a planning expert at high levels, including as Liberia’s Planning Minister, to the benefit of the Church.

Bro. James E. Pierre-Trinity Cathedral- served committedly and sacrificially on a pro bono basis for 9 years as Chancellor of the ECL at critical periods

Sis. D. Sheba Brown- Trinity Cathedral-served for 15 years as Diocesan Treasurer and concurrently as Treasurer of Cuttington University, an institution owned by the ECL

Sis Elizabeth J. Nelson- St Thomas NKT, served as a Deputy Chancellor and Senior Warden at St. Thomas NKT where she sacrificed to modernize the edifice of the Church. She remains committed to the ECL.

Bro. Kenneth Y. Best- has for decades been an active lay reader and a stalwart member of both St. Stephen Episcopal Church 10th Street and at Christ Church Crozierville. Even as an octogenarian Bro. Best musters the energy to continue service and uses his media expertise to bring public awareness of the activities of this Diocese.

Sis, Jenie Gooding, Trinity Cathedral, served effectively as Secretary to Archbishop Jonathan B.B. Hart and continued in service until her retirement in 2023.

The E. Bolling Robertson Award memorializes the Rev. Fr. E. Bolling Robertson, an American missionary who came to Liberia in 1946 for missionary work. Fr. Robertson helped establish most of the churches in Grand Cape Mount and was Rector of St. John Irving Memorial Church in Robertsport as well as Principal of the famous St. John Episcopal High School. He also built an Episcopal Church in SKT, Bong County for practical training of theological students at Cuttington University. This Award goes to members of the Clergy in recognition of distinguished services in expanding or further developing the Diocese of Liberia.

The Eugene H. Cooper Award memorializes Brother Eugene H. Cooper who served with the highest distinction and with integrity for many years as Chair of the Board of Trustees of this Diocese. His impact as a layperson on the Christian community was widely felt such that at the time of his death over 50,000 members of the worldwide Young Men's Christian Association, of which he was vice president, signed and delivered by special envoy a letter of sympathy to his family and this Diocese. This Award is given to a layperson for outstanding service that substantially improved the mission of this Diocese spiritually, administratively or economically.

Signed:

**Communications and Media Services Department
Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL)**