



Faith, Health Collaboration and Leadership Development Program

St. Paul's University's SPILL & LDC

&

Emory University's IHP

CERTIFICATION CEREMONY REPORT



EMORY

Overview

St. Paul's University and Emory University have been collaborating in offering the Faith, Health Collaboration and Leadership Development Program. It is a one year program that started in October 2013 and ends in August 2014. Participants for the program were grassroots level community members who are involved in the care and treatment of HIV positive people. Following the successful attainment of major milestones of the program and the flow of the calendar of events, a graduation for the participants was organized. The ceremony was held on **25th July 2014** at **Bontana Hotel** from **10:30 am- 1:00 pm**.

In-attendance

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Zablon Bundi Mutongu | Director, SPILL & LDC; Program Co-Director |
| 2. Dr. Mimi Kiser | Director, IHP; Program Co-Director |
| 3. Vance Whitfield | Observer, Cardno |
| 4. Caroline Ikumu | Program Coordinator, SPU |
| 5. Grace Mugane | Program Administrator, SPU |
| 6. Sarah Neale | Intern, Emory University |
| 7. Participants (19) | |

Program

TIME	ACTIVITY
Tea	10:30 am
Opening prayer , welcome	11:00 am
Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Team representatives	
o Love & Care- Rose Wachira	11:10 am
o La-Flamingo-Alice Opiyo	11:15 am
o Unitary Action -Bishop King'ori	11:20 am
o Kingdom Culture -Joseph Ruko	11:25 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Program staff	11:30 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Caroline Ikumu (Program Coordinator)	11:40am
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mimi (Program Co-director)	11:50 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Bundi (Program Co-director)	12:00 pm
Awarding of certificates	12:10 pm
Vote of thanks (Grace)	12:30 pm
Closing remarks (Dr. Bundi)	12:35 pm
Closing prayer (Rev. Wandera)	12:45 pm
Lunch	12:50 pm

Remarks

The turn up was excellent with 100% attendance of participants who had been trained. A mood of happiness and celebration could be felt right from the arrival and even as the participants talked happily as they sipped their tea and munched an assortment of snacks.

The ceremony started off with a word of Prayer from Alice Kimani of Unitary Action team. Caroline Ikumu undertook the job of facilitation of the day's program with competence. Dr. Bundi welcomed everyone present and declared the ceremony officially open.

Each team was given a chance to give a few remarks through a representative:

- **Alice Opiyo (La-Flamingo):** mentioned that the journey had not been easy but they still made it. They had learnt a lot not only from facilitators but also from colleagues. She hoped that the work they had started would not end with the graduation



- **Bishop King'ori (Unitary Action):** he expressed gratefulness to SPU/Emory for the chance to be part of the program. He mentioned that they had been 'empowered to fight the enemy'-HIV which he described as a threat to the community that takes away valuable people. He also mentioned ignorance as a vice to be fought. His appeal was 'Don't forget us; we're your first children...keep us refreshed.'



- **Rev. Wandera (Love and Care):** He spoke on behalf of Rose who had not arrived by that time. He described the training as an eye opener that opened doors to world of HIV matters to him for the very first time. Knowledge of networking would come in handy in helping them continue with their activities. He also appreciated Caroline for the pressure he gave them, keeping them on toes and Maureen for helping them understand the heavy content as one would do with a child.





□ **Pastor Joseph Ruko (Kingdom Culture):** He was grateful for the opportunity that had greatly sharpened their skills. He mentioned resources, time and juggling between roles as some of the challenges they had had to deal with. On a positive note, he mentioned that they had seen transformation, collaboration and nurturing of common hope for the community. In conclusion, he said they had been commissioned.

Sarah and Vance also got a chance to say a few words to the graduands. The program Coordinator appreciated the participants for faithfully attending the workshops, evaluations and implementing the Community Action Learning. She urged them to maintain unity. Dr. Mimi was glad to be back and have the chance to attend the graduation. She worked hard to be a good steward of the resources her institution



received from PEPFAR/CDC. She asked the participants to view and feel themselves as part of the people who work at national level in caring for the community. Using her slogan 'I am who I am', she went around the room shaking the hands of all the participants as they said the words of the slogan to each other.



The crowning moment of awarding certificates finally came. Caroline called out the names and graduands shook hands and picked their certificates from Dr. Bundi and Dr. Mimi while also posing for a photo.





The vote of thanks was given by Grace. Afterwards Dr. Bundi stepped back on stage to deliver the closing remarks. He conveyed congratulations from SPU's Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor to the participants. He challenged the participants that they had been given the knowledge to employ in their work. He mentioned that this group, being the first to be trained in Kenya, would be used as a case study in the next phases of the program that would be done in Nairobi and Kisumu. Finally he called the meeting to a close.

There being no other business, the final prayer was led by Rev. Wandera.

A group photo was taken to capture the final moments together before breaking for lunch.



Compiled by

Grace Mugane