

# Executive Director Report

**February 2014**

The Dominican Development Group has undergone major changes in 2013. I replaced the retired Bob Stevens as Executive Director. The administrative office has been relocated from DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Parrish, Florida, to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Tampa, Florida. God has richly blessed our organization in transitioning to the next phase with a new Executive Director and new facilities that will allow the DDG continued growth. The mission and support programs in many of the companion dioceses have dwindled over the last few years and it is my goal to assist these groups in renewal so they can continue to support the many programs in the Dominican Episcopal Church.

**Website and Promotion.** Under the guidance of Julius Ariail, the DDG has a new website, Facebook page and Twitter site. These resources are bringing the programs closer to those who can support them. I introduced a new logo design (shown above) for use with all printed and electronic media.

**Financials.** Included in the handouts are spreadsheets designating the funds received and transferred, the operating cost vs. budget, and the 2014 budget with the included changes outlined at the midyear meeting in Omaha. In 2013 the DDG received and transferred some \$839,380 in support of the development and self-sustainability of the Dominican Episcopal Church. The DDG transferred \$1,000 for the Endowment, \$132,000 for the Bishop's Missionary Fund, \$156,716 for scholarships, and \$479,469 for the Individual Parish, Deanery and Diocesan Projects including the team support costs, plus other lesser transfers.

God is good and has blessed the DDG to be a channel for such generosity. Additionally multiple grants totaling over \$270,000 have been successfully submitted through the DDG. Most notable among them are the UTO and "New Church Start" which will support programs in Santa Fe and Hato Mayor. Bob Stevens has been directly involved in these grant applications and is providing valuable experience and expertise in the grant writing programs. The organization has continued to receive support for our operations primarily from the companion Dioceses, but also from individuals, churches, and as well as grants applied for annually.

Currently we have around \$240,000 in the bank of which \$140,000 is restricted for designated programs, leaving us with approximately \$100,000 for DDG operating. I hope to raise the reserves for the DDG enough to cover 2-3 years of operations. This will take several years, starting in 2014 with 5% built into the budget designated for operating reserve.

**Endowment.** The Endowment Committee has not lead any major capitol campaigns in 2013. At the 2013 meeting of the board of directors it was decided to concentrate our efforts on the transition. The board will appoint a new chair for the committee and look for new initiatives to build the endowment in 2014. With the changes in the support structure approved by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic will receive a \$1,000,000 payment in 2015. The current level of support received annually will be terminated at that time. In order to replace those resources, we will need to raise the endowment at least \$1,250,000 by the end of 2015. This gives us a goal and a timeframe to work with for our campaign.

**Newsletter.** *Compañeros Dominicanos* is our bilingual newsletter publication that is distributed by e-mail and print. Julius and Julia Ariail have taken over the editing and are doing a fine job. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to outline the many activities and programs of the DDG, the companion dioceses, deaneries and individual churches.

**The Auxiliary Services.** The Rt. Rev. William Skilton has continued to serve the many programs and ministries in the DR – to the benefit of all involved and we are all blessed. Through a broad base of friends who believed in and supported his calling, he covered his expenses as well some other needs related to his ministry.

In 2013 the Rt. Rev. Luís Fernando Ruíz continued serving as Assistant Bishop in the DR. The Presiding Bishop has challenged the bishops of TEC to support his ministry with the Dominican Episcopal Church. Contributions for his support have been made through the DDG. Bishop Ruiz is scheduled to complete his time in the DR at the end of February 2014.

**Looking to the future.** I hope to expand the number of groups coming to the Dominican Republic and strengthen the relationships between our brothers and sisters in the Dominican and the missionaries who assist in the many programs of the Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana. Additionally, I hope to join the companion dioceses and create multi-diocesan mission and support teams. In the first year as Executive Director we have had some major successes in this program. Dioceses in several states have mission and support programs in the Dominican Republic, including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maine and New York. I hope to dialog with these groups to evaluate their interest in the DDG and possible representation on the Board. We would likely need to expand the current cap on the number of Board members permitted in our by-laws.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Kunkle