

The Reverend Canon Stephen Fields

Stephen was born in Barbados. On completing his tertiary education at age 18, sponsored by the Diocese of Barbados, he was admitted to Codrington College in 1977 to test his vocation to the priesthood. Three years later, he graduated from that institution and the University of the West Indies with the Diploma in Theological Studies and the Bachelor of Arts (Honours, Theology).

For the next two years, he attended the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church of the USA in New York City and completed the Master of Sacred Theology degree (S.T.M.). While there, he was made a Deacon (1981). He returned to Barbados in 1982 (ordained priest in 1983) and spent the next 11 years serving the church at the parochial and diocesan levels. In 1993, he was invited to be the Associate Priest at the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto. From July 1996 to July 2011, he served as the Incumbent of The Church of Stephen, Downsview. He was appointed Incumbent of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, effective August 15, 2011.

At its beginning, 1994, and for the next five years, he was very involved in the No Longer Strangers. He was the founding coordinator of The Black Anglicans Coordinator Committee. One hall mark of this committee's work is the annual Diocesan Celebration of Our Black Heritage, the largest Anglican celebration to mark Black History Month in Canada.

He coordinated the Fifth Caribbean Anglican Consultation which was held in Toronto in 1999. This Consultation is a biennial conference that seeks to examine the ministry and ministry needs of the clergy and those of the congregants in the Caribbean and the Caribbean Diaspora.

He was the Chair of a Local Committee assisting with the planning for The 3rd International Conference on AfroAnglicanism in 2005. The first conference was held in Barbados in 1985 while the second was held in Capetown, South Africa in 1995 at the invitation of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Canon Stephen continues to serve the Diocese of Toronto as member of the Diocesan Council, the Executive Board and the Postulancy Committee.

In 1999, he was recognised for his Leadership in the Caribbean Anglican Community in North America at the Fifth Caribbean Anglican Consultation in Toronto. In 2003, he was the recipient of *The Caribbean Chorale of Toronto President's Award* and was appointed by the Archbishop of Toronto as an Honorary Canon of St. James' Cathedral.

He was featured in both editions of *Who's Who in Black Canada* which were published in 2002 and 2006 and the online edition, www.whoswhoinblackcanada.com/2010/12/25/the-reverend-canon-stephen-fields. In 2005 he received the prestigious *African Canadian Award for Excellence in Religion* given by *Pride News Magazine*. More recently, he was featured in *Some Barbadian Canadians: A Biographical Dictionary*.

His ministry is supported by his wife, Lucy, an educator, and their two sons, Marc and Luke.