

## Communiqué from Round-Table talks on Haiti

Churches in the Methodist tradition from Britain, the Caribbean and the Americas, Dominican Republic, Canada and the United States met together with representatives of the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) April 19-22 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to prepare a unified plan to respond to the crisis in Haiti.

In the Round Table, partner representatives worked with six priorities areas identified by the EMH. The church's priorities include: Education, Reconstruction, Health, Development, Evangelism and Christian Education. A report from the EMH women revealed particular concerns in several of the areas related to the impact of the crisis on women and children.

The partners heard more detailed short-term and long-term plans in each of the areas of concern and explored their individual and collective capacities to respond to needs in each category.

This Round Table continued an effort that began on the morning of January 12 when some of the same partners gathered in Port-au-Prince to begin a plan for development work in Haiti. The gathering was interrupted by the earthquake that hit that same evening. An expanded agenda and increased participation for the Round Table addressed revised priorities in response to the earthquake.

Participants also honored the work of United Methodist Church leaders Sam Dixon and Clinton Rabb, and the Haitian agronomist Fritz Boutin, who were instrumental in the original meeting and lost their lives in the ensuing earthquake.

All gathered in Santo Domingo this week expressed appreciation for the ministry of hospitality of the Dominican Evangelical Church (IED) in hosting the Round Table, and its commitment to supporting the reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

Participating organizations included:

- Methodist Church of Haiti
- Dominican Evangelical Church
- General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church (including the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Women's Division, Mission and Evangelism, and Mission Volunteers)
- The Methodist Church of Great Britain
- Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
- The United Church of Canada
- Church World Service