

Good day, Honorable President, Senators of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, distinguished guests, clergy, and members of the community.

My name is Colleen Liburd Hendersen, and I am honored to appear before you today in support of the commemoration of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Virgin Islands.

St. Luke AME Church in Grove Place is a significant historic site, rooted in our social, religious and labor history.

Here are some of the community involvement of our pastors:

Pastor Jermaine Mulley: Known as the HOOD Pastor, was heavily involved with the youth in basketball games and other community events.

Pastor Carlos Perkins: We started a chicken coop which led to the sale of farm raised chickens and eggs; along with a Backyard garden; Annual Back to School Fun Day which included school supply giveaways

Pastor Phillip Walcott: Served on the Board of My Brothers Table; Part of Economic Development in the community

Rev. Louis AC Davis: Senior Citizen Service on St. Croix; honored by the Pan African Society for Community Service; Through the Grove Place Weed and Seed, he established an after-school program for the students at Eulalie Rivera School; involved in Liberty Day or as we know it, "Bull and Bread".

Rev. Vincent HA Gordon- Held tutorial classes for students who dropped out of school to pass their GED. They aided these individuals to attend AME colleges. He organized girls and boy scouts and a 4 H club. Instrumental in bringing the Caribbean Community School alive and assisted to get the school accredited with Dept of Education.

Rev. Peter J Stephens- A nursery was established in the parsonage for the infants and preschoolers in the church and in the community.

We also recognize the contributions of faithful leaders and the dedicated members of St. Luke AME Church, whose service has helped strengthen the spiritual and social fabric of our Virgin Islands community. Their commitment to ministry, education, outreach, and advocacy has touched countless lives and ensured that the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to thrive throughout our Territory. To name a few,

Members (Past/Present)

Our current ministers are Rev. Florence Petersen, Rev. Laurene Robles and Rev. Michelle Tardif.

Retired Educators/Principals: Doris Brodhurst, Viola Banks Mitchell, Patricia Williams, Yvonne Westerman, Rev. Laurene Robles, Daphne Williams

Current Educators/Principals: Hazel Boissierre, Lydia Davis

Civil Workers: Eleanor Acory, Sarah James, Louise Clarke

Senatorial Candidate: Ophelia Nemmy Jackson

Business Owners: Carlton Williams

First Responder: Mellissa Rogers

Local Farmers and many other individuals who have been instrumental in the community.

As I complete this testimony, I would like to share that our young adults have a Caribbean Christian Podcast named "**The Wlkwy Podcast**". It can be found on YouTube: [the.wlkwy340](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwLkwy340); hosted by Shevanna Jones, Amanda Boissiere and Javan Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Liburd