

# PROPOSAL FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CST INSTITUTE

## Background

Ministry in the Caribbean faces unique challenges which come as a result of its geography. Diverse cultures encompassing 33 political entities, including 13 sovereign states, represent 44 million people spread across 93,000 square miles. The diversity of languages alone creates unique challenges for ministerial training and support, on top of the isolationism that comes as a natural result of the more than 700 islands that comprise the region.

The post-COVID world has created new opportunities to meet these challenges through the increasing acceptance of Zoom, video, and podcast media forms. These technologies can be employed to bolster training opportunities, as well as to foster greater community across the region.

The Caribbean School of Theology has been a key leader in Pentecostal training across the region. CST offers accredited degree programs across much of the English-speaking segments of the region. One of the ways that seminaries around the world have served the church is through associated institutes and centers that increase the reach of the school beyond the classroom. **Under the banner of CST, this proposal seeks to address the need for increased ministerial training, as well as foster community throughout the region by the formation of an auxiliary institute.**

## Proposed Name

CST Institute

- The strength of this name is that it makes explicit the connection with the Caribbean School of Theology. By doing so, the initiatives outlined below help to promote the school and increase its reach across the Caribbean. Additionally, it follows a naming convention that is represented by other organizations such as the Fuller Youth Institute and the Gordon-Conwell Institute.

## Proposed Slogan

“Empowering and connecting the Caribbean church”

## Values

- **Discipleship** – because becoming more like Jesus requires learning more about Jesus
- **Community** – because the church is stronger and healthier when we are connected
- **Humility** – because we want everything we do to reflect God’s deep love for the world, not our own pride

## Key Initiatives

The four key initiatives of the CST Institute will be approached in three stages:

- Video Training (stage one)
- Podcast (stage one)
- Sponsored Events (stage two)
- Developing Resources (stage three)

### ***Video Training***

The CST Institute will produce a series of videos on each of the 16 Fundamentals. Ideally, these videos will be taught by national pastors and leaders, representing the six language blocs of the Caribbean: French, Dutch, Spanish, Papiamentu, Haitian Creole, and English.

These videos will serve as a credentialing aid for the Caribbean. The videos will be hosted on YouTube and will be accessible via links on the CST Institute website.

Once the videos have been produced, the CST Institute will work with national leaders to create assessments based on the content covered.

In order to produce the videos, the CST Institute will utilize a mobile video production studio. Representatives of the Institute will travel throughout the

countries of the Caribbean, setting up a studio in churches where presenters can be filmed.

Once the initial goal of producing videos on the 16 Fundamentals has been met, other videos can be produced on various practical and theological topics.

### ***Podcast***

The CST Institute will produce a biweekly podcast. This podcast will have two main segments: biblical teaching and long-form interviews.

The biblical training portion of the podcast will consist of a conversation between two LAC personnel (Tim Southerland and Justin Evans). The format of the training will essentially be an oral commentary on the Bible. The hosts will walk through one book of the Bible at a time, discussing background issues of historical or cultural significance, theological consequence, and ministerial application. The goal would be to produce a resource that will be eminently useful for pastors in the Caribbean as they minister to their congregations.

The interview portion of the podcast will be focused on in-depth conversations with key national leaders throughout the Caribbean. The purpose here is to increase their exposure across the Caribbean, as well as to promote a sense of community across the islands (and nations). These interviews will be supplemented with discussions with other scholars and practitioners, where it is felt that they would add value to the community of podcast listeners.

### ***Sponsored Events***

In stage two, the CST Institute will also look to sponsor events such as seminars, lectures and conferences. These events can be offered both in-person or through online media platforms. The goal of these events is to provide training on key issues facing the church in the Caribbean. These events could be either practically-oriented or theoretically-oriented. Possible topics could include developing a worship team, planting a new church, or starting a youth ministry.

Whenever possible, these events will be a collaborative effort between CST Institute and other similar organizations.

### ***Developing Resources***

The third stage will build on the foundation established by the prior initiatives. As competency grows among leaders across the Caribbean, and with that a stronger community, the CST Institute will be in a position to begin developing resources targeted on contextual ministry.

These resources could take the form of publications (academic or popular-level) such as articles or books. They could also be a series of training videos focused on particular issues faced by churches in the Caribbean. Once again, ideally these resources will be developed in close collaboration with national leaders.

### **Branding and Promotion**

The branding of the CST Institute will be developed with the help of Adam Weatherly (AGWM Europe). Once key elements of the branding have been developed, the CST Institute will be accessible on the main CST website, where videos, the podcast, and other useful resources or links will be available. Additionally, the Institute will be promoted through vital personal relationships and collaboration with national leaders.