

Update on the Restoration of The St. George's Cathedral, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

23rd March, 2016

Atlantic Heritage and consulting engineer and architect Stephen Kelley have been with us this past week undertaking analysis of the actual state of the structural components of our beautiful and historic cathedral building.

Atlantic Heritage, who we know as Ed and Alex, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with the primary goal of promoting architectural conservation projects of exceptional quality for important historic buildings in the Americas, with an emphasis on assisting work in the Caribbean. It aids projects through organizational, planning, technical, and other assistance. Relationships with preservation agencies, architects and material conservation practitioners throughout the world allow the organization to foster and enable high standards of project design and implementation with logistic efficiency. Atlantic Heritage's board of directors is composed of individuals with international backgrounds and experience who are concerned for the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes in the western hemisphere. Atlantic Heritage's aim is to provide assistance to architectural conservation efforts on a hemispheric and region-wide relationship basis through the establishment of strategically-located, scientifically-based model conservation projects focused on significant buildings in selected sites.

Edward Barnes has his training in History and Architectural History from the University of Virginia. He has been documenting historic structures for the past seven years in Jamaica, St. Eustatius (Netherlands Antilles), other Caribbean nations, and the US Southeast. He is highly experienced in "reading" the chronology of and changes to historic buildings through on-site analysis of their material, archival research of documentary primary source material, and in measured survey of historic structures.

J. Alex. Mebane Reinburg has a BA in Art History from the University of the South at Sewanee, and an MA in Architectural History from the Courtauld Institute at the University of London. For the past twenty years he has worked in architectural conservation efforts on regional, national, and international levels. A former manager of financial and project partnerships worldwide for the Robert Wilson Challenge Grant program at the World Monuments Fund, he formed Atlantic Heritage in 2008 with the assistance of ICOMOS. He has been instrumentally involved in planning, fundraising, and conservation efforts for some of the hemisphere's and the world's most extraordinary historic buildings.

Stephen Kelley, preservation engineer and architect, has thirty-five years of experience working on the conservation and restoration of over 400 important historic buildings, like our cathedral, throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and North America, in a wide range of materials and systems. Stephen teaches preservation engineering and structural analysis at Columbia University in New York and has been awarded numerous honors by governments, trade guilds, non-governmental organizations, and private foundations for excellence in the restoration, preservation, and conservation

of historic structures. He is a designated Tangible Heritage Expert for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), a specialized agency of the United Nations. He currently serves as the vice president of the Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage for the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the consulting party to the UN on matters of building conservation worldwide.

Ed and Alex, and Stephen, wish to express their thanks to the entire cathedral parish community for their assistance in making this week of analysis run smoothly and efficiently. Much information has been gathered and is being carefully examined and analyzed in order to lay the foundations with Deirdre Millington-Myers, the National Trust of St Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Diocese of the Windward Islands for a master conservation plan for our cathedral, which they remind us is a national treasure and a jewel in the crown of architectural heritage worldwide, worthy of the best and most careful treatment possible. They are working with us to enable exactly that, and its presentation to Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ in a thoroughly conserved and rejuvenated state in time for the two-hundredth anniversary of its consecration.

This work requires care, wisdom, prudence, careful planning, continued detailed inspection, and dedication. Periodic updates will be provided to the congregation via the leaflet and via the print and electronic media as the need arises.

The cathedral parish acknowledges with much appreciation, Patrick Ramgolam, Kenyatta Alleyne, Joan Millington, Rudy Electrical Services Ltd., Sea Operations Ltd., and Wilkie Laidlow and his team for their support and assistance during this period of investigation.

