

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHURCH PENSION FUND STAFF VISITS LIBERIA
IN SUPPORT OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LIBERIA'S PENSION PLAN**

For the second time since the Church Pension Fund (CPF) took on the administration of a pension plan for the clergy and lay employees of the Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL) in 2005, CPF staff traveled to Liberia this past January for five days of meetings and celebrations.

The Rev. Canon Patricia Collier, Executive Vice President and Chief Ecclesiastical Officer, headed the delegation. Joined by Michelle Langone, Vice President, Pension Policy and Analysis; Nelida Rivera, Team Leader for International Plans; and the Rev. Canon Bruce Woodcock, Manager of International Relations, the team participated in a clergy conference held at Cuttington College to provide updated information about ECL's pension plan.

CPF staff confirmed the solid financial status of the ECL pension plan, brought greetings from the CPF Board of Trustees, and announced the new provision of life insurance for all active and retired ECL pension plan participants.

In addition, staff members attended the dedication of new faculty housing at the Bromley School for Girls outside Monrovia, made possible by grants from the Diocese of Virginia and the United Thank Offering, and the Rev. Canon Collier preached at ECL's cathedral, commenting that *"it was a highpoint of our trip, and a great privilege to be part of such a joyous celebration."*

"To be present with our plan participants, getting to know them and their country, and understanding some of the physical and cultural realities of Liberia will help us serve them more effectively," she continued. "We were truly touched by the warm welcome we received and by the dedication and faithfulness of the clergy and people of the Episcopal Church of Liberia."

The Episcopal Church of Liberia was originally established in 1837. Until the 1980s, ECL clergy had participated in CPF's Clergy Pension Plan, but that participation ceased when ECL became autonomous from the Episcopal Church. Early in the current decade, ECL's pension vendor left that line of business, at which point ECL and CPF began conversations with the Presiding Bishop's staff that led to the current arrangement.

Said the Rev. Canon Bruce Woodcock, *"We are pleased to support the relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church of Liberia, and delighted that it continues to flourish."*