

In September 2019, the view from my window of my dorm room, cascaded unto the University Chapel, on the campus at University of the West Indies Mona. I can still remember the words that I heard, “Well you have no excuse now, if you can see it, you can walk to it.”

Reverend Canon Garth Minott, who leads the UWI Chapel, first gave me insight to the sacraments of the Anglican Faith. This was through an introduction to The Book of Common Prayer, which in part says, “The sacraments are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.” Rev. advised that I should receive the sacraments by faith in Christ, with repentance and thanksgiving.

“Who, Me?..... Obey? Change?”

I had already gone through most of my childhood with a religion telling me what to do. Now in my adult life, why would I submit to another group controlling me? I had so many questions. Faithfully, I attended my classes, inquiring and seeking from Father Minott to explain what I had grown up believing. I was well on my way to being baptised.

More Changes with Covid-19 and Fellowship

The year 2020, was the year that changed all our lives. I left my second home (Jamaica) and caught the last flight to Trinidad as the borders closed.. Fellowship at church had changed. We now sat further away from each other, and the Greeting of Peace was now a bow and a wave. We also could no longer hold hands to say The Lord’s Prayer during the Eucharist. My sudden return home seemed to draw my religious journey to a halt. However, God will not have it like that. I held on to my favourite bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope, and a future.” Led by the Holy Spirit, I met The Very Reverend Shelley-Ann Tenia, Father Thompson and Deacon David. All while, praying Psalm 40:1. “I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.” My journey seemed to be back on track. ALL ON ZOOM!

Father Thompson, taught us about confirmation. Confirmation is the laying on of the bishop’s hands with prayer for strengthening of the Holy Spirit, following a period of catechetical formation. In confirmation, the person makes a mature confession of faith, publicly renewing the vows and promises made at their Baptism. (Acts 8:14–17; 2 Timothy 1:6–7.) His wisdom along with Deacon David, guided us along our path.

Two years after beginning this walk. **I am now confirmed in my faith!** As I kneeled before The Bishop and felt his hand laying on my head, I remembered a few days earlier Father Thompson poured the holy water and baptised me in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Dean Tenia being led by the Holy Spirit to give me the names Deborah and Esther. I was overwhelmed with emotion. I thought about my journey to that moment and all of the members of the clergy who assisted me to getting to this point and all I could say was, Thank You Jesus!