

# UpFront

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee members voted in two new associate directors at the September meeting.

Cynthia Poole (pictured, left), associate superintendent for Education and director of Women's Ministries at the Allegheny East



Conference (AEC), will serve as associate director for early childhood education in the Columbia Union office of Education; and Ruth Nino (pictured, center, with Donovan Ross, Columbia Union vice president for Education), who currently serves as the assistant director for early childhood education at the Columbia Union, will fill the position of associate director for elementary education.

Poole previously served as principal of AEC's Pine Forge Academy (Pa.) and assistant principal of Potomac Conference's Sligo Adventist School (now Takoma Academy Preparatory School) in Takoma Park, Md., among other positions within the area public school system.

Nino is filling the associate director for elementary education opening left from Alison Jobson's resignation this summer.

## ACADEMY LEADERS GATHER FOR SALT

More than 150 student leaders and staff from many of Columbia Union's academies—including Blue Mountain Academy and Waldwick Adventist School (pictured)—gathered this fall at Potomac Conference's Camp Blue Ridge in Montebello, Va., for Columbia Union's Spiritual Academy Leadership Training.

"Our goal is not only leadership training, but also that it is always first and foremost centered in the spiritual training aspect," says Jacqueline Messenger, associate director for secondary education at the Columbia Union Conference and event coordinator. "We need to have our students be preparing to not only lead in their schools and lead in their college years, but then come back home to us and be leaders in their churches."

Students not only mingled with peers from other academies, but worked with others who hold the same respective leadership positions.

"This trip is just a reminder to me that the Adventist community [is made up of] people who really love God, and being in that environment with the same people of similar ages as me, I'm inspired by them to do better each day," said Gianna Tetelepta, sophomore class president at New Jersey Conference's Lake Nelson Adventist Academy.

—Shannon Kelly



## SUPPORT FOR ABUSE VICTIMS

### How Can I Help?

The church community can be a great support in cases of abuse, but pastors and lay leaders are often not professionally trained in this area. Michelle Perez, a domestic abuse prevention educator, shares some tips on what *not to say or do* when approached by an abused survivor. For ideas on best practices, read the feature on page 8.

#### What NOT TO SAY to Someone Experiencing Abuse

- "God's timing is perfect. Just trust His plan."
- "God won't give you more than you can handle."
- "Have you tried marriage counseling?"
- "Everything happens for a reason."
- "I can't imagine him/her ever being abusive!"
- "Why did you stay for so long?"

#### What NOT TO DO When Someone Admits Abuse

- Do not act as a mental health counselor.
- Do not try to intervene between the couple.
- Do not try to convince the survivor to leave or stay.
- Do not turn your home into a shelter.
- Do not put yourself in danger.