



# UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
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THE UNITED CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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**OUR VISION:** *"Touching  
lives, Nurturing Disciples,  
Seeking Transformation  
through Christ."*

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## Special points of interest:



**Sunday, May 22, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands created history by becoming the only Christian denomination in Jamaica to launch a Child Protection Policy.**

# KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE - UCJCI CHILD PROTECTION POLICY LAUNCHED

**O**n Sunday, May 22, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands created history, with the launch of its Child Protection Policy. The Policy which clearly outlines the recommended approach of the Church and all its congregations for the protection of the children under their care, was launched during the Church's radio programme "United in Faith", which is broadcast on Radio Jamaica on Sunday mornings.

The Policy was declared officially launched by UCJCI Moderator, the Rt. Rev. L Christopher Mason. Of significance is the fact that the launch took place during Child Month.

Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler, who has been tasked to detail the recommended procedures of the policy in an interview during the programme, made the point that the UCJCI has for some time been pursuing strategies aimed at protecting the child, and enhancing the optimum development of our children.



Among these strategies previously pursued, said Rev. Fowler, included the "5-Star Children Friendly Church," which has been in place for some years now.

## "Keeping Children Safe is an important way of showing the love of Christ"

The UCJCI takes the care and protection of children seriously and the Policy takes into account the need for directives surrounding general safety and care-giving of children as well as physical and interpersonal conduct within church compounds, congregations and church-

related activities - such as during church services, Sunday School, summer camps and church excursions.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Informed by increasing reports of cases of human trafficking and various forms of child physical, verbal and sexual exploitation in Jamaica, the policy is also designed to be in accordance with Jamaica's Child Care and Protection Act (2007) as well as national and regional policies on child protection.

It is also guided by the goals of Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan, which seeks to "secure sustained and broad-based improvement in the quality of life of Jamaicans, and to transform Jamaica into a country of choice, to live, work, raise families and do business" (PIOJ, 2005).

The Child Protection Policy provides a core set of ground rules for operation in the UCJCI and its congregations.

## EVENTS

### **“NEWS OUT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL”**

**A Welcome Social was held on May 21, 2016 for Rev. Alice Blair and Lay Pastor Herbert Crawford at the East End United Church Hall.**

#### **In addition...**

**A Service of Introduction for the Rev. Alice Blair as the Minister of the East End Gun Bay Charge will be held on Sunday May 29, 2016.**

**The Service will be held at the East End United Church commencing at 4:00 pm.**

## MOVEMENTS

● **Rev. Icylyn Parkinson** accepted a call to serve the Mt. Hermon Charge effective July 1, 2016.

● **Rev. Trevor Hylton** resigned from the Boscobel/Immanuel Charge effective May 31, 2016



## PRAY FOR:

**T**he Capacity Development Training programme planned by the Council for World Mission (CWM), to take place in Cayman, September 29 – October 2, this year. Training will be done on conducting mission audit and developing strategic plans



**Pray for the successful execution of the plans for this workshop.**

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR 2016

**T**he Synod has identified three strategic areas to be pursued this year as we seek to resource the Renewal and Transformation Agenda.

#### **●Resources**

We have produced an **Action Plan Template for Spiritual Growth** which is being recommended for use in congregations and charges. This is a tool that congregations and charges can adapt or adjust relevant to their needs. It is available in both hard and soft copy from your Regional Office.

#### **●Leadership**

We continue to affirm that **leadership is key** to the successful implementation of the **Renewal & Transformation Agenda** and as such will continue to pursue initiatives to build relationships, accompany and build capacity to inspire our leadership to achieve their full potential.

#### **●Communication**

We are committed to exploring additional avenues to ensure improved communication of best practices and significant events and ensure cross communication among regions to celebrate, educate and inspire the wider church.

The UCJCI believes that **truly ‘renewed’ congregations** are energized and empowered for development and growth; have members committed to pursuing personal relationships with God through prayer, study and worship, presenting themselves as “*light of the world and salt of the earth*”, displaying high standards of personal and professional integrity and discipline in their ministry, as we seek to live out our vision:

**“Touching lives, nurturing disciples, seeking transformation through Christ”**

#### **THE TEMPLATE MAY BE USED IN YOUR CONGREGATION IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:**

- 1. Plan to take advantage of Capacity Building Workshops to enhance leadership that are offered in your Regional Council. You may also plan and execute your own workshops. Share in the expertise of neighbouring congregations if you do not have these talents within your membership.**
- 2. Discuss with your congregation the various ways you may use a variety of communication channels to reach the various audiences of your Church. What about a Facebook Page, or your own YouTube?**

**The possibilities are endless!!**