



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

THE UCJCI CHILD PROTECTION POLICY.

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

be submitted by candidates prior to recruitment to roles involving work with children. These processes are to be overseen by the Minister or his/her delegated authority.

legal requirements for the safety and protection of children and the United Church policy on child protection.

This includes requirements to report suspicions of all forms of abuse – including physical, verbal and sexual abuse, bullying and human trafficking. These training sessions are designed to share knowledge on risk management approaches in all applicable fora and will include procedures to reinforce the monitoring systems of the Synod of the United Church, in its quest to create child-friendly congregations.

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Last week we initiated a report on the UCJCI's Child Protection Policy, The report continues in this issue from point #5.

The recruitment process for persons working directly with children, through the work of the church, will be managed in observance of specific accountability processes.

These include the following activities:

- (i) **The collection of personal data on candidates** who have volunteered or expressed an interest in working with children within the United Church;
- (ii) **pre-recruitment background checks, a police clearance certificate;** and
- (iii) **references which are to**

6. **A probationary period** of three months will be instituted before the worker is confirmed. During this period feedback on performance will be gathered through consultation with various sources (including children and young people, leaders and the Ministerial team).

7. **The Board of Elders** shall review all shortlisted candidates supervising or working with children and youth, in both paid and voluntary forms, and will oversee the strategic and action plans of sub-ministries and activities involving children and youth.

8. **Training will be delivered to Elders and other leaders** - including Sunday school teachers, superintendents, workers and others involved in leadership with children to ensure there is clear understanding of the

9. **Keeping proper records of all children within each congregation** – including collecting health-related data on all children affiliated to United Church congregations – such as information relating to allergies, ailments and disorders (and unique behavioural characteristics) that may affect the individual child and/or other children.

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PRAY FOR:

The families of:

●Rev. Dr. Adlyn White, Rev. Standford Webley and Rev. Winston Barrett, who have passed.

●Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler, who is hospitalized after surgery.

Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason, whose brother Raphael will have surgery this week.

CELEBRATIONS



70:

Rev. Roy Dodman
February 2.

UNITED IN FAITH (UNIF) UPDATE



As part of the **Communication Programme** being embarked on for this year, please be informed that the theme for this year's broadcasts is:

"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life".- Accordingly, during the month of January, the focus was on **'Discipleship and the Word.'** For February, the theme is: **"Disciples in Worship"**.

We are encouraged by the feedback being received not only from our Ministers, members and adherents, to the UNIF Radio programmes aired on RJR on Sundays at 6:30 am but also by the interest shown by persons from other denominations.

Do continue to let us have your feedback so that we may do even better!

THE UCJCI CHILD PROTECTION POLICY CONTD.

The appropriate procedures to address or treat children with known conditions should also be recorded to guide quick responses in emergency situations (e.g. asthma attacks or epileptic seizures). This information should be included as part of Sunday School registration, and pre-registration requirements for all excursions involving children. Non-members who are parents with children attending Sunday services regularly will be prompted to share information on their child(ren)'s health to facilitate the establishment of up-to-date records on children within United Church congregations.

10. **First Aid training** and kits will be made available in all churches with a view to the likely First Aid needs of children. Attendance is compulsory for Sunday School superintendents.

11. **Written parental consent** will be obtained prior to church excursions involving children and child attendance during excursions will be taken.

12. **Suspicions of abuse or neglect** by parents, guardians, school teachers and significant others or other sensitive matters shared by children should be reported to Ministers. Counseling and other appropriate forms of follow-up support will be sourced and provided under the charge of Ministers. confidentiality will be practiced to protect the best interests of the child.

13. **In cases where one-to-one meetings between** two adults or between an adult and a minor are being held in an enclosed environment it is recommended that doors with window panes be used or that doors be left

open or ajar throughout the meeting.

14. **In general, activities involving children are to be organized and implemented to minimize the risk of harm.** The appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, sanitation and maintenance of church premises will be observed to ensure child safety for all ages. This includes securing adequate liability insurance and other legal requirements as well as removing objects in the environment that may be harmful to children at various ages. This might include the risk of slip and trip hazards, heavy objects at heights, sharp objects and cleaning or other harsh chemicals and the supervision of motor vehicle use on church premises to prevent hazards and accidents involving children.

15. **Assistance will be given to parents** through parenting programmes (including After School programmes for working parents), partnering with them in disciplining their children and through reading materials help them develop an understanding of Christ's love and compassion for all.

16. **A training programme** for persons working with children will be designed and delivered twice per annum to serve all United Church congregations. These training workshops will explore best practice in observing child rights, safety and protection and the role of the church in contemporary Jamaican and Caymanian societies.

(More on the UCJCI Child Protection Policy in Next Week's issue!)