



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

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

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PROF HERBERT GAYLE FOR SEMINAR: THE CHURCH, YOUTH & SOCIAL VIOLENCE IN JA.

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

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PRAY FOR:



●**Rev. Ranford Hewitt**
who lost his mother

●**Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler**, who recently
had surgery.

Dr. **Herbert Gayle** is the only Social Anthropologist with an emphasis in Social Violence in the Caribbean Region. He has lectured in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, for more than 12 of the 22 years during which he has served as an educator.

With a focus on research, teaching, youth, and local and regional development, Dr. Gayle is a member of a core group of social scientists which advises local, regional, and international agencies. He is a founder and executive member of the Children's First Agency; and a member of the Board of Management of the Griffin Trust, Jamaica—responsible for the "Hush the Guns Project"—concerned with managing the welfare of youth and the reduction of violence; the President and

Chairman of Fathers Incorporated; and a prolific speaker and radio personality.

TWO VENUES:

The Seminar will be presented in two venues for the convenience of participants:

A. March 7, 2017, St. Paul's United Church Montego Bay @ 10 A.M.

B. March 14, 2017 at Ridgemount United Church @ 10 A.M.

Ministers, Lay Pastors and Lay Leaders are invited to come and be empowered: wrestle with the concepts, challenge the views, understand causes and appropriate responses that you can make as we face this social dilemma.

The Deadline for Registration is **February 28, 2017** and registration has been made easy!

Interested persons may register by simply making a

call to the Synod Administration:

**926-6057 or
926-8734 or**

Email: synodhr@ucjci.com

The following information must be submitted on registration:

1. Name (s)
2. Congregation
3. Contact number (s)
4. Email address
5. Venue that you will attend
6. Indicate title: Minister, Lay Pastor, church leader
7. For non-United Church participant, indicate lunch order (See guide below)

Lunch Arrangements:

Lunch will be provided for Ministers and Lay Pastors of the UCJCI.

· For other congregational leaders of the United Church—Lunch cost to be sponsored by congregation @ \$800.00 per person

· Non-UCJCI Participants: Lunch will be available @ **\$800.00/person if ordered on registering**

CELEBRATIONS



70:

Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith
- Feb 12

Rev. Valerine Reynolds
- Feb 19

Rev. Nicholas Forrester
- Feb 22

SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING FOR OUR MINISTERS.

Services of Thanksgiving will be held for our three Ministers of the Word and Sacraments who recently passed as follows for the:

1. Rev. Winston Barrett, at 11:00 am at the Webster Memorial United Church on Saturday February 18, 2017.

2. Rev. Stanford Webley also at Webster on Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. February 22, 2017

3. Rev. Dr. Adlyn White 2:00 p.m. February 25, 2017 at the Andrews Memorial United Church.

Ministers are to be robed and the liturgical colour is purple.

THE UCJCI POLICY ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Did you know that the UCJCI has a Policy on Sexual Misconduct? For the past three weeks we have been serializing the Church's Child Care and Protection Policy, this week we take a look at the Policy on Sexual Misconduct. The Policy begins with a Preface that reads as follows:

PREFACE: This document contains a Policy for individuals who have experienced betrayal of trust within the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands because of sexual abuse, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse. The Policy also addresses the alleged perpetrator, holding him or her accountable to the principles and values inherent in the life of Christ. **This Policy also outlines how these concerns may be addressed within the Church.**

The contents of the Sexual Abuse Policy are grounded in a theological statement that reflects the basic faith beliefs of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Sexual Abuse, exploitation and misconduct are destructive to God's people, and God calls upon the Church to resist injustice and to protect the vulnerable and the weak.

The United Church seeks to ensure that when a complaint of sexual misconduct is made, the voices of the complainant and the accused are listened to and heard and that

pastoral care and support is offered to the affected individuals and their families. The Church has a duty of care that it must honour in relation to its members, adherents, employees and those who avail themselves of the services that the Church provides.

BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL BASIS:

- 1. God intends for all life, freedom from abuse and injustice;** God created all human beings in God's image and desires for them mutual respect, care protection, and empowerment. **(Genesis 1; Psalm 8; Matthew 10: 28-31.)**
- 2. Sexual abuse, exploitation and misconduct are destructive to God's people.** These things violate the love we know in Jesus and negate people's ability to develop and use their gifts of creativity and wholeness. We believe God continues to call God's people to love honour and to respect inherent in the life of Jesus. Where there is abuse, God requires justice, healing and reconciliation. **(2 Corinthians 5:17 -21.)**
- 3. God calls the Church to resist injustice.** As such the Church is called to confess and repent of the times it has turned away from God's call to love and to serve others, and to protect the vulnerable, the weak and those with limited voice.

(More Next Wk.)