



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
Presbyterian*

SRMC's Support the Police PEACE Initiative

12 Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10

Tel: 926-8734
E-mail: synod@ucjci.com
Website: www.ucjci.com

OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disci-
ples, Seeking Transfor-
mation through Christ"

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Nyle Stewart** as he grapples with life-threatening illness
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well

The Southern Regional Mission Council (SRMC) has adopted a very worthwhile and potentially impactful PEACE Initiative in the parish of Clarendon.

The Region has sought to support the police by refreshing personnel conducting operations with supplies such as tea, coffee and snacks over a period of time. This is facilitated by the benevolent offerings towards this cause by congregations in Clarendon.

The first presentation was made on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 to the team at the May Pen Police Station. The Ministers and Pastors of the UCJCI who serve in Clarendon were present

with the Regional Deputy General Secretary (RDGS), Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, and a fruitful discussion ensued concerning ways that the Church can support the police officers in their peace-promoting efforts. The police took the opportunity to ask for support from the clergy in encouraging their congregants to report issues of concern in their communities, as a preventative measure in the fight against crime.

Further to these efforts, some of the monies gathered from the second offering at Convocation on April 15, 2018, were used to refurbish a room at the Chapelton Police Station in Clarendon. This room is to be used for

counselling by Rev. David Tucker and Mrs. Rosemarie Tucker, also a part of the UCJCI's initiative towards engendering peace. This was the Region's Labour Day project, in which members of some of the congregations and the Youth Executive also cleaned the yard, relocated old bikes, cleaned, repaired, and painted sections of the building.

We wholeheartedly express appreciation to Mrs. Rose Wedderburn, her Ministers and team who have been faithfully serving in this very beneficial cause. It is indeed expected to redound to the wider benefit of the Clarendon community, and a more motivated police division. Thank you.



RDGS and Ministers at the May Pen Police Station



The team refurbishing the Chapelton Police Station

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Donovan McPherson
Rev. Anthony Wallace

August 20

Top Male Dorm Award for the Day
being presented by Mr. Nigel Henry,
Camp Father



Camp Directors, from left: Rev. Nevroy Francis and Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell



Discovery Teens Camp 2018!

The Winning Female Dorm being presented with their cake by Rev. Nevroy Francis, Camp Director (front, third left)



The Winning Male Dorm being presented with their cake by Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell, Camp Director & Head of Camp Ministry (front, third left)



Art & Craft Workshop Designs



LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leading Millennials Effectively (Part 2)

In this week's issue of the Leadership Corner, we continue our spotlight on issues raised concerning **Millennials** (persons who are between ages 18 and 35 today) in the article, "**59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out – And They're Trying to Tell Us Why**" by Sam Eaton. As stated last week, it is noted that church attendance and impressions of the Church among this group of persons are the lowest in recent history.

Some of the reasons for this are further stated: **Millennials say they want to be mentored, and not preached at.** They say that preaching doesn't reach their generation like their parents and grandparents. They have millions of podcasts and YouTube videos of sermons at their fingertips. For that reason, the currency of good preaching is at its lowest value in history, they believe.

Millennials crave relationship—to have someone walking beside them through the muck. They are the generation with the highest-ever percentage of fatherless homes. They are looking for mentors who are authentically invested in their lives and future. They reason that if they don't have real people who actually care about them at Church, why not just listen to a sermon from the couch?

Mr. Eaton offers the following solution to this issue: We can create a database of sincere adult mentors and young adults who are looking for someone to walk with them; and ask the older generation to be intentional with the Millennials in their Church.

They want to feel valued. Churches tend to rely heavily on their young adults to serve. At the same time, they say that they are made to feel that they are letting the Church down if they do not help out. They believe that they are constantly told by the world that they are not good

enough; and they desperately need the Church to tell them they are enough, exactly the way they are. No conditions or expectations. They need a Church that sees them and believes in them, that cheers them on and encourages them to chase their big crazy dreams.

Mr. Eaton suggests that the Church should return to listening, and go out of their way to express gratitude to the Millennials who are giving so much of their life to the Church.

They want pain-staking transparency. They wonder, where does the tithe go? Millennials, more than any other generation, don't trust institutions. They wonder, why should thousands of their hard-earned dollars go toward a mortgage on a multi-million dollar building that isn't being utilized to serve the community, when that same money could provide food, clean water, and shelter for someone in need.

What might the solution be? He suggests that we go out of our way to make all financial records readily accessible. Earn their trust so that they can give with confidence. Create an environment of frugality. Move to zero-based budgeting where departments aren't allocated certain dollar amounts but are asked to justify each purchase. He challenges Church staff to think about the opportunity cost. Could these dollars be used to better serve the Kingdom?

They want the Church to talk to

them about controversial issues, because they feel that no one is. People in their 20s and 30s are making the biggest decisions of their entire lives: career, education, relationships, marriage, finances, children, purpose, body image. They need someone consistently speaking truth into every single one of those areas. They want the Church to create a place where someone older is showing them a better way because these topics are the teachings Millennials are starving for.

They want the Church to therefore create real and relevant space for young adults to learn, grow, and be vulnerable, and create an opportunity for them to find and connect with mentors. He suggests that we create a young adults programme that transitions high school Youth through late adulthood, and intentionally train young adults in how to live a godly life.

They want us to change the public perception of the Church within the community. They believe that the neighbours, the town/city, and people around the church buildings should be audibly thankful that the congregation is part of their neighbourhood. We do this by serving them, he suggests. He also posits that we desperately need to be calling the schools and knocking on doors, asking everyone around us how we can make their world better. He also pleads, "Talk to the Millennials you already have, before they ask themselves, *'What am I still doing here?'*" They want us to adapt to the reality that Millennials are somewhat different from former generations. Again, "Church", he says, "it's your move."

Source: "59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out – And They're Trying to Tell Us Why" by Sam Eaton



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