



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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Presbyterian

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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
- **PEACE** in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Children's Camp 2018: Scores of Children Saved!

The UCJCI's Children's Camp, held from July 7-14, 2018 at the Madge Saunders Conference Centre, St. Mary, was a remarkable case of "Mission Accomplished."

Under the theme: "Discipleship: Dweet fi Christ...Dweet fi Life", the 110 children from over 40 United Church congregations who participated were inspired, entertained, and came away with renewed focus on the Mission of Christ. **Indeed, at the Camp Commitment Service, the entire number of Campers either committed their lives to Christ, or made recommitments!**

With approximately 30 brilliant, resourceful, creative, and talented leaders present, the children engaged in poetry, song, and drama presentations to reflect their Family names and the Camp Theme!

Indeed, two (2) of our very talented musical artistes, **Nicole Howell** and **Raheem Vassell**, wrote the Camp Song, enjoyed by all.

There were 8 Camp Families this year: *Dweet fi Christ, Disciples of Christ, Kidz fi Christ, Disciples 4 Christ, Disciples of Love, MAD Followers of Christ, Radical Christian Soldiers, and Dweet (Disciples with Energy for Evangelism & Transformation)*. This was an avenue for bonding and friendship, much appreciated by the children.

The Campers worshipped at the quaint and beautiful **Lauriston United Church**, and were lovingly welcomed by the congregation and leaders, who allowed their full participation in the service. Indeed, the children led the worship experience, read the bible lessons, ministered as a Choir, and collected the offering!

Rev. Delia Picart Hibbert, one of the Camp Chaplains, delivered a compelling sermon based on the camp's theme! The children also had a Praise Party, and engaged in Gender Talk.

The latter, led by **Chaplain Rev. Kraig DeLeon Deidrick**, saw girls asking boys: "Why do boys like to fight?" "Why do boys act so immature?" "Why do boys pick on girls?" While the boys asked the girls: "Why do girls talk so much?" "Why do girls act like they are better than others?" "Why are girls so stush?" "Why do females focus on their hair so much?"

The delightful banter between the two (2) sets of children was filled with fun and laughter, and the homesick tears were gone!

(Continued on Page 2)



The Campers at Lauriston United Church, St. Ann

CELEBRATIONS!

Children's Camp 2018: Scores of Children Saved!



70:

Mrs. Sheila Arscott-Smith
Rev. Verna Cassells
Rev. Delia Picart Hibbert
September 8

Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan
Mrs. Shernett Smith
September 9

Mrs. Candace Fraser
September 10

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

NERMC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Presents a
BENEFIT CONCERT
FEATURING
JCF BAND, JCF CHOIR
AND OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS
SUN-7TH OCT-5PM
 @ WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
 53 HALF WAY TREE ROAD, KGN.
TICKET: \$1000
TICKET
 TEL: (876) 837-3369 / 577-6161

\$200 per km
 WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL
 YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP
WALKATHON
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
STARTING AT 12:30 PM
5K
FREE PORT ROUND ABOUT
KENT AVENUE (BOTTOM ROAD)
 5K FORMS AVAILABLE AT COUNCIL OFFICE
CONTACT (876) 979-0259

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The children also enjoyed a day at the **Pleasure Cove Beach**, Movie Night, and Bible Study, during which they learnt memory verses, and fully engaged their leaders in discussion on salvation.

One of the highlights of the week was their trip to **St. Dacres Farm** on the last full day of Camp. They were given a tour of the farm, and were particularly fascinated by the snake which they were allowed to hold and put around their necks!

Banquet night saw Kidz for Christ taking home the winner's trophy. They won the Family Presentations, Quiz, and Banner Competition, while obtaining top points for the excellent performance of their duties.

Dweet won Choirfest and Culture Night, while Dweet fi Christ won the Sports Competition; and in a keenly contested competition, the position of **Camp Boy 2018** was won by **Corace Campbell** from **Mannings Hill United Church**, and **Camp Girl 2018** by **Jada Keen** from **Hellshire United Church!**

It was indeed a Camp that the children are not likely to forget. In it's 52nd year, many children have been impacted by this significant, life-giving event.

Consider with us these words of Reflection, composed by our **Chrystine Wedderburn**, a **16-Year Old Junior Leader** of Children's Camp 1977:

REFLECTIONS ON IONA CHILDREN'S CAMP '77

Puzzlement, bewilderment, nostalgia, surrounds him,
 As he enters a seemingly different

world.
 The home he has left behind is replaced
 By an empty aching void in his heart
 And he craves its replacement...
 Yet, curiosity also plays its part.
 It represents the early signs of oncoming maturity,
 And the bewildered child is caught up
 In its strange enticing promise of new excitement!
 Thus with some pain and regret,
 He boldly takes the first step forward,
 Into the exciting unknown.
 As the week progresses, the shy reserved child,
 Becomes a carefree outgoing child.
 Everywhere happiness and joy exudes from within him.
 And he has changed in many ways:
 Spiritually he is a better person,
 Sharing his small world of love;
 His mistakes becoming bittersweet lessons,
 Necessary in his quest for maturity.
 Seeing him, the Leader smiles -
 A child has started growing up on the right road,
 A road from which he may slip
 But never be able to forget.

By: Chrystine Wedderburn (now Chrystine Bernard)

(Dedicated to: The Leaders and Campers of Iona Children's Camp '77)



Cuddling with a snake!!

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leading the Process of Church Growth (Part 2)

In last week's Leadership Corner, we began our focus on the process of leading Church Growth, by examining some of the barriers faced by many churches.

Growing a church requires vision, thought and strategy. Indeed, successful churches are those that follow a God-given vision and mission, define the steps to get there, and implement their strategic plan. Let's delve deeper into this proposition.

Last week we considered the barriers of **Space** and **Personal Development**. In this week's Issue, we examine two (2) other barriers to this growth that we seek, as explained by **Pastor Nelson Searcy, Founder and Lead Pastor of The Journey Church in New York City**. He proposes a clearly defined system for dealing with church-growth barriers, so that we can keep our momentum and continue growing for God's glory!

SHARING: Churches stop growing when they become inwardly (instead of outwardly) focused. If you notice a decline in your number of first-time guests, and an increase in discussion of inwardly-focused programmes, beware! You are about to fall victim to the sharing barrier.

In Pastor Searcy's experience, healthy growing churches will have a ratio of 5 first-time visitors to every 100 regular attendees. When this barrier starts blocking this growth, here are some ways you can break through it:

Teach on relational evangelism

Set an example by telling stories of how you've invited people to church

Do servant evangelism outreach

Challenge staff, volunteers, members, and adherents to invite friends

Read an evangelism or church-growth book with your staff and key volunteers

WORSHIP SERVICE: Your weekly worship service is the front door

through which people are introduced to your church. If not done correctly, it can become a big barrier.

Take preaching up a notch; energize your worship time. It is essential to get in the habit of looking at your service through the eyes of your first-time visitors and regular attendees. What kind of impression are you giving them? Improve the quality of your service in the following ways:

Set up feedback and evaluation mechanisms

Visit larger, growing churches and benchmark against what they are doing

Attend cutting-edge seminars and leadership conferences

Staying ahead of growth barriers is the most effective way of dealing with them. When we cooperate with God by taking action for His Church, He will bless our efforts. As we learn to identify and diffuse growth barriers before they get you stuck, you'll be able to keep your momentum and effectively expand God's kingdom for His glory.

There is also another aspect to Church Growth, and that is, the spiritual growth of the persons who attend. It is also about developing the people God has planted in the local church to be used by God with their unique gifts. The beauty of the body of Christ is that God uses everyone in a slightly different way, and those unique qualities that each church possesses is what God uses to create a beautiful tapestry of churches.

As a leader, are you comfortable with the way things are, or do you desire to change the status quo? Let's consider these **Keys to Church Growth**:

KNOW WHERE THE CHURCH IS GOING: "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Having a well-defined vision, mission, and values statement sets the direction for any organization, and

developing a strategic plan to map out the steps to get there is how a vision is achieved.

CREATE AN INVITING ATMOSPHERE: People are naturally drawn to an aesthetically-appealing environment. People like to be proud of where they worship, so providing an environment that is comfortable, clean, and orderly is important.

CREATE A WELCOMING EXPERIENCE: There are not many things as awkward for a church visitor as to be ignored or to be overwhelmed with attention. Everyone wants to be greeted, but not everyone is comfortable being inundated with unwelcome attention. It is important to make the experience as positive as possible.

CARE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS: Understand their unique needs and ensure their needs are met. This is critical to Church Growth.

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE: At the core of many of us is a desire to serve others. Whether it is serving meals to the less fortunate, organizing mission trips, or helping others in a time of crisis, opportunities to serve offers members the chance to use their gifts to help God's people. A well-defined strategic plan can help identify the kinds of service opportunities that support the vision of the Church.

With Church Growth comes many challenges, but the exciting thing is that with God ALL things are possible and He gives wisdom freely.

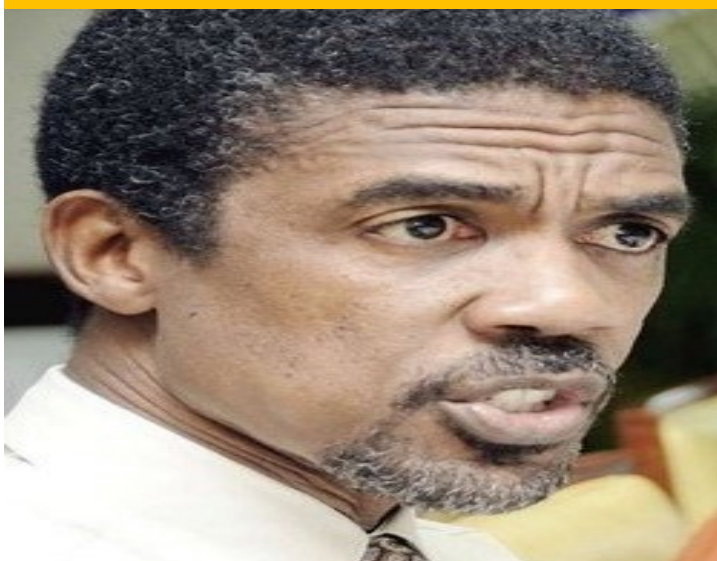
Sources: "5 Barriers to Church Growth"

By Nelson Searcy and
"smartchurchmanagement.com"



PROFILES OF NOMINEES FOR MODERATOR: 2019-2021

Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



An ordained Minister of the UCJCI since 1986

Served in **pastoral ministry at St. Andrew Scots Kirk United Church** from 1983 to 1993

Became **Principal of Knox College** in 1994, a post he held for almost twenty (20) years, then **Head of Knox Community College** until his retirement from the institution in 2018

Was awarded the **Diploma in Ministerial Studies** from the United Theological College of the West Indies and **Licentiate in Theology** from the University of the West Indies

Obtained the **Doctor of Ministry degree** from Columbia Theological Seminary and the **Diploma in Education, specializing in Guidance and Counselling** from Church Teachers College

Was awarded the **Bachelor of Science degree in Economics** from the University of the West Indies and a **Master of Commerce degree in Economics** from the University of Melbourne, Australia

Recently served as **Chairman of the Southern Regional Mission Council** and is a **Founding Member of the Inner-City Development Trust**

Member of the National Advisory Council on Disabilities, Caribbean Coordinator of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches, Founding Member of the Cari-Folk Singers, and Member of the 3D Projects Management Committee

Served as: **Chair of the Synod Committee on Disabilities, the former Education for Ministry & Mission and Strategic Planning Committees, Member of the Finance Committee and Member of the Board of the United Church Mission Enterprise**

Now serves as **Minister of St. Paul's United Church (Lockett Ave.)**

Rev. Gary Harriott



Ordained Minister since 1991

Served in **pastoral ministry at the East End/Gun Bay Charge** in Grand Cayman, **Ebenezer and Webster Memorial United Churches**, and presently on a part-time basis at the **Bryce Charge of United Churches** in Manchester

Served as **Interim Minister for the Shortwood and Lincoln Kirk United Churches**, and the **Denbigh and Lowe River Charges**, and was **Director of Youth Ministries, Chaplaincy and Counselling, and Ministerial Formation** for the UCJCI

Holds **Diplomas in Ministerial Studies** from the Jamaica Bible College and the United Theological College of the West Indies, a **Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology** from the University of the West Indies, a **Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling** from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's College in Canada, in collaboration with the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), Jamaica

General Secretary for the Jamaica Council of Churches since September 2006 and **Secretary for the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches** from 2006-2018; **Former Coordinator of the Counselling programme at Webster Memorial's Eden Garden Social Services**, current **Host of the Family Counselling programme on RJR**, **Leader of Noonday Meditation on RJR**, and **Radio Jamaica's Spiritual Advisor**

Lectured on a part-time basis at the International University of the Caribbean, and has **positions on various Boards and Committees**. These include: **Director of The Violence Prevention Alliance**, **Director of LOVE FM**, **Director of the Ecumenical Loan Fund**, **Member of the National Leadership Prayer Breakfast Committee**, **Member of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical HIV & AIDS Initiative and Advocacy Reference Group**

Member of the General Council of the IUC