



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 2: Issue 30

Wednesday, August 2, 2017

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

VOLUNTEERISM ALIVE!

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NERMC Volunteers going through the 'ropes', preparing to be leaders at the Church's Vacation Bible School (VBS). Clusters 1-3, Training was held at Port Maria United on July 1, 2017. The day began at 10:00 am with registration followed by devotion based on the theme for 2017: "AGENTS OF LOVE ... LOVE H.E.L.P.S" led by Mrs. Cheryl Shaw. Seven (7) Congregations participated.

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



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Clusters 4-8; Training was held at Kings Gate United 10:am June 24, 2017; led by Portmore United, Twenty Three (23) Congregations participated with 75 Attendees.

PRAY...



Thanking God that God's people continue to respond positively to the call to serve and teach our children at Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS).





70:

Rev. Harry Bodden

&

Rev. Royland Thompson,
August 2.**FAREWELL!**

SHOWING THE LOVE: "I have felt cared for and loved", commented Yvonne Davidson. While in Cayman, she tried to help in the revitalization of Women's Fellowship motivating volunteer leadership towards the revival of that Ministry.

CAYMAN BIDS THE DAVIDSONS FAREWELL.

They arrived in Grand Cayman on August 18th last year, having served briefly as interim minister of the Immanuel/ Boscobel charge in St. Mary, in Jamaica. Yvonne, although retired from Mico University College, had been lecturing in Abnormal Psychology at the International University of the Caribbean which is owned by the UCJCI, as well as teaching counselling courses and supervising students for research and counselling practicum.

Rev. Derik & Yvonne Davidson remembering the call to Cayman, describe it as follows:

"Coming to the George Town Charge was the result of a call from the General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens," said Rev. Derik. "He indicated that it was a 'Macedonian call.' Basically, we came because the charge was vacant and there was a great need for interim pastoral assistance until a permanent pastor could be found.

Our four daughters had all left Jamaica, one is in the U.K., another in the USA and two in the Turks & Caicos Islands, together with our three grandchildren."

This was not their first visit to Grand Cayman. Yvonne having been there four or five times before, dealing with Women's Fellowship work, while Rev. Derik has been here some three times before this current visit, attending Synod or Convocation gatherings when he was Moderator.

Asked about their first impressions, they said that they had been warmly received, and had experienced many loving, friendly people whose hospitality they enjoyed. The welcoming party at the airport would be long remembered. They also said that they had found the worship experiences at South Sound quite different from Elmslie."

Have I achieved my task? he asked himself, answering that he was inspired by some words from Thomas Arthur: 'It is not the man who brings the Word that saves the soul, but the Word which the man brings.' "By God's grace I have sought to be faithful in applying God's Word."

Asked what they considered the main strengths of the two churches. The reply was: "They are sanctuaries that help in creating a worshipful atmosphere, particularly at Elmslie," "There is good fellowship among the members. There are regular fellowship times at Elmslie in home group bible studies, times of appreciation, recognizing special moments in members' lives, showing concern for persons who are ill or who are experiencing difficulties or other challenges."

They then listed some other strengths they saw: **emphasis on the importance of prayer; the way both congregations are organized for action through the various areas of ministry led by ministry co-ordinators** – although there is also a challenge to this; efforts made in youth ministry at Elmslie and the commitment of youth workers; joyous, upbeat worship, particularly at Elmslie; willingness of both congregations to be engaged in mission with, particularly, a greater emphasis and involvement at Elmslie; the Water Ministry shared by persons from both congregations; the warmth and friendliness of many in both congregations.

Rev. Derik continued, "I see as a strength the visitation ministry, especially 'In His Steps', which involves persons from both congregations, and the Pantry Ministry which helps to meet specific, concrete needs, as well as spiritual needs." He is also pleased to see the good use of audio visuals at both congregations and the involvement of young people with them at South Sound, as well as young people bearing the Bible at Elmslie. **Identifying challenges,** Rev. Derik noted that "Although the congregations are organized for action through various areas headed by ministry co-ordinators, **there is a need for greater participation by members in these various areas."**

"**No church is obedient that is not evangelistic and this applies to both congregations – indeed to the entire Council**", said Rev. Davidson.