



UCJCI UPDATE

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

Volume 2: Issue 35

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

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

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PRAY FOR:



Let us pray that
'ZOSO,'

The Government's
**Zones of Special
Operations Pro-
gramme**, to fight
Crime in Jamaica will
be a success!

STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH

As the United Church continues to pursue its growth agenda, and to positively respond to the challenge put forward by General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens to strive to plant at least one new congregation each year, there is good news that some Regional Mission Councils were already identifying for their respective congregations ways in which growth may be achieved. The General Secretary in his message to Synod noted the following:

"The need to continue to plan with growth targets at the congregational level and to resource them from the regional levels remain paramount in order to ensure a continued upward growth trend. **It bears repeating that church growth is the result of deliberate and concerted effort of the whole community of faith.** When we pursue the vision of a **needs-meeting church**, through deliberate discipleship evidenced through a commitment to prayer and discernment, faithful proclamation and embodiment of the Word, our passion to care for and advocate for



one another and for those on the margins of life, we will continue to experience and sustain the growth trend of our congregations."

The North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC) in its report noted that it is currently pursuing **Church Planting approaches at New Harbour**; a new housing development just outside Old Harbour. A one acre parcel of land adjoining phase one of the development is being offered to the United Church, for church planting and preliminary surveys were carried out by a task force. As a first step it is planned to do

a survey to ascertain the needs of the community.

At the same time a challenge is being faced in determining how to gain access to the land. The matter is being explored with the National Land Agency.

While **NERMC** continues to pursue efforts to plant a Church in New Harbour, the Region celebrates the progress being made in another NERMC congregation at **Esher**.

There is also good news, according to the General Secretary regarding developments towards the establishment of a congregation in **Spot Valley** in the Western Region Mission Council. **(More over-page.)**



70:

Rev. Verna Cassells,
Rev. Delia Picart Hibbert

September 8

Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan

Mrs. Shernett Smith

September 9

Special Celebrations:

Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson

60 years of Ordination July 1,

Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

55 years of Ordination

August 23,

Rev. Raymond Coke

56 years of Ordination

September 5,

MINISTRY MEETING!

Persons interested in the Ordained or Lay Pastoral Ministry of the United Church are invited to a meeting on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at Ridgemount United Church, Mandeville, at 9:30 a.m.

Interested persons are being invited to indicate their interest by sending an email to:

REV. HENLEY BERNARD, at:
minform.ucjci@gmail.com

SRMC RECORDS OVERALL GROWTH OF 10%

Growth within our Church takes other forms, as exemplified by an assessment of the congregations of the Southern Regional Mission Council. (SRMC) in Jamaica.

Here the focus was on marshalling congregational growth through the use of a variety of strategies.

The SRMC determined that the **Missional Congregation** should be 'front and centre' of all meeting engagements of the Council.

The Executive also identified some congregations for targeted attention and had **small teams** working with them in the renewal process. These were **mainly congregations with membership below 30 and which had been declining, stagnant,** or had had minimal growth over the last five (5) years.

The Executive then **identified 10% as the minimum growth target** to be aimed at by congregations.

Some congregations with growth potential were identified and work done one congregation at a time towards renewal and transformation, giving these congregations a new life cycle. To this end the Vice-chairpersons of **Evangelism, Discipleship and Congregational Transformation** worked together to develop a programme to help these congregations using specific strategies to address the particular situation of each. **Strategies included:**

- Dialogue with the leadership of these congregations **to identify the issues and what help is needed**
- Identifying **leadership and training** needs to be addressed
- Identifying persons with the requisite **spirituality** and empower and equip them to work on the ground
- Identifying where **crusade evangelism** would be useful.

The results have been rewarding.

The Council consists of **21 Charges with 59 Congregations and 3 Mission Stations:** Bethsalem (Retirement Charge), Hanbury (Ridgemount Charge), and Pleasant Valley (Denbigh Charge).

The reported membership for the period December 2015 was **3389 from 56 congregations.** By December 2016 numbers had increased to **3694 from all 62 congregations.**

The Southern Regional Mission Council; its staff, and leadership of **Regional General Secretary, Mrs. Rose Wedderburn,** must be congratulated for the strategic approach taken to stimulating growth within and of the congregations of the Council and for the encouraging results which have come out of the efforts made. **-Mission Accomplished!**

"To God be the Glory!"

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The United Church in Jamaican and the Cayman Islands is seeking to fill the position of **PROGRAMMES ASSISTANT to the Human and Mission Resource Manager in the Synod Administrative Centre,** and invites dynamic, highly motivated and qualified candidates to tender their applications.

Applicants are invited to submit their resumes/CVs via e-mail no later than **Wednesday September 27, 2017** to synodhr@ucjci.com

(See email attachment for further details)