



# 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 and  
Presbyterian*

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



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### PRAY FOR:



*Mrs. Charmaine Kelly,  
wife of Rev. Dwight  
Kelly, who is recuperating  
from surgery*

*Mrs. Dolaceta Cooper,  
mother of Rev. Carlene  
Walford, who is not  
well*

**I**t was an outstanding graduation of 41 Elders at a memorable ceremony which took place at the Webster Memorial United Church. On November 26th. The ceremony also included the presence of three Lay Trainees, and the end of a Training Programme coordinated by Rev. Bevis

Byfield. The Lay Trainees were from Clusters 1-3, while the 41 Elders were drawn from Clusters 4-8. Preacher was Rev. Joel Downer.

The ceremony brought to a close a NERMC training session which began in January 2017, and which ended, in September, 2017.

Elders were drawn from the Boulevard, Greendale, Hellshire, Hope, Lincoln Kirk, Mannings Hill, Meadowbrook, Mount Zion, New Bethlehem, Portmore, St Pauls (LA), and Webster Memorial United Churches.

Lay Trainees were from the Bethel, Goshen and Seaton United Churches. Also in attendance was Vice Chair, Sadie Findlay.



70:

Rev. Dwight Kelly

Rev. Nevroy Francis

December 27.

## NEW MINISTRY

**W**ebster Memorial United Church was the site of the launch of a new Ministry that has the potential to impact all the congregations of the United Church Family. It was a new Ministry named **MORE: Ministry of the Retired and Elderly**, aimed at providing more for a segment of society recognised to be growing, and presenting a new set of needs never before faced by the Church Family. Needs that were identified for attention out of a recently held census as a significantly large segment of the congregation were:

- A) The need for **increased income**, within an environment of every increasing high cost of living  
 B) The need for comprehensive Medical insurance, given that many lost their **medical insurance** if they had a policy, when they came to retirement age;  
 C) The need for **medical emergency assistance** by those persons who live alone, usually in their own home and do not wish to transfer to a Nursing Home;

# A MINISTRY FOR RETIRED PERSONS LAUNCHED.

D) The need for **employment**, as many of our retirees are indeed still capable of work and desire to do so even on a part-time basis — Needs all appropriately summarized by the acronym **'MORE' — THE NEED FOR MORE**, in the vital areas of life.

A relatively small Committee of volunteers, described as persons with "a servant's heart" were consecrated by Webster's Pastor, **Rev. Astor Carlyle**, as they set about determining sources of help that could be identified for entities and programmes already existing in the **Private and Public Sector**.

### HOW THE MINISTRY WILL BE ADMINISTERED

- A. **SOURCING ADDITIONAL INCOME: Congregants will be pointed to sources of additional income** say through refunds from the National Housing Thrust, so long as employees they had contributed to the Fund. It is also hoped that through a Reverse Mortgage Programme being sought from Victoria Mutual Building Society, that homeowners will be able to secure funds on the basis of the equity owned on their property.
- B. **MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICIES. Members are being advised too that Policies which may have been terminated** with retirement may also be sought through the Caribbean Community for Retired Persons (**CCRP**). This, in addition to Government provisions through the **National Health Fund (NHF, JADEP and NI-Gold** cards are also being pointed to as sources of help. Sources of Medical Services at reduced costs are also recommended, to help ease the finan-

being experienced by retired persons who are nearly always suffering from chronic illnesses.

### MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Perhaps the most ambitious aspect of the Ministry will be the establishment of a **Medical Emergency System** to respond in a timely and efficient way to persons living alone, who may have "fallen and cannot get up" — A fate that has already been experienced within the Webster Family. An attractive proposal has already been received, and the committee is considering the most efficient and effective way of responding to the needs of its 'home-alone' members requiring medical emergency assistance.

Persons are not only living longer but many are desirous and capable of being **effectively engaged** in the world of work. Through the programme and particularly as members of **CCRP**, they are being pointed to sources of gainful employment, even on a part-time basis.

Response to the Ministry has been overwhelmingly positive, indicative of a great need to be filled. Members are already asking for the staging of a **major conference** to which both the relevant Private and Public Sector organizations are invited to attend.

In the interim, at least one person has already been successful in receiving a well-needed refund from the **NHT**, and members are signing up for membership with the **Heart Institute, the Heart Foundation and the CCRP**.

It is hoped that as Webster breaks ground with this Ministry that the benefits will be shared with other UCJCI member congregations, so that they too may benefit. ■