

EVERY CHILD MATTERS!



Participants display their certificates following the training workshop in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands **Child Care and Protection Policy** on November 17, 2018, at the Webster Memorial Church Hall.

Kneeling L-R: Floyd Watson, Garth Webster, Ethridge Netz, Ronnie Ramoutar

Standing L-R: Dema-al Nelson, Yvonne Solomon, Brandi Conolly, Elizabeth Bonilla, Violet Whittaker, Debbie Welcome, Kendra Wood, Rachel Williams, Anika Conolly, Dacia Vassell, Shakira Smith, RDGS –Yvette Noble- Bloomfield, Angela Ebanks, Davina Ramoutar. Absent – Donna Miller

UCJCI Child Care and Protection Policy

At the **2015 Synod** of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands a Resolution was passed to develop a **Child Care and Protection Policy** for the whole church. The policy not only protects our children but also protects our leaders, most of whom are volunteers. For the United Church this is more than just writing a statement or providing guidelines, this is a **powerful commitment** – a totally **new strategy of engagement** – a **church that values its children and young people above rubies. Every child matters!**

The word “**children**” in the Policy includes infants, children of tender years and young persons up to the age of 18 affiliated to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The Policy provides a core set of ground rules for our ministry to and with children in our church. The terms and conditions of the policy raise awareness about the responsibilities, risks and boundaries of working with children to facilitate a safer environment for all.

Observance and adherence to this policy is expected of **Clergy, Elders, Sunday School Teachers** and **Superintendents, Youth Leaders, Camp Counselors, Volunteers** and all adults within the Church environment, with whom the children interface on a regular basis.

On Saturday, 17th November, 2018, **seventeen persons (17)** participated in the Child Care and Protection Policy Workshop held at the Webster Memorial Church Hall, Bodden Town. Participants were from three Congregations, namely **John Gray Memorial, Webster Memorial** and **William Pouchie Memorial**. This workshop was specifically organized so that the volunteers in these Congregations who had not yet had the training could become qualified to work with our children and youth.

These seventeen (17) persons join the **one hundred and twenty six (126)** persons who have already been trained in the Child Care and Protection Policy in this Region. Training began in 2016 and will continue until all those who work with children and youth in our Congregations in Cayman have been exposed to the depth of the policy.



CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE!

November 21, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE-

Child Care and Protection Policy and Advocacy



Angela Ebanks receiving her certificate from JGMC Youth Worker Ethridge Netz at the CCP training workshop

KEY VALUE

All children, and persons working with children shall be treated with dignity and respect in actions, in attitude and in the thoughtful use of language as would be expected in Christian communication

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22 – Women's Fellowship Thanksgiving Lunch – Fundraiser -Elmslie Memorial - 11:00 am -3:00 pm

November 25 – Women's Fellowship Thanksgiving Service – Webster Memorial Church -6:00pm

November 26 – Council Executive Meeting -5:00 pm –Council Office

November 26- Council Meeting- 6:00pm- Council Office

December 2- Girls' Brigade Carol Service – Savannah United

Verse of the Week:

And Jesus took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them and blessed them.

Mark 10:16



NOVEMBER /DECEMBER

THEME: ADVOCACY

November 25- Who is this Christ? – The Servant King –Rev. Rohan Forrester

December 2 - Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

December 9 – Ms. April Lewis

Every Sunday at 7:45am on Radio Cayman

FOR WHOM WILL YOU BE AN ADVOCATE?

In this final quarter of 2018, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman has been placing an emphasis on **the public witness of the Church** and on our role as **advocates in the society**. An advocate is a **helper** or **comforter** who is called to the aid of the **'other'**. An advocate will make costly sacrifices for others without counting the cost. Advocates do not have ulterior motives and the Christian advocate does all to the glory of God, Soli Deo Gloria.

As Christians we have **'paracletos'**-the Holy Spirit as our Advocate. The Holy Spirit is called on constantly to come to our aid as counsellor and guide. The Holy Spirit is our defender; intercessor and helper when we are face the wiles of the Accuser. The Advocate counters the work of the Accuser with good deeds, dunamis (moral power and excellence of soul) and love.

In the Church we must act in ways that counter works that are not meant for good. The arc of the work of the Church must bend towards good deeds. And as such, the **core of our advocacy** must be based on our genuine **love for people**, love for their souls and a determination towards sincerity and honesty as we interact with the most vulnerable.

We need to stand and speak for those who are defenseless-children, the poor, the marginalized, the unemployed, the sick, the less-abled, refugees, and those mentally challenged and even strangers. We are all made in the **image of God** and as such we, who serve Christ, must never devalue anyone but must instead ensure their well-being and seek always for surround them with goodness.

We must hear the cry of the wounded and stand with them in the painful spaces.

Congregations are encouraged to identify individuals and issues that need the voice, strength and commitment of the Church and stand in the gap with them. **For whom will you be an advocate?**

UCJCI Leadership and Policy Support Structure

"God intends for all life, freedom from abuse and injustice. God created all human beings in God's image and desires for them mutual respect, care, protection and empowerment!"

The aforementioned Synod statement informs the practice of ministry in the United Church and demonstrates the 'duty of care', which we have adopted, to all adults, young people and children with whom we are involved. Achieving and maintaining best practice in the safety and care of children is inextricably tied to this call to "mutual respect, care, protection and empowerment" and is taken to be the responsibility of the membership at large in each Congregation.