

Rev. Rohan Forrester appointed Minister of the Bodden Town – North Side Charge

At an Introduction Service that packed the Webster Memorial United Church in Bodden Town, Grand Cayman, on Sunday 24th October 2010, Rev. Rohan Forrester was formally Introduced and warmly welcomed as the new Minister of the Bodden Town – North Side Charge of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. It was a notable coincidence that for the last 5 years Rev. Forrester served as the Associate Minister of the Webster Memorial United Church (and Charge, with two other congregations) in Kingston, Jamaica! Before that, from 2000 – 2005, he served as Ministry Intern and then Minister of the Carron Hall Charge in Jamaica. The Regional Deputy General Secretary, in presenting the Narrative leading to Rev. Forrester's appointment, noted in this connection that, "In all his congregations in the past, I see that he was also involved in school chaplaincy, and I hope that he will become involved with the schools in the two Districts as well as our own school. Interestingly, he also provided chaplaincy support for business and governmental organisations and I am sure that experience and expertise would also be useful here. He is well experienced in ministry with Youth as well as with Men and Women Fellowships and in discipling the members of the church generally. His resume` and profile show that he is well equipped to offer these two communities of Bodden Town and North Side as well as the Congregations and the wider Church and country, leadership, ministry and assistance in critical areas. I hope that we will help him to do so fully. I am therefore very much looking forward to his ministry amongst us here in Cayman and in seeing a strengthening of these two congregations in all respects and at all ages, and therefore join with all of you in praying for God's blessings on Rev. Forrester's leadership of the Charge."

It was also explained that, "especially after a long period under one Minister (as was the case with Bodden Town), the United Church recommends that its congregations take some time to carefully examine its ministries and missions and its vision for its future service within the communities it serves, with their peculiar circumstances, needs and aspirations, before calling a new Minister. However the Congregations also wished to get on with the needed rebuilding and strengthening of their ministry and when Rev. Forrester recently made himself available for a move within the Church, the Synod saw an opportune fit with this Charge. And in a short time, Rev. Forrester, the Charge and Interim Minister and the Council readily agreed and the arrangements were quickly made under the procedures for the Settlement of a Minister, which is speedier than the Call process. As a result, Rev. Forrester, his wife Raquel, son Russell and baby daughter Reaganne arrived for him to take up the post of Minister of the Bodden Town – North Side Charge from 1st October 2010."

The Chair of Council, Mr. McFarlane Conolly, conducted the Act of Introduction under which Rev. Forrester pledged to faithfully serve Christ and the Church as the Minister, and the Members of the two Congregations pledged their support for the ministry under his leadership. Rev. Tara Tyme of the John Gray Memorial Church preached a very challenging sermon in which she also provided practical advice and encouragement and urged the Congregations to "shake off" the past and look to the future – move forward with a unity of purpose in the service of Christ. Her message was warmly received by the congregation, as was the beautiful music of the evening. Mr. Ralph Beckles offered the welcome to the Forresters from the Charge and assured them – with some humorous asides – that they would indeed be very welcomed and cared for in their new context.

Deep appreciation was conveyed to Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle, the Interim Minister, for his dedicated and energetic leadership and service to the Charge over the last year since the Pulpit became vacant. Thanks were also expressed to Rev. Donovan Myers, Pastor Ormond Williams and the various others from within and outside the Charge who had assisted Rev. Hazle in this regard.

The occasion was capped with a great time of fellowship and food in the Hall afterwards, with everyone very appreciative of the efforts of the members of the Bodden Town and North Side Congregations for their generous hospitality.



The Congregation enjoys one
Of Rev. Tyme's illustrations



Rev. Forrester responds



Reagane, Raquel and
Russell Forrester