



UCJCI UPDATE

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

Volume 2: Issue 20

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

12, Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734,
email: synod@ucjci.com.
Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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ANYONE?.** 1
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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Dr. Richmond
Nelson (UWI)**
- **Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith
(UWI)**
- **Rev. Dr. Margaret
Fowler**
- **Rev. Carlington Keen
who lost his mother**
- **Rev. Astor Carlyle
and his family,**

COUNSELLING ANYONE?

The question of Mental Health has become a significant topic for public debate.

It is an issue that the Church has held front and centre for many years. Do you know of The **Ecumenical Group of Churches Church-Site Counselling Initiative (CSCI)** ?

The CSCI was formed out of a need for making mental health care services more accessible to the public.

This initiative is a partnership between **Mental Health Practitioners and the Church including the United Church, Anglican Diocese, Roman Catholic and Baptist Union.**

This initiative was supported by an ecumenical grant from the Council for world Mission (CWM).

Here is a report from the CSCI

SERVICES

"Services are provided at no or minimal cost and include intervention through mental health counselling and prevention through education. Programme Coordinator is **Dr Audrey Pottinger**, Clinical Psychologist .

Over the past year the CSCI's team of professional counsellors have conducted 474 sessions with children, youth and adults who presented with



concerns relating to **Domestic Violence, Loss & Grief, Parent-Child Conflict, Spousal Relationship, Stress and Anxiety, Learning, Behaviour and Academic Performance, Parental Separation and Abuse.**

A unique aspect and strength of the CSCI is its educational component in which we help persons in the community better understand and apply good mental health to their daily lives.

WHERE?

We exist at five sites throughout the island and over the past year have organized and facilitated workshops targeting different sectors of the society including members of the Jamaica Constabulary and Defence Force (JCF and JDF), students in High School, and management and administrative staff at corporate organizations.

We have also organized discussions/empowerment talks with employees/

students/members at various institutions – educational, financial, emergency service, churches, and service clubs.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS?

Mental health topics have included:

- **Student/Workplace Bullying**
- **Intimate-partner violence**
- **Trust in the workplace and relationships**
- **Stress management**
- **Grief and trauma management**

"Our mission is bringing mental wellness to communities and taking a stance for healthy relationships, parenting and family life".

See locations of our Counselling Centres in Jamaica overpage.



70:

Rev. Bevis Byfield

May 24,

Rev. Garwell Bacchus,

May 28,

Rev. Norlene Jackson,

June 2.

CAMP NEWS

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Remember to sign up for Camps.
- The Camp forms are available at the Regional Offices.
- Encourage persons to sign up as Camp Leaders.

The camp dates are:

- Children's Camp** -
July 8-15, 2017
- Junior Camp** -
July 15 - 22, 2017
- Pacesetter Teens**
(also known as Teens 1)
July 22 - 29, 2017
- Discovery Teens**
(also known as Teens 2)
July 29 - Aug 5, 2017
- Youth Camp** -
August 5 -12, 2017
- Young Adults Conference** -
August 17 - 20, 2017

COUNSELING LOCATIONS

Counselling Site	Location	Contact information
Webster Memorial United Church	53 Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10	929-6257
Church of Reconciliation	307 Goodman Avenue, Kenton Rd, Portmore, St. Catherine	988-4534/988-1499
East Queen Baptist	25 East Queen Street, Kingston	922-2262/ 924-9274
Ridgemount United Church	53 Main Street, Mandeville , Manchester	962-0441
Burchell Baptist Church	Upper King Street, Montego Bay, St. James	952-6351

Summary Highlights

For this first year in operation, the CSCI has experienced ebb and flow in its employment of part-time counsellors and subsequently number of clients served per month. The mission of taking mental health into the community using an educational approach continues to be met favourably. Partnering with the Ministry of Health has not materialised.

Counselling Sites and Staffing

In the first quarter of the year, we started with two Counsellors (Webster and Burchell sites) and was later joined by Ridgemount site. Counselling service was reduced to two sites in the second quarter as we lost the Counsellor at **Burchell Baptist** in Montego Bay who indicated she was no longer able to continue. During the third quarter, in February 2017, we temporarily lost the Counsellor at **Ridgemount, Mandeville** who had major surgery. She is to resume in June.

We also commenced service at the **Portmore site** (Reconciliation) in mid-

mid-February and **Kingston (East Queen Baptist)** in mid-March, thus had 3 sites functioning in this quarter.

After fitting in and working well, the Counsellor at East Queen Street Baptist recently informed of 'family issues' which will not allow her to continue after May 2017.

Outcome of the service

All counsellors have been working 10 hours /week as opposed to 20 hours/ week in order for us to maintain service at the sites.

Intervention (Counselling services)

The combined number of new clients and counselling sessions for the year is **187 and 573 respectively** with most numbers recorded in the third quarter (January to May).

We continue to intervene with a wide range of presenting concerns including: **Domestic Violence, Loss & Grief, Parent- Child Conflict, Stress and Anxiety, Alcoholism, Learning Disorder, Behavioural Issues and Poor School Performance, Spousal Relationship, Parental Separation and Sexual Abuse.**"