

BEACON NEWSLETTER

Worship
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A Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Open and Affirming Congregation

JUNE 2011

Pastor

Rev. Courtney
Clayton Jenkins

**Director of Gospel
Choir**

Joan Bacon

Church Secretary

Diana Reid

Financial Manager

Jim Rutledge

**Temp. Sat/Sun
Custodian**

Brian Littles

Director, Saturday Fun

Cheryl Wacasey

Beacon Editors

Kathy Baker
Mary Sherry

Design Editor

Cyndi Henderson

Photographer

Kathie Buckner

Beloved,

I greet you in the mighty and matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! June 5, 2011 marks a new and exciting chapter in the life of our congregation. Words cannot adequately express the sense of excitement and awe that I feel in accepting the call of God to serve as Pastor of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church. It is truly a blessing that our God, by wise providence and omnipotent power, has seen fit to unite pastor and people to work diligently in service to build the kingdom here on earth.

Given Euclid Avenue's rich heritage of service to the people of Greater Cleveland, there is no doubt that God has a unique plan and purpose for us to fulfill in the 21st century. During these challenging times, people are searching for a source of strength through which they can hope for a brighter tomorrow. The people of this city are looking for a place to experience God in ways that speak to their life situations and circumstances. Women, men, girls and boys are looking for a fellowship of believers who will welcome them with the unconditional love of Christ. It shall be the prayerful aim of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church to develop and maintain a collective ministry that welcomes all people who desire to experience the awesome power of God in their lives.

I can see from my first worship service among you and even until this very moment, that God is beginning the process of birthing something new in us and through us. As we begin to write the next chapter of this historic fellowship, let us model our ministry after Christ's ministry, by using innovation and creativity to reach those the world has deemed



unreachable. Let us model our ministry after Christ's ministry, by moving beyond world-constructed barriers to express unconditional love in tangible ways. Let us model our ministry after Christ's ministry, by seeking to build God's people through personal relationship, rather than hold them hostage to the confines of man-made religion.

I hope you will join me by envisioning Euclid Avenue Congregational Church as a place that will use the ministry of Jesus to transform the troubled and renew the rejected. God has a great work for us to accomplish. God desires that we stand firmly in the present, honoring our history and embracing an exciting future. I truly believe the best is yet to come!

In our commitment to serve as witness for Christ, to embody a lifestyle of authentic worship and to live according to God's Word, let the Lord find in us hearts ready to Reach Up (to Worship), Reach In (through Discipleship), Reach Out (in Mission), Reach Across (for Diversity) and Reach Beyond (with Imagination)! Called for the Purpose of the Kingdom,

Blessings,

Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins

**Sunday
Schedule**

8:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

**Celebrative Worship
Service &
Church School**

Following worship
**Fellowship and
Refreshments**

Bus transportation
available to/from church

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 5 – 10 AM, Installation Sunday

Preacher – Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler Sr., Mt. Zion Congregational Church UCC

Music – Lavert Stuart, Organist

The HUE People (sponsored by the EACC Men’s Council)

Liturgists and readers – members of EACC

June 12 – worship at 10AM at Cumberland Park, with All-Church Picnic to follow

June 19 – Father’s Day – honoring all the men of the church, with Leon Bibb as the main speaker and music provided by the Oikos Jazz Ensemble. The men will be hosting the coffee hour also.

June 26 – launching of the Summer Sermon Series “Once Upon a Parable”

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC JUNE 12

Our traditional All-Church Picnic will be at Cumberland Park in Cleveland Heights this year – and the worship service itself will be at Cumberland Park as well! We have a shelter reserved so both worship and fellowship will occur at the park, rain or shine. Come to Cumberland Park (park near the pool) for worship at 10AM and then stay on for hamburgers, hotdogs, games and fun. Please bring along a side dish or a dessert and a lawn chair; everything else will be provided.



SATURDAY FUN

Saturday Fun will end its 2010-11 school year with a field trip to the Cleveland Zoo on June 11. Please call Cheryl Wacasey at 216-513- 8006 to reserve your spot; there will be a \$5 fee for admission and refreshments. Then plan to be back in September for more Saturday Fun! Call Cheryl or the church office for more information.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

All Parks’ Adult Bible Study Group that meets in the parlor before worship every Sunday will be reading and discussing the following Scripture readings and topics in June:

June 5 – God’s Promises Fulfilled - Joshua 1:1-6, 11:16-19, 11:21; Devotions - Acts 26:1-7

June 12 - God Has Expectations - Joshua 17-16; Devotions - Deuteronomy 5:22-33

June 19 - God Protects - Joshua 2:3-9,15-16, 22-24; Devotions - James 2:18-25

June 26 - God Is Victorious - Joshua 6:2-4, 12-20; Devotions - Psalm 98:1-6



PASTOR COURTNEY CLAYTON JENKINS’ INSTALLATION JUNE 5

On June 5 at 6PM, we are opening our doors to as many as 500 people who will join us in celebrating the Installation of Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church will preach. The Mass Community Choir, made up of EACC members but also members of the community, will sing, accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, the Melting Pot Orchestra, all under the direction of Dr. David Thomas. There will be a diverse group of participating clergy from many denominations: Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and UCC. Former pastor of the First Methodist Church (our current church home where this ceremony will be taking place), Rev. Kenneth Chaulker, will preside, with Rev. Donna Brooks and Rev. Dr. Bertrice Woods representing the Western Reserve Association.

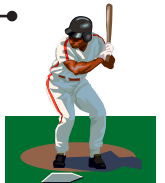
As hosts, we of EACC will be mindful of everyone’s being able to find a place to park, a seat in the pews, and ample food and drink at the reception afterward. Parking is a bit of an issue with East 30th under construction and traffic on it going only one-way, south. Participants in the program – except for the choir – will be given the spaces directly behind the church; choir members are being asked to park in the Madison & Madison lot. All other church members are advised to carpool, and those who don’t have mobility issues are requested to take the Chester exit and park in the Board of Elections lot off of East 30th. If you have further questions about parking, talk to Dean Sieck.

Church members are also asked to contribute cookies, fruit, vegetables, cheese, and crackers for the reception. Please bring your food donations to church with you on Sunday morning. Assistance with food preparation and serving is also needed; contact Ann Drysdale at 481-4778 or other members of the Fellowship Ministry to volunteer and for more information about reception needs.

With the help of friends and family, Pastor Jenkins has raised funds to help defray the costs of her Installation. She would like to thank corporate sponsors Key Bank, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and E.F. Boyd and Son Funeral Home, and a host of family members and friends who gave generously in an effort to make this installation special.



FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY BASEBALL GAME JULY 9TH



Actually this Fellowship Friday will be on a Saturday. A mere \$7 is all it will cost you to join us at the Cleveland Indians game at 7:05 on July 9th. Even if you haven’t been cheering for the Indians to hold onto first place, you will enjoy that game’s including Kids’ Fun Day, International Festival Day, fireworks night, and a chance to have a good time with friends. Please purchase your tickets on or before June 12, to ensure good seats for the group, from Judy Sieck, Claude Brewer or Manny Roderick. Checks should be made payable to EACC.

GAY PRIDE PARADE JUNE 25

Please save Saturday afternoon, June 25, for the Gay Pride Parade in downtown Cleveland. The theme of the parade will be "Equality for All." EACC will have its own contingent in the parade, as in previous years. Call Judy Sieck at 216-932-6120 for more information and to sign up.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Stewardship Ministry recognizes that EACC members are frequently asked to contribute to special offerings through the church, and have a history of generosity in helping with special needs. They ask, however, that we remember that EACC's ministry depends on each member fulfilling his or her pledge to the church. These special offerings – such as the Homeless Stand Down, camperships, One Great Hour of Sharing etc. – are not included in the church budget, so donations to them should be in addition to fulfilling pledges to EACC.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

The April financial report, prepared by John Peterson, showed that estimates of giving were down 9% for the first four months, but that loose offerings were over budget. Total expenses were \$1,993 under budget for the same period, so we remain in good financial condition. In addition, the primary focus of the May meeting was on personnel matters. The Ministry approved the recommended hiring of Mr. James J. Rutledge, Jr. to be our new Financial Manager with a starting date to be coordinated with John Peterson, our retiring FM. We also approved hiring Brian Littles to be our temporary Saturday/Sunday custodian at 3000 Euclid Avenue, and approved a salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000 for a new Minister of Music. In addition, we approved funds for purchase of plants to decorate the 30th Street entrance to the church.

John Baker, secretary

TO HELP THE TORNADO VICTIMS IN JOPLIN, MISSOURI...

Among the several organizations sending aid to those who were in the path of the tornado that hit Joplin, Missouri in late May is our own United Church of Christ. Send donations to the United Church of Christ Spring Storms Appeal, online at ucc.org/disaster, or mail checks to 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland OH 44115.

TO HELP PARTICIPANTS IN CITIZEN CIRCLE...

Citizen Circle, an organization made up of members of our church and of the Church of the Covenant, tries to assist people who were formerly incarcerated with re-entry into the community. Two of our participants are in need of furniture and other household items; one needs a couch, and the other needs absolutely everything, including appliances, kitchen utensils, and linens. Please contact Kathy Baker at 216-383-1684 if you have any of these items that you are willing to donate.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD MINISTRY

Committees of this ministry have been busy. On April 27, 2011 the members of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ made the decision to sell the property at 9606 which was the location of our church building. The congregation also decided to examine two options now opened to it: whether the church would rebuild on another site or find an existing building and adapt/ remodel it to accommodate our program needs. As a result of this vote, the New Beginning Committee will research the benefits of building on prospective sites as well as the benefit to our congregation of adapting existing buildings to our needs. Our target date for this presentation is early September, 2011.



Healthy Connectors, one of the outreach programs of this ministry, treated the congregation to a Power Sunday program on May 22 which was outstanding.

On May 15, members of the church took part in an informational session following worship service. This informational session was conducted by members of the Citizen Circle, another mission of our ministry. Pamphlets describing the work of this program were given out and it is hoped that church members gained some insight into what service is provided to persons who are leaving prison and who are trying to reestablish themselves in the community.

During the month of June, members of our church will be taking part in the Gay Pride parade which is scheduled for June 25, 2011. Parade participants will gather at W.3rd and West St. Clair Avenue that Saturday. As we get closer to the date, more information will be available.

Other outreach programs of the Church in the World Ministry who provide services to the people of Greater Cleveland and the Our Church's Wider Mission are Dolphin Depot, United Black Christians, Fifth Monday Meal, Interact and Saturday Fun.

Members who coordinate and take part in these activities are greatly appreciated.

Eleanore Dees, Co-Chair Judy Sieck, Co-Chair

Kathy Baker, Linda Brewer, Jewell Green, Linda Huston, and Yulanda Jackson Powell, members all.

GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS JUNE 6

Join the Founding Assembly of the Greater Cleveland Congregations on Monday, June 6 from 7-9PM at the Masonic Temple, 3615 Euclid Avenue, to organize for political impact and visibility on issues in the areas of education, jobs, health care, criminal justice and hunger. EACC is one of more than 35 religious groups that will be working together to build power for social justice. Greater Cleveland Congregations seeks "a more just society informed by our faith, our democratic values, and a common belief in the power of social action to bring about social change." See Ruth Garwood for more information. (216-402-5466)

WORSHIP AND ARTS MINISTRY

The Worship and Arts Ministry's main concern at this time is providing music for Sunday worship, with our interim Director of Music, Charlie Carr, leaving at the end of May and no permanent Minister of Music yet hired. We are setting up a schedule for soloists for the summer and finding substitute organists. We are inviting both Gospel and Chancel choir members to sign up where there are vacancies, and we have both Lavert Stuart and Carmen Massaro playing for our summer services with a few special services. Due to the lack of air conditioning, we will try to shorten the order of worship for the summer.

If any of you knows of someone who might be interested in applying for the Minister of Music position, please contact the office or a Worship and Arts Ministry member for a job description.

For June 5th Communion we will have the prepared cups.

Anyone who would like to serve as liturgist or would like to provide flowers for a service please see Noreen Roderick. If you would like to assist in Communion and preparation see Claude Brewer.

Carolyn Smith, Co-chair, Worship and Arts Ministry

THANKS, EACC

From United Protestant Campus Ministries (UpCam):

"Thank you for your recent contribution of \$250 to United Protestant Campus Ministries in Cleveland...I invite you to visit our website at www.upcam.org to learn more about what our campus ministries are doing. Our goal is to bring the presence of Christ to our campuses daily so that students will have a safe place to go with their thoughts, questions, and dreams. Your gifts help us to provide a Christian community where students can feel at home with others who share their campus and faith experience."



From InterReligious Partners in Action of Greater Cleveland (InterAct):

"It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we say thank you for your gift of \$282 and for providing hygiene kits, stuffed animals, diapers and formula for InterAct Cleveland's 20th Annual Homeless Stand Down... Your generous support made a big impact on the lives of over 1,300 men, women and children facing poverty and homelessness. As an essential Stand Down supporter, you have been recognized on our website, in the March InterAct e-newsletter, and the March HSD Helper e-newsletter that reaches over 1,700 people. Your generosity and support will be recognized in our upcoming HSD 2011 video... Again, thank you for playing such a vital part in Northeast Ohio's largest interreligious event focused on compassionate dignity-affirming outreach to those in need."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Church Family:

In life you never know when or how you'll be blessed. But when you have been blessed sometimes it's good to share the information about your blessings with others so that it can also serve as a form of encouragement for them. That being said, our ministry is proud to announce the addition of Ruth Garwood to CEFF. Ruth has blessed our congregation several times by leading our church in worship. She brings a multitude of ministerial and leadership skills to CEFF and has already proven to be an important asset to this Ministry. We have also been blessed by the increase in the number of children that attend our Church School. We have also been encouraged with the increase in numbers of children attending the Saturday Fun events. This has resulted in the nice problem we had of needing additional teaching resources to help out. Again, we have been blessed. Cheryl Wacasey has stepped up to help fill a need for adult teachers. Cheryl as most of you know has been and continues to be blessed in many ways. One of her blessings is her passion for working with children. She has taken this gift and is using it to serve as one of our Sunday school teachers. She will be working with our "tweeners" and filling a definite need that has continued to grow as more "older children" find their way to worship service. With the kind of dedication and willingness to get involved being shown by people like these, we feel we will only grow stronger as a ministry and church as we strive to meet the spiritual needs of the children and church.



Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Philippians 2:4

Al Parks, CEFF Co-Chair

***** KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS *****

- ◆ Rev. Charles Ackerson
- ◆ Georgia Bibb (*mother of Leon Bibb*)
- ◆ LaDoris Dantzler
- ◆ Hallie K. Jones
- ◆ Doris Simmons
- ◆ Barbara Smith Weems
- ◆ Meredith Washburn

Please call the church office for additions and deletions

Women's Association Pot Luck

The last meeting of the Women's Association for the season will be held on Tuesday June 7. There will be work to do as usual, and lunch will be a potluck rather than the usual brown bag affair. All women of the church are invited to attend - bring a dish to share. Regular meetings will resume again in September.

GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to the following EACC graduates:

Jamie Drysdale, son of Ann Drysdale, graduated from MASSART (the Massachusetts College of Art and Design) with his Master's degree in Architecture on May 20. He was the commencement speaker who represented the Master's programs.

"Thinking back to all the tears we both had getting him through high school," Ann says, "this is a great day indeed! He will be moving back to Cleveland soon (great news for Mom!) and will be looking for work. With his construction and renovating background, he is very capable of doing most design/build projects. Feel free to email him at jedrysdale@gmail.com"

Amber Bogard, daughter of Precious Bogard and granddaughter of Juanita LeFloria, will graduate from Beachwood High School on June 5. She played basketball all through her high school career and had the highest GPA on her team. On June 25th, Amber, along with the other student athletes, will start at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where she has been given a full 6-year scholarship. She plans to study biology in order to become a veterinarian some day; her high school senior project was at the Warrensville Animal Hospital.

Kathie Buckner is proud to announce the graduation from Solon High School on June 2nd of her granddaughter, **Stephanie Trecaricki**. Stephanie will be attending Kent State University.

INTRODUCING VIVECA WILLIAMS

Viveca Williams has been both a Clevelander and one of the UCC faithful all her life. She was born and raised in Cleveland, makes her home in Shaker Heights, and teaches special education for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Adlai Stevenson School. At age 5 she started attending Mt. Zion Congregational-UCC Church, where she got to know the Clayton family and watched young Courtney Clayton grow up. In fact, the parents of the future Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins were the leaders of Viveca's youth group at Mt. Zion. Later she attended the UCC college, Heidelberg, and continued as a member of Mt. Zion where she and her husband were married and her four children were baptized.

Today Viveca has twin sons attending Ohio University and a daughter, Chelsea, who will be married at our church in September. She lost her fourth child, a son, to cancer ten years ago. Her husband still attends Mt. Zion but she is confident that if she doesn't push him he will soon join her at EACC. She stays very busy these days as a teacher and also as a caregiver/companion for her parents and parents-in-law. She has little time left over for hobbies, although she does exercise regularly at Curves and read the Bible daily; she looks forward to 2015 when she hopes to retire.

She has found EACC to be most "welcoming and embracing." We do indeed welcome Viveca into our church family!



* * * JOYS * * *

Ta'kevia McConell, 11-year-old daughter of Shkenya James and Brian Littles, was among 12 students chosen to represent Marion Sterling School in the ballroom dancing semi-finals at Tri-C in May. They competed against 7 other schools there and then went on to the finals at the Playhouse Square Club, where they came in second. All participants were given a choice of scholarships as prizes; Ta'kevia chose to take dance lessons at Tri-C this summer.

Carole Brown's son Ron Brown became an instant celebrity recently when his best friend nominated him to have one of his dreams come true on the Oprah Winfrey show. He was given the chance to interview a professional basketball player one-on-one and then to talk about it on ESPN. (As Ron said, "ESPN is the mothership for all sports fans.") He traveled to Indianapolis to interview Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls and then appeared on ESPN. This was a vehicle for Ron to show his extraordinary talent as a sports broadcaster.

Friends and family of **Liz Stuart** were pleased to see her honored at WCLV's church choir competition on May 12th and 13th by the contest being named, in her honor, the Elizabeth Stuart Church Choir Festival. The winner this year was the First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls Chancel Choir. Liz, who sang in our Chancel Choir and died in December, 2010, was the originator of the competition.

Amber Green, daughter of Jewell Green, was recognized at InterAct Cleveland's third annual recognition event on May 22 for her participation in that organization's Youth Fellows program. She and 17 other youth from many different faith and cultural backgrounds met regularly to share their views, visit several mosques, churches and temples, and work together on community service projects.

JAMES JOSEPH RUTLEDGE, JR.

We will welcome Jim Rutledge to our staff on June 1st as Financial Manager. He is a graduate of Holy Name High School and has a B.S. in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University. He has had a long career as an accountant, project auditor, and in general management. He is a member of Bethany Baptist Church where he is a deacon, a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, and serves on the Brotherhood and Food Bank ministries. He is married with two children. His many skills will be of great benefit to EACC as we move into our next phase of building or remodeling. Welcome aboard, Jim.

RECOGNITION FOR GRADES

On June 26, EACC students that received A's, B's or a combination of both for the last grading period of the semester will be recognized during worship.


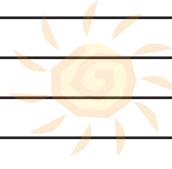
Please show a copy of your grades to Ms. Higginbotham by Sunday, June 19th to receive recognition.



**MOTHERS
DAY
MAY 8, 2011**



JUNE 2011*
(Birthdays/Wedding anniversaries noted herein)

	Event	Special Day
1	Wed. 7 PM Installation Choir Rehearsal	
2	Thu	Tena Stewart
3	Fri.	
4	Sat. 2 PM Installation Choir Rehearsal	
5	Sun. 8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship 6 pm - Installation	
6	Mon. 7 pm - Greater Cleveland Congregations	Cyndi Henderson
7	Tues. 10 AM - Women's Association	
8	Wed.	Keith Goard
9	Thu. 	Melissa Henderson Bural & Kathie Buckner
10	Fri.	Adrienne Brockway
11	Sat. 10 am - Saturday Fun	Gladys Wells
12	Sun. 8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship All-Church Picnic	
13	Mon.	
14	Tues.	
15	Wed.	
16		
17	Fri.	
18		Marquais Stewart
19	Sun. 8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship Father's Day	
20	Mon.	
21	Tues.	Charlene Higginbotham
22	Wed.	Jeanette Potts
23	Thu.	
24	Fri.	
25	Sat. Gay Pride Parade	
26	Sun. 8:45 - Bible Study, 10:00 - Worship -	
27	Mon.	Judy Sieck
28	Tues.	Markita Stewart David & Linda Buckle
29	Wed.	
30	Thu.	Lavera Hampton



❖ The Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, the UCC's executive minister for Wider Church Ministries, issued a statement today (May 11) calling for the Ugandan government to drop legislation that calls for the imprisonment of homosexuals. The legislation was first proposed in 2009 and, in its original incarnation, contained language imposing the death penalty for homosexual behavior.

Due to a lack of a quorum in the Ugandan parliament, the current bill was removed from the May 11 docket. The parliament called for an extraordinary session to discuss the bill on Friday, May 13. If debate did not resume or if there was not enough time to bring it to a vote, the legislation could be reintroduced in the next parliamentary session.

Rogers-Witte joins other human rights groups, church communions and governments worldwide who have put a tremendous amount of pressure on Ugandans to remove the bill from consideration.

On Sept 29-Oct. 1 at the Doubletree Inn in Columbus, Ohio, the UCC Disabilities Ministries and the Mental Illness Network will present the 2011 Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All Conference, the second national conference – on both personal and pastoral levels – to expand engagement on the topics of mental illness and brain disorders.

"My hopes are that the interaction between people will not only increase our personal engagement on issues around mental illness and brain disorders and disabilities, but also stretch ways that our churches can be understanding of these issues and expand their inclusion," said the Rev. Alan Johnson, retired UCC pastor and chair of the UCC Mental Illness Network.

The conference – which drew 235 people to its debut event last fall in St. Louis – aims to educate about these disorders and disabilities, as well as help congregations develop Accessible to All (A2A) covenants and mental-health ministries. National statistics indicate that at least one in four families is affected by mental illness, brain disorder or other disability.

Keynote speakers this year are: Thomas E. Reynolds, associate professor of theology at Emmanuel College and author of "Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality"; Carolyn Thompson, a Piscopo Divinity School professor whose concentration is on raising awareness and understanding of disability and access issues in congregations and larger church bodies; the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, UCC director of Publishing, Identity and Communication who has been nominated to become executive minister of UCC Local Church Ministries; and Christine Guth, program director for Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet), a disability advocacy organization affiliated with Mennonites and related denominations.

The Rev. Kathi Wilson, chaplain at Emmaus Homes in Marthasville, Mo., took part in last year's event and plans to be in Columbus in September. "I was particularly thrilled because of my call and background to see a conference

such as Widening the Welcome come to fruition," she said. "I see it as a concrete work in our desire to put the faith of our heart into the living way of Jesus." Emmaus Homes' mission is to enhance the quality of life for all people with cognitive, intellectual and other brain disorders.

Throughout its 54-year history, the UCC has highlighted, approved and enacted resolutions related to disabilities and mental illnesses/brain disorders. UCC Local Church Ministries, through Disabilities Ministries and the Mental Illness Network, provide substantial financial support for Widening the Welcome.

Jamaican national leaders (Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding and Sir Patrick Allen, governor general of Jamaica) welcomed a global ecumenical delegation on Monday as the week-long International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) began unfolding in Kingston.

The delegation comprised leaders from the World Council of Churches (WCC), Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) and Jamaican Council of Churches (JCC) who attended a series of meetings with Jamaican authorities.

The Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, WCC general secretary, briefed Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding on the history of the WCC and the IEPC, a gathering of some 1,000 worldwide faith leaders and peace practitioners exploring the concept of just peace and recent advances in peacemaking practices.

The IEPC's location in Jamaica is an intentional acknowledgement of the region's involvement in the Decade to Overcome Violence, explained CCC general secretary Gerard Granado. Kingston was one of the focus capitals of the WCC's "Peace to the City" campaign launched in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1997.

Before the delegation, Allen pointed out the fact that crime and violence are treated as the most important items on both government and church agendas in Jamaica today. Allen, an ordained pastor and former head of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Jamaica, recalled the "ultimate sources of peace offered by the gospel" that inspire Christians worldwide to commit to peace talks and processes worldwide. He affirmed that "there is nothing wrong in Jamaica today that cannot be fixed by what is right."

His optimistic approach inspired a vice-moderator of the WCC Central Committee, the Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse, to call on churches to search for mutual collaboration between governments worldwide.

"People are losing faith in Christianity. We must rescue the interest of people in the gospel by showing how we can work together in this world," she said.

Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Limouris), the other vice-moderator of the WCC Central Committee, said that one of the goals of the IEPC is to have a concrete impact on Jamaica's struggle to overcome violence.



JUNE ACTIVITIES

(see inside for more details)

- 1 -Wed. - 7 PM Installation
Choir Rehearsal
- 4 -Sat. - 2 PM Installation
Choir Rehearsal
- 5 -Sun. - 6 pm – Installation
- 6 -Mon. - 7 pm – Greater
Cleveland Congregations
- 7 -Tue - 10 AM - Women's
Association potluck
- 11 -Sat. - 10 AM – Saturday Fun
- 12 -Sun. - All-Church
Picnic
- 25 -Sat. - Gay Pride Parade

WHICH LAWS, THEN, ARE WRITTEN ON THE HEART? ALL THE LAWS OF MOSES? JUST THE DECALOGUE? THE ANSWER IS OF ALL THESE THINGS, AND NONE OF THEM, JUST THESE WORDS WILL SUFFICE: “I AM YOURS AND YOU ARE MINE,” SAYS [GOD]. THAT IS THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS.

FRED CRADDOCK

**EUCLID AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9411 EUCLID AVENUE
CLEVELAND OH 44106 -2044**