

**United Congregational Church of Southern Africa
Youth Committee**

**Youth Group Visit to the Scotland
6-29th August 2011**



“Abiding in Love to live in Unity”

No one can dispute that it is a time of enormous change, for instance, what happened in Haiti and also a time whereby young people are worried about climate change and how it will affect the world they grow up in, they will have to live with the consequences if people fail to take action. Many countries are already experiencing the impact of climate change. It is imperative to engage the next generation of decision makers – youth activists – in addressing climate change and responding to young people’s call for greater participation in decision making arenas and practical action. Young people are large untapped resources for global consensus making action. Who is really in control? When you look at the world today, are you filled with despair or with hope and optimism? One big question people are asking at the moment is who is in control? Is the government in control? Are we in control? Or do we truly say God is in control? What do we see? Are we any different from the world? We cannot sing the same song as the people from the world because if we who have Christ cannot see and proclaim hope, then who will? Our hope has to be in God hence the UCCSA theme ***“In Christ there is a future-hope in the midst of an economic crisis”*** is very relevant as it speaks to the young and old and as young people we are called to be fellowship rooted in love standing firm in the teaching of Jesus Christ whom we say there is a future as we aim to spread the Word of God in the Church and society. We are living in exciting times; this is the time for us as followers of Christ to demonstrate the love of God to a world that is looking for answers. Some people might be despondent because of the economic and political circumstances for our world. The economic downturns, impacts families both in and outside the church, but I believe as Christians we can simply never become a product of our environment. We are defined and sustained by the giver of all life and good thing –God. Young people around the world are making a real difference to the lives of individuals and whole communities. The Youth of UCCSA is very excited at the possibility of giving assistance to a project in Scotland through the visit of a group of young people in August 2009. The group is expected to leave around 1st week of August and the trip will last 3-4 weeks

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**United Congregational Church of Southern Africa**

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Mission Council Convenor: Rev Joey Naika
Director of Kuruman: Rev Kudzani Ndebele {as rep of Mission Council}
Youth Convenor Elect: Miss Meagan Diergaardt

Report back

This report was given to UCCSA General Secretary, then also to Mission Council and then to the March Executive 2010

What is the vision?

- Is for young people from both sides to enhance the vision of our respective congregations and also to share the Gospel in their areas.
- To allow the young people of UCCSA and the UFCSO opportunity to serve God in a variety of ways

What the trip is about

- We plan to send a group of young people from UCCSA (made up of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa & Zimbabwe), going over in August 2011 to work alongside a group of young people from the UF Church, for 3 weeks, serving God in a variety of settings throughout Scotland.
- The youth would work in partnership as one big or several smaller teams in projects suggested and supported by UF congregations.

Why the partnership important

- The young people who come from the UF last year, returned changed young people
- Eyes were opened to what life is like in other parts of the world
- They met with people who live in situations very different to their own experiences, and saw how they live out their Christian faith
- They learned to work as a team, serving God in a sacrificial way

- They returned with a passion to serve God in their own localities, using their experience of the trip at home
- We are hoping it will be the same with our young people

Partnership and Beyond 2011

Those involved in UFCSO like the idea of working in partnership with the young people from the UCCSA Church, rather than a team coming from Africa and working alone. There is also great potential to extend the partnership for training purposes etc. Currently, the South African Synod of UCCSA offers a youth development programme which lasts for 9 months, with young people taking part in a variety of training and service modules. They are involved in Prison ministry, youth ministry etc and travel to various places to take part in these modules. This trip may serve as part of training for the youth from UCCSA and could also serve as part of the training for the youth of the UF.

Who will be going & how will they be chosen

The Youth Convenor, Youth Convenor Elect, Mission Secretary and Mission Council Convenor will head the selection process. There will be 12-13 places on the team and those interested in going should request an application form from the Church Office or their Regions or Synod. The selection process will include references, interviews and medical record and the emphasis will be on choosing those who will make the most suitable team for particular work being carried out and with the range skills who will be aged 18-30 in August 2011 and who will have an active church connection within the UCCSA so that the congregation can support you in prayer and perhaps in other ways. Those going must be able to work well as part of a team and be able to cope with living and working in a different culture and climate.

Interest:

The young people and the leaders of UFCSO are very enthusiastic about the visit and see great potential for partnership with the youth work of the UCCSA Church. We were taken to different congregations to market and promote the visit and look into possible projects, places such as Bo'ness, Aberdeen, and Graigmailen and also got a chance to their Youth Assembly over the weekend and the tasks was now to continue the talks further and to begin organising the interview and selection process both here and in UCCSA. We agreed on using the same form the UFSCO used as part of their selection conference

Date:

We agreed to have the group go over *6-29th August 2011* as this will coincide with university/school holidays both in Southern Africa and here. This would allow for summer missions, but may make school involvement difficult. It would also allow for participation in the denominational event in August, to end the process.

Travel: The trip will last 3-4 weeks and will depart the 1st week on the August 5th. There is a considerable distance between the projects around Scotland.

Preparation:

After this visitation, we are now ready to begin to work on the process fully. It was suggested that the young people from the UF and UCCSA go through the same training process so that when they meet, they can share the experience fully. This would involve orientation weekends, held in Scotland and in Southern Africa, led by the leaders on each side, covering the same topics, an interview process with the young people applying to be part of this and a commitment from the congregations both in Scotland and in the UCCSA to support this venture.

Delegates

The expected number of youth to go there is 12 and 2 per synods /3 from bigger synods and with the leaders that would make 13-14.

Expectations

1. Social responsibility
2. Exposure
3. Restoring balance of Mission EUR=AFR.....AFR=EUR
4. Worship
5. Bringing back passion
6. Presenting gospel in our culture
7. Cultural evening

Costs

Since this is a partnership between UCCSA and UFCSO, each denomination was encouraged to raise as much as they can and also the UFCSO will be also doing some fundraising on their side and our young people are encourage to try and raise money for their travelling so that it wont be come another holiday but it will give a meaning to the whole programme .We agreed that we wont let finance be the reason to hinder such a wonderful experience. The UFCSO asked if the could be informed of also on the budget on our side.

Cost will include

- International Travel
- Visa Fees
- Domestic travel
- Food
- Accommodation
- Miscellaneous

Visa Applications

UFCSO General Secretary will look into that and do the invitation letters and in the visas process we will create people who would be on reserve in case some applicants are denied visas.

What's next?

While South Africa is geared up for 2010,as young people we say 2011 is the place to be, It was agreed that the UCCSA Youth Convenor and the UFCSO Youth worker keep the dream alive by promoting this event in their youth events and also send and exchange prayer request every month and the UFCSO gave us a page in their Steadfast Newsletter every month which by us its going to the Chronicle

- Prayer and Support
- Publicity and information
- Beyond 2011-2013 UFCSO coming to Africa
- Short term opportunity

Application forms

These will be to the local churches ,and then they will send them to the Synod and, Synod has to send the shortlist candidates to the Denomination, and hence the synods are expected to do this before the September Executive and report on the progress so far in that meeting final selection will be in the march executive 2011, Mission Secretary, Mission Council Convenor and the Youth Convenor will do the final selection and orientation in Kuruman

Accommodation: In Scotland it is likely the group will be given hospitality by folk in the local church. Food is likely to be British food.

Training & Support: There will be a meeting of the team before hand to cover a variety of issues related to the trip. An orientation programme is being prepared and full information will be sent to those who are accepted in the team. This will include information on the Scotland and an indication of what you should take with.

Timetables for the Application:

The timetable for dealing with applications will be as follows:

- Requests for application form-by September Executive if possible from the synod to the denomination.
- References will have to be attached to the application
- Interviews will be done at the UCCSA Youth Conference in December 2010
- We aim to start visa application s for participants early June 2010.

Further Information from:

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