

New Free Village Movement

The New Free Village movement is on a mission for Churches to take the lead in contributing to land redistribution and the facilitation of the more economically challenged members of society to access viable housing solutions for themselves and their families. It is in this context that the suggestion to establish New Free Villages emerges. Churches would contribute land, and seek resources to allow for the survey and subdivision with necessary utility infrastructure for settlement of community members who would, for the first time, become legitimate owners of real estate. Collaboration with state agencies would allow for timely development of housing solutions and other appropriate land use.

The United Church would earmark three plots of land in the proximity of congregations, one in each county. Optimal size per plot is ten acres.

Substantial capital is needed for the professional works of subdivision, provision of public utilities, and housing design and construction. That capital will undergird the design and construction for the maximum number of housing solutions suitable in each location. Three locations which have been given careful consideration include Jackson Town.

A projects task force of CRAF is far advanced in the computation of the costs associated with the implementation of this programme. The high-level estimate of the cost of implementing each ten-acre project is £2.4 million (J\$ 480 million), housing up to 40 households – with an expectation of about 120 direct beneficiaries.

Examples of the types of starter housing developments proposed are shown below:

