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Greetings!

I am writing to solicit your help in redressing some unresolved issues regarding the Old Tucker's Town Graveyard.

This year in October, Marsden First United Methodist Church will celebrate its 150th year anniversary. Our history has its roots in the Tucker's Town heritage. Landmarks such as an old chapel, School House and Community Store, still stand today as private residences. These structures, and, most importantly, the old graveyard, are all that remain of the old predominantly black rural community. In 1996, the graveyard was rededicated to honor those who are buried there. The descendants are not only members of Marsden, but are individuals from across our island home.

As you may know, the Old Tucker's Town Graveyard exists in the middle of the Tucker's Point golf course—more specifically, below the Club House in an area used as a driving range. There is too much history for me to cover in this letter, so let me get straight to the point.

In June 2007, the Pastor and designated representatives from Marsden met with members of the Tucker's Town Historical Society, CURB (Citizens Uprooting Racism in Bermuda), and representatives from Tucker's Point Club (TPC). A number of grievances and concerns were presented to Tucker's Point and discussed (see attached document dated June 2007). Chief among these was the desecration of graveyard by the driving range depositing numerous golf balls.

Subsequent meetings, communications, and a documentary film, have failed to resolve the matter. This despite verbal and written assurances from Tucker's Point that certain key issues would be addressed (see attached letter from Tucker's Point dated April 14, 2009). Tucker's Point has defaulted on the following:

1. TPC agreed to stop the continued desecration of graveyard. They promised to sufficiently protect the area with a net. This has not been done. They were told over two years ago that the flimsy net that is by the hedges is totally inadequate, which they acknowledged and promised to replace. Anyone who visits the graveyard on any given day will find the site desecrated by numerous golf balls.
2. TPC agreed to replace the plaque, which Marsden erected on the wall of the graveyard that was severely damaged by their machines. This has not been done.
3. TPC agreed to repair the damaged wall. This also has not been done.

4. TPC agreed to allow for scanning of the area so that a determination can be made to the location of the remains of the deceased. Mr. Ed Harris, the Director of the Maritime Museum, informed me in June of this year that Tucker's Point refused to give him access to the area.

Over four years after our meetings to resolve these issues, and more than two years after TPC agreed to rectify key issues, nothing has been done. The attached pictures were taken on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Although the picture quality is not the best, they do provide an accurate visual representation of the situation.

As we plan to hold our 150th Anniversary, Marsden intends to invite the community to gather at the Old Tucker's Town Graveyard. It would be a shame for the community to gather and witness the continuation of a disregard for a people's heritage and one of their holy grounds. We anticipate once again a community outcry over this issue.

On behalf of our congregation, and the many across this island who are concerned about these issues, I solicit your assistance.

Thank you,

Joseph F. Whalen, Jr.  
Pastor