



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 2 : Issue 1

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

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

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## PRAY FOR:

Rev. Dr. Adlyn White who is not well. The Service of Thanksgiving for her late husband Vesta White will be held on Saturday January 7, 2016 at the Ridgemount United Church at 11 a.m.



# "DISCIPLESHIP FOR LIFE"



Rev. Norbert Stephens

At our last Central Mission Council Meeting it was agreed that the theme for the upcoming Synodical period 2017-2019 will be "Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life".

Accordingly, this theme will form a basis on which much of our communications strategies used to promote the activities of the Church, will be based in 2017.

Who is a Disciple? What are the characteristics that mark her/his behaviour? What does Christ expect from those who are His disciples?

We will engage the theme over a four year period through a process of education, resourcing and implementation and this will be the pattern of our Synodical themes in ensuing years.

- Year one (2017)– education and resourcing
- Years two to four – implementation

This will be undergirded by a clear communication strategy which would involve all the existing channels as well as additional one to ensure clarity and engagement within the church.

Suggested quarterly themes for the three year cycle beginning in 2018 (themes promoted and resourced in 2017) are as follows: The Disciple/Discipleship as Evangelist, Mission, Advocate, Caregiver, Cost, Steward, Fellowship, Youth and Children, Worship, Word, Family, Spiritual.

Starting this month these themes will be pursued, not only through this Newsletter, but also importantly through our Sunday Radio Programme, United in Faith, aired at 6:30 am on RJR.

As we consider deeply the issues surrounding this theme, let us be reminded that Discipleship was Jesus' method of establishing a Divine Kingdom here on earth, driven by a Divine Agenda and undergirded by Divine Principles and Values through conversion.

Interestingly, Jesus converted very few people Himself. He literally based His whole ministry on his disciples, including the called twelve.

This is therefore a reminder that Jesus has identified us as His principal agents to accomplish His will. His strategy during His earthly ministry was to quietly pour His life into those who would multiply.

Our Christ expects His followers to be faithful and fruitful.

Discipleship is for Life!

## CELEBRATIONS!!



TO:

**Rev. I. Wayne Silvera**

*January 5*

**Miss Laddia Young**

*January 8*



*Every end marks a new beginning. Keep your spirits and determination unshaken, and you shall always walk the glory road. With courage, faith and great effort, you shall achieve everything you desire. I wish you all, a very*  
**Happy New Year!**

## COVENANTING FOR 'DISCIPLESHIP: FOR LIFE!'

*The beginning of a New Year is an ideal time to stop, look up and get our bearings. For starters, here are 31 questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God as you "Consider your ways." Think on the entire list at one sitting, or answer one question each day for a month.*

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in 10 years? In eternity?
11. What's the most important decision you need to make this year?
12. What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?
13. What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year?
14. What habit would you most like to establish this year?
15. Who do you most want to encourage this

. this year?

16. What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?
17. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year?
18. What's one new way you could be a blessing to your pastor (or to another who ministers to you) this year?
19. What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?
20. What book, in addition to the Bible, do you most want to read this year?
21. What one thing do you most regret about last year, and what will you do about it this year?
22. What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?
23. In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year?
24. What's the most important trip you want to take this year?
25. What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year?
26. To what need or ministry will you try to give an unprecedented amount this year?
27. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your commute this year?
28. What one biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it?
29. If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What will you do about it?
30. What's the most important new item you want to buy this year?
31. In what area of your life do you most need change, and what will you do ?