



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 2

Wednesday, January 11, 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:

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Our Church, that as a 'Family', we will commit to be true Disciples of Christ; learners and teachers of the Word, with a mission to evangelize.



"A DIVINE IMPERATIVE"

dis·ci·ple·ship
n. to turn all people into fully devoted, mature followers of Christ



The Synod's theme for 2017-2019 gives attention to the discipling of others as the focus of the local church in living out the missionary calling: *Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life.*

This divine imperative is rooted in Jesus' mandate in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go and make disciples... baptizing, teaching... remembering that I am with you".

This mandate urges the child of God to engage in the task of seeking to convert others to a Christian way of life and living.

It challenges us to ensure that a public declaration and commitment to this way of life is demonstrated (baptism) and invites us to nurture them in the faith (teaching) while at the same time consistently remembering that God's presence is an abiding gift to us in this Divine Kingdom building exercise.

When others come into a knowledge of Christ, they then experience the gifts of faith and are empowered to live lives in obedience to God, guided by the divine values of the faith. These living and lived out values are expressed as discipleship.

A disciple, then, is characterized by the following:

Knows the **WORD** of God, which is lamp and light (Psalm 119:105) and **WORSHIPS** God (Matthew 22:37);

Understands the **COST** of being a disciple (Luke 14:25f);

Understands what it means to be **SPIRITUAL** (Galatians 6:1);

Is an **EVANGELIST** (Matthew 28:19), **STEWARDS** (Micah 6:8), **ADVOCATE** and **CAREGIVER** (Matthew 22:39)

Engages in **MISSION** (Matthew 10);

Are **CHILDREN** and **YOUTH** or are examples for them (Matthew 18:2-4);

Places a high value on **FELLOWSHIP** (Matthew 28:19 – baptism brings us into fellowship with one another)

Our upcoming **Ash Wednesday Day of Fellowship (Jamaica)/Prayer Gathering (Cayman)** as well as our **40th Synod** will give fuller expression of this theme. Indeed, as indicated previously, **2017** will be a year in which we flesh out the **12 marks of being a disciple** and offer our congregations important resources to help them better understand how as God's children we can improve our discipleship.

Our hope is that these 12 marks will find expression in the local congregations through monthly themes starting in 2018 and concluding in 2020.

We encourage you to look out for and participate in the available ways in which our theme will be expressed and communicated during 2017.

CELEBRATIONS!!

TO:

Rev. Naggie Sterling
Pastor Vivia Hemans
 January 14th

Pastor Renford Douglas
 January 15th

Rev. Ranford Hewitt &
Rev. Stanford Webley
 January 17th

ADVOCACY**PUBLIC FORUM**

You are invited to a Public Advocacy Forum to be held at the Webster Memorial United Church, 53, Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10

Topic: "The Church's response to the emerging challenges of a divided world"

Presenter: **Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt**
 (Honourary Associate Professor, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa)

Time/Date: **6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 18th.**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

WELCOME!!

Rev. Euthman Wray

The Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council is pleased to welcome within the bounds of Council the Rev. Euthman Wray. On January 1, 2017, Rev. Wray commenced ministry in the Robert Young/ Savannah Charge under the Settlement Policy of the UCJCI.

Ordained in 1995 as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, he has served in Jamaica as the Minister for the Lowe River, St. Paul's (Lockett Avenue), Eltham and Hampden Charges.

He also served as the Associate Dean/ Lecturer of Theology at the International University of the Caribbean and as an Instructor in Personal Development at

Rev. Wray has a Masters in Theology (M.Th.) from the Presbyterian College of the Theological Seminary, Seoul, South Korea and a Bachelor of Arts, Theology (B.A. Theology) from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

We heartily welcome Rev. Wray and wish him well in his ministry in the Robert Young Savannah Charge, in the Council and in the Cayman Islands.

A Service of Introduction for Rev. Wray will be held on Sunday, January 29 at the Savannah United Church.

UPCOMING**AND****current events**

Please note the following:

- **WRMC Council Meeting**
January 11
- **NERMC Council Meeting**
January 12
- **Knox 70th Anniversary Service – Spalding United**
January 15th
- **UCYAAM Sunday**
January 15th
- **Cayman Keswick**
January 15–22