



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian*

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

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

IN THIS ISSUE

- Giants of the Faith 1
- UCYPF Executive 2
- Leadership Corner 3
- Family Ad Corner & COVID-19 Feature 4

PRAY FOR:



***Rev. Raymond and Mrs. Ruth Coke, Rev. Godfrey and Mrs. Lynette Meghoo** on the passing of Mrs. Mary Mangaroo, sister to Ruth and Lynette.

*The family of **Rev. Keith Gordon**, who has passed on.

Volume 6: Issue 34

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

GIANTS OF THE CHURCH AND OF THE FAITH

Ivan Adolphus Burnett, went home to be with the Lord on August 30, 2020.

Throughout his working career in Jamaica, Ivan worked for many years as a life insurance agent. His entrepreneurial spirit led to his ownership of several businesses.

Trevel Burnett, Ivan's wife of 64 years, predeceased him on August 20, 2020. Throughout her adult life she worked at the Blood Bank and the Ministry of Health in Jamaica prior to retiring. She was a significant contributor to the ministries in the congregations they attended and served.

Mr. Burnett was an outstanding leader who served the United Church in a number of capacities. He was an Elder for the North Street United Church and subsequently the Meadowbrook United Church and was a delegate to Council and Synod for both congregations. In Canada he was an Elder and Board Member of the Safe Haven Church Community.



Ivan played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Meadowrest Memorial Gardens and served as the first Chairman of the Board of Management. Mr. Burnett's leadership also included serving as Chairman of the Synod's Property Committee, the St. Andrew Preparatory School Board and the Madge Saunders' Conference Centre Board of Management.

To these engagements he brought his wealth of knowledge, skills and experience in business and property development and manage-

ment and in concert with his commitment and dedication, he ensured excellent outcomes. His significant contribution to the business development side of the United Church is an established and continuing legacy, which is worthy of celebration.

Mr. Burnett was a passionate advocate for the welfare of the ministers of the United Church and was pivotal in the establishment of a number of programmes towards this end, including the establishment of the Lay Person's Initiative (LPI).

The 31st Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, held in 1999, honoured Mr. Burnett for his outstanding contribution to the church's life and witness.

The Burnetts migrated to Canada in 1998 where they resided until their passing.

They have indeed fought the good fight, finished the race and have kept the faith.

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Mrs. Karen Francis
September 2

Rev. Verna Cassells
Rev. Delia Picart-Hibbert
Mrs. Sheila Arscott-Smith
September 8

Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan
Mrs. Shernett Smith
September 9

Rev. Glenroy Clarke
September 15

UCJCI VALUES

In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Fasting, Worship, etc.):

Personally and corporately communing with the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, attributing honour and seeking after God’s heart, to be empowered for ministry (Psalm 95:1-6, Matthew 6:5-18).

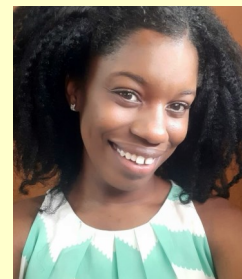
UCYPF EXECUTIVE

At the 2020 virtual Annual General Meeting of the United Church Young Peoples’ Fellowship convened Saturday, August 29, 2020, the following persons were elected to serve the **Synodical Youth Executive for the period 2020-2022:**

PRESIDENT

Vanessa Blissett

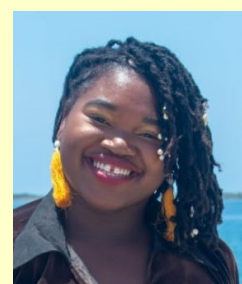
Ms. Blissett is an Administrative Assistant (Private sector)
Congregation : Portmore United



VICE PRESIDENT

Khdrea Jones

Student of Journalism, CARIMAC, UWI, Mona
Congregation: Greendale United



SECRETARY

Ashley Murphy

Administrative Specialist (Private sector)
Congregation: Meadowbrook United



PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Bosworth Jayden Ewen

Business Administration Student
Montego Bay Community College
Congregation: Savanna-La-Mar United



SPORTS COORDINATOR

Trifener Reid

Intern Counsellor - Victim Services Division ,
Ministry of Justice.
Congregation: Davyton United



All other positions on the Executive will be co-opted.

LEADERSHIP CORNER

5 Ways Churches Would Have Changed One Year From Now

I am not prophetic. And if I am prescient, it's only because I have the incredible vantage point of hearing from tens of thousands of church leaders at churches every year.

While it is admittedly difficult to project trends in typical times, it is exceedingly difficult to do so in a time of pandemic headed for, hopefully, a post-quarantine era. Because we hear from so many church leaders and church members, allow me to venture where local churches will be in one year.

- 1. At least 20 percent of those who attended before the pandemic will not return to church.** Of course, this number will vary from church to church, but early indicators point to this level of losses. Some of the former in-person attendees will become digital-only attendees. Most of this group, however, will not attend at all.
- 2. More pastors will leave vocational ministry over the next twelve months than any time in recent history.** Pastors suffer a death by a thousand cuts. It's usually not just one or a few factors that push their limits, it's the drip-by-drip effect of constant criticisms and conflicts they experience. That continuous pressure and dis-

couragement has been exacerbated by the incredible pressures brought by the pandemic.

- 3. Churches will move to a new emphasis on conversion growth.** Churches have been quietly disobedient to the Great Commission for three decades. We are seeing signs of a new wake-up call. Church leaders are becoming increasingly convicted that they must lead their churches to reach those who are not believers in Christ. Church members are reflecting that same conviction and commitment. Most church growth for the past three decades has been transfer growth, Christians moving from one church to another. That dismal reality is about to change.
- 4. Churches will start more churches, many of them as microchurches.** Churches are moving from vertical growth (getting as many to attend as possible at one place on Sunday morning) to horizontal growth (growth beyond one site on Sunday morning). A lot of this new growth will include the starting of microchurches, congregations of around 25 to 30 people. As a side note to be unpacked later, these trends will have huge impli-

cations for the future of church facilities.

- 5. Two movements will grow rapidly: church adoption and church fostering.** There will be more unhealthy churches needing help in the next few months. There will be more struggling churches without pastors. Some of these churches will be adopted; they will be assumed into another church family and become a site of the adopting church. Others will be fostered, which means a healthier church will help those struggling churches for a short season.

While it has become cliché to say we are living in unprecedented times, we are living in unprecedented times. Those organizations that view this new reality as an opportunity will indeed see limitless possibilities. This perspective is especially true for the organizations we call churches.

It's a challenging time. It's an exciting time.

The next twelve months will be incredibly telling for the future of local churches around the world.

Source: Thom Rainer (Church Leaders)



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Individual Prayer:
Every Wednesday
from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- * Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- * Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- * That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Safety of all elderly persons, those with comorbidities and our tourism workers.
- * Provision for the needy, those in quarantine and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER



Southern Regional Mission Council
invites you to join our Online Evangelistic Services

"Get Connected with Jesus"

Sunday, September 13-
Sunday, September 20, 2020
6:00-7:30 p.m. nightly



<https://www.facebook.com/ridgemountunitedchurch/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwFvwm0QfwZ7bSSU6uBxEg>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmoXgjfqRK8WGoKfoTthnw>



RESTARTING SOON!

*

Training for Lay Leaders

through the United Church in
Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Lay Training Institute

*An empowering Christ-centred leader, producing a transformed
Christ-centred church.*