

UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH Volume 6: Issue 38

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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 Transformation: Discipleship for Life"

IN THIS ISSUE

Emerging Stronger from the Pandemic 1-2 **UCJCI Values Leadership Corner** Family Ad Corner & **COVID-19 Feature**

PRAY FOR:



*Rev. Icvlvn Parwhose kinson, husband, Mr. Godfrey Parkinson, passed on.

wards, who is ill.

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

Emerging from the Pandemic Stronger and More Resilient

【 Imagine with me I believe there is, for at least 3 erance through my study the Corona- reasons: virus pandemic is over. A suitable vaccine has been developed. It has been equitably distributed throughout the nations, and our lives are state do you wish to be, sky, and look into the eyes

then, when it is over - the storm has passed, the winds have subsided and the earth is dry?

No doubt, we wish 4 to be standing upright, but if not, we hope for the possibility of re-building

our lives and moving forward with assurance that there is still a root in the can reap a harvest.

Is there hope in this tribulation? Is there some assurance to which we can *Rev. Millard Ed- cling, as we navigate the choppy waters of COVID-19? Is there comfort of deliverance...of an end to the crisis and its ravaging Secondly, I am assured of effects?

Firstly, God is LOVE. I know this because when I look at creation - the beautiful flowers, the sunshine, everything having a spethe mountains, the ocean, cific purpose and working back to normal. In what the trees, the grass, the blue

of my dogs, I see the loving nature of God reflected for our good, though this there, and am assured that may not be apparent now. God is good. When I con- Can we therefore seek the ground from which we sider that God sacrificed His Lord as we wait for His only begotten Son so that purpose to be revealed, and we could spend eternity free not allow this trial to be from trials, tribulations, fear wasted on us? Can we allow and struggle, in a place of the crisis to make us complete perfection, then I know that in Him...complete and en-God is LOVE, and because tire, lacking nothing at the He is, our deliverance from end of the test, according to COVID-19 is sure.

the promise of God's deliv-

of Biology. In my studies, I came to understand the majesty and brilliance of God, who intricately created the human body, with superbly together. The same is true of all crea-

> tion. All things work in tandem.

This tells me that God is purposeful and intentional. It tells me that He has a purpose for all that He allows, and that, even this pandemic will ultimately work

James 1:2-4?

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Rev. Dave Spence October 11

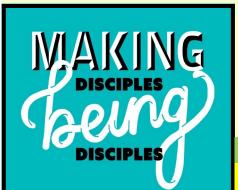
Rev. Donovan Myers October 12

Rev. Novlyn Hanson Miss Monique Lofters Rev. Noel Murray October 13

UCJCI VALUES

calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

Mission and Seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people, giving them hope; always 16, Deuteronomy 16:18**-**20, Zechariah 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19).



Emerging from the Pandemic Stronger and More Resilient

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Thirdly, I believe that God is sure to deliver us from the crisis that the global community faces because from the beginning of scripture to the end, God has shown Himself to be a deliverer...the Deliverer of His people and the Deliverer of the world. The Scriptures teach us that when we are afflicted, God is afflicted. He is not removed from our pain. He is touched by the feeling of our infirmities according to Hebrews 4:15, and He cannot turn away from us because He made us. We matter to God and everything that concerns us is of concern to our loving God who promises never to leave nor forsake us.

How then do we usher in the deliverance which we so desperately need? I would like to suggest the following strategy:

First, we DECIDE that we are going to stand, come what may, because you see, the Scripture says that as we think within our hearts, so we are (Proverbs 23:7).

Secondly, we daily fill our hearts and minds with the all-powerful Word of God – words of life and truth, so that we will be strengthened by the food of the Word and our thirst quenched by the living water of assurance. We daily think thoughts from the Word of God, as those who keep In seeking to live out our their minds on God will be kept in perfect peace, according to Isaiah 26:3.

Thirdly, we commit to praying throughout the entire journey and avail ourselves to hear God's words of peace and promise of deliverance spoken to our hearts as He journeys with us through the storm. God tells us in Outreach: Hebrews 4:16 to come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us therefore resolve to patiently wait and faithfully endure, persevering and persisting in prayer until things change, even as we submit to the governing authorities and obey the health protocols for our protection and that of others. You see, acting justly and being advo- when we fix our thoughts on who God says He is and what He says He cates of justice (James 2:15- will do, undergirded by prayer and supplication, we experience the peace that passes all understanding, according to Philippians 4:6-7, and we become like the palm tree, which, although the winds toss it to and fro, it bends but does not break.

> My brothers and sisters, can we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more resilient? YES. YES, WE CAN. God has never lost a battle. May we cling to faith, hope and love and so be steadied in the eye of the storm. May we adhere to the principles of God's Word so that our prayers are not hindered; and may we rest assured that this too shall pass."

> - Contributed by: Miss Lesley Hare, Communication and Information Technology Coordinator, **UCJCI**

HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY FOR OCT. 11, 2020

Yahweh Roi / The Lord is My Shepherd

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LEADERSHIP CORNER

Adding Value to Your Team

eadership is a complicated and difficult skill, one that no single person ever masters. There are some things I do well as a leader and some I do poorly. I'm sure it is the same for you. Even the greatest leaders from history had blind spots and weak areas.

So what's the solution? Organizations need to develop leadership teams at every level! A group of leaders working together is always more effective than one leader working alone. And for teams to develop at every level, they need leaders at every level.

As a leader in the middle, if you develop a team, you will be making your organization better and helping it to fulfil its vision. You will be adding value no matter where you serve in the organization. As you do that, keep the following ideas in mind:

VISIONARY LEADERS ARE WILLING TO HIRE PEOPLE BETTER THAN THEM-One leader I inter-SELVES. viewed said that a pivotal moment on his leadership journey occurred when someone asked him, "If you could hire someone who you knew would move the organization forward, but you would have to pay them more than your salary, would you hire them?" He said that question really arrested him. He thought about it long and hard, and when he finally concluded that he would, it changed the way he viewed his team and himself.

Good leaders are willing to hire people better than themselves. Why? Because their desire is to fulfil the vision. That is paramount. Anytime leaders find themselves being selfish or petty, they can be sure that they have wandered far from the vision. The way to get back on track is to put the vision first, and let everything else settle back to its rightful place.

WISE LEADERS SHAPE THEIR PEOPLE INTO A TEAM. Leaders begin to develop wisdom when they realize they can't do anything significant on their own. Once they realize that, leaders can also develop more humility and begin working to build a team.

Each of us needs others on the team to complete us. Good leaders don't build teams so that others can take a menial role and serve them. They don't hire others to do the dirty work or to become errand runners. They look for the best people they can find so that the team is the best it can be.

SECURE LEADERS EMPOW-ER THEIR TEAMS. Wayne Schmidt says, "No amount of personal competency compensates for personal insecurity." That is so true. Insecure leaders always have to go first. They are consumed with themselves. And that self-focus often drives them to bring second -best people around them.

On the other hand, secure leaders

focus on others, and they want others to do well. They are happy to let their teams get all the credit. Their desire to see others succeed drives them to equip, train, and empower their people well. Anytime you focus on others, empowerment naturally becomes the byproduct.

EXPERIENCED LEADERS LISTEN TO THEIR TEAMS.

Immature leaders lead first, then listen afterward—if they listen at all. Anytime leaders don't listen, they don't know the heartbeat of their people. They don't know what their followers need or want. They don't know what's going on. Good leaders understand that the people closest to the work are the ones who are really in the know.

If your people aren't following, you need to listen more. You don't need to be more forceful. You don't need to find more leverage. You don't need to come down on them. If you listen, they will be much more inclined to follow.

Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell







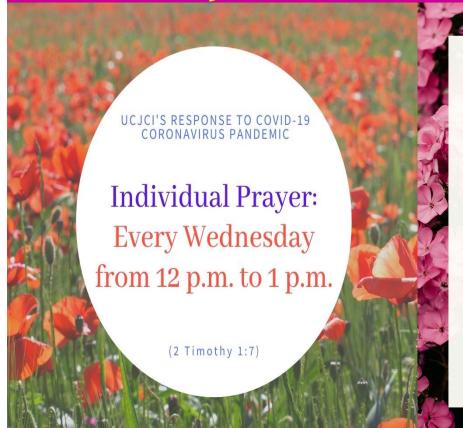






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UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * A stop to the spread of the disease.
- * Healing for those who are infected with the
- * 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 nec<mark>essar</mark>y 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



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



October 17th, Virtual Meeting

Starts at 10:00 am

2020



GREETINGS
From our Moderator:
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble -Bloomfield

Join us for updates on the Women's Fellowship
DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING
Sunday October 18, 2020

Please register through your Council President.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



"BUILT TO BEND: A series of learning opportunities to build resilience and respond to the challenges of COVID-19 and beyond."

Join webinars presented by the **UCJCI Lay Training Institute:**

October 17, 2020: Navigating the Digital Space

October 24, 2020: Developing Content for Social Media (both by Mrs. Heneka Watkis-Porter)

October 31, 2020: How to Live Stream a Worship Service, Bible Studies or Prayer Meetings by Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick

November 7, 2020: Producing a Worship Service for Live Streaming by Ms. Marlene Thomas

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (ALL WEBINARS) via the **Zoom platform**

Register through your Regional Mission Council