



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH  
IN JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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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"

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## PRAY FOR:



\***Rev. Icylyn Par-  
kinson**, whose  
husband, **Mr. Godfrey  
Parkinson**, has  
passed on.

\***Rev. Millard Ed-  
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 that the Corona-virus pandemic is over. A suitable vaccine has been developed. It has been equitably distributed throughout the nations, and our lives are back to normal. In what state do you wish to be, then, when it is over – the storm has passed, the winds have subsided and the earth is dry?

No doubt, we wish 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 ground from which we can reap a harvest.

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

*I believe there is, for at least 3 reasons:*

Firstly, God is LOVE. I know this because when I look at creation – the beautiful flowers, the sunshine, the mountains, the ocean, the trees, the grass, the blue sky, and look into the eyes



of my dogs, I see the loving nature of God reflected there, and am assured that God is good. When I consider that God sacrificed His only begotten Son so that we could spend eternity free from trials, tribulations, fear and struggle, in a place of perfection, then I know that God is LOVE, and because He is, our deliverance from COVID-19 is sure.

Secondly, I am assured of the promise of God's deliv-

erance through my study of Biology. In my studies, I came to understand the majesty and brilliance of God, who intricately created the human body, with everything having a specific purpose and working superbly together. The same is true of all creation. 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

for our good, though this may not be apparent now. *Can we therefore seek the Lord as we wait for His purpose to be revealed, and not allow this trial to be wasted on us? Can we allow the crisis to make us complete in Him...complete and entire, lacking nothing at the end of the test, according to James 1:2-4?*

(Continued on Page 2)

**CELEBRATIONS!**

70:

**Rev. Dave Spence**  
October 11

**Rev. Donovan Myers**  
October 12

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

**UCJCI VALUES**

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

**Mission and Outreach:** Seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people, giving them hope; always acting justly and being advocates of justice (James 2:15-16, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Zechariah 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19).

**Emerging from the Pandemic Stronger and More Resilient**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

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 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 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, when we fix our thoughts on who God says He is and what He says He 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

**Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)**

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Adding Value to Your Team

**L**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 THEMSELVES.** One leader I interviewed 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 EMPOWER 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 by-product.

**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*



# 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 co-morbidities 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

### Women's Fellowship

### Virtual Meeting

October  
17th,

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. Craig 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