



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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Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

Our Responsibility as Stewards

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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:



*The family of the **Hon. Rev. Ashley Smith, OJ, CD, JP**, who has passed on.

***Rev. Lloyd Reid, Pastor Joel Cameron, Ms. Ronique Hewitt** (daughter of **Rev. Ranford Hewitt**), **Mona Cowan** (daughter of **Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan**) who are ill.

“The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, during this, the third Quarter of the year, will be focusing on the theme, **“Stewardship and the Disciple.”** And if I were to ask what is stewardship, the first thing that would probably come to mind is, “Tithes and Offerings”.

Yes, returning our tithes and offerings is part of our stewardship responsibility, but I want to suggest that the stewardship concern goes way beyond tithes and offerings.

My understanding of stewardship is that I am a creature of God, but I am not the only creature. But as the crown of God’s creation, I have a responsibility to cooperate with and care for all of God’s creation – the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the land animals, the plants and my fellow human beings. The care for all of creation is a God-given responsibility en-

trusted to us. Genesis 1:27-28 says, *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every*

The text does not give us the right to plunder the earth for our own ends. Rather, it is a responsibility to care for the earth and all living things in the way that God would wish.

The stewardship role of the Christian therefore should involve ensuring that the rights of every aspect of creation (both human and non-human) are protected.

In a world in which greed, abuse, and exploitation are the order of the day, we need to reinterpret God’s mandate to us in this text and understand that human beings have no God-given right to hoard, exploit, deface or destroy God’s creation.

God values His creation and as human beings who are given special responsibility to care for all creation. We must value and care deeply for what has been entrusted to us.



living creature that moves on the ground.”

And we should be careful not to take the word dominion to its extreme and use it as an excuse to exploit and abuse God’s creation, and to control and hold on to it as if we have sole rights to it. For when we do, we not only hurt and destroy the rest of God’s creation, but we hurt and destroy ourselves as well.

(Continued on Page 2)

CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Carlene Walford**July 19****Rev. Louis Sully****July 21****STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF SYNOD**

The ministry and mission of the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** is undertaken through the work of **Synodical Committees**. These committees are made up of representatives from each Area Council, as well as individuals with experience and expertise in particular areas. Committees meet to carry out the plans approved by the Synod, and to make reports on the progress of their work.

There are **5 Standing Committees: Constitution and Doctrine, Church and Ministry, Finance, Property, and Strategic Planning for Mission.**

The **Children's and Youth Commissions** give focused attention to discerning the times and determining the UCJCI's Children's and Youth Ministry direction, in response to the need to be contextually-relevant and impactful. They provide direction to the setting of goals in the Church's ministries to persons between 0 and 12 years (Children's Ministry), and 13 to 25 (Youth Ministry).

The **Education Commission** is responsible for the management of our schools, and ensuring that the polity and ethos of the UCJCI are reflected in our schools.

Our Responsibility as Stewards*(Continued from Page 1)*

One of the themes of the doctrine of creation is the coexistence and interdependence of all created things. We do not and cannot exist on our own. We are dependent on each other as human beings and on the world of nature. We coexist with the animals, the soil, sun, water and all forms of life that they produce. Our lives, our well-being and happiness are therefore dependent on how well we care for creation.

Read the following verses and hear God's concern and care for all of creation and how interdependent we are. Exodus 23:12, *"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief."* Job declares in chapter 12:10, *"In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."* And hear the psalmist in Psalm 65:9, *"You care for the land and water; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for you have ordained it."* The fact is that we are dependent beings, we need each other and all of God's creation in order to live.

As the crown of God's creation, humanity's role is not to control, exploit and abuse, it is rather to care. And it is in our best interest to care for all of God's creation.

I want to suggest that environmental practices determine our health, safety and wealth. We will be healthier, safer and wealthier when we begin to take care of our environment as God expects us to do.

Can I say, that we invite disease and disaster when we don't care for the environment; when, for example, we dump our garbage in the gullies and throw them from our car windows onto the streets? And then we expect the government to find the resources to clean up after us; and flooding and disaster are often the result of such bad and careless environmental practices.

Because of our bad environmental practices, we witness every day the destruction of plant life, animal life, our rivers and our beautiful landscape.

Have you noticed the types of disasters and diseases that plague us now-a-days, resulting in the loss of so many lives? Have we disturbed something that we should not have disturbed? Are these the results of careless living and bad environmental practices? As human beings, we bear the image of God and are therefore God's representatives. We have a special role within creation, and that role is not to exploit, abuse and be self-centered. As God's representatives, we are stewards or caretakers. We have a God-given responsibility to care for each other and the rest of God's creation in a way that is consistent with God's will. For when we do, the earth and all of us will be healthier, safer and richer."

- Contributed by: Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels, Regional Deputy General Secretary, NERMC

HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY THEMES FOR JULY 2020**July 19** God Keeps His Promise Never to Leave Nor Forsake Us**July 26** God Keeps His Promise to Provide for Us (When & Where We Least Expect)

Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjciupdate@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP CORNER

See Everyone As a “10”

Who is your favourite teacher of all time? What made that teacher different? Was it subject knowledge? Was it teaching technique? Though your teacher may have possessed great knowledge and mastered outstanding technique, I’m willing to bet that what separated that teacher from all of the others was his or her belief in you. That teacher probably saw you as a 10.

The teacher who browbeats you and tells you how ignorant or undisciplined you are isn’t the one who inspires you to learn and grow. It’s the one who thinks you’re wonderful and tells you so.

Now I’d like you to think about your working life and the leaders you’ve worked with over the years. As you think about them, ask yourself the following questions:

Who gets my best effort? The leader who believes I’m a 10 or the leader who believes I’m a 2?

Who do I enjoy working with? The leader who believes I’m a 10 or the leader who believes I’m a 2?

Who is the easiest for me to approach? The leader who believes I’m a 10 or the leader who believes I’m a 2?

Who wants the best for me? The leader who believes I’m a 10 or the leader who believes I’m a 2?

Who will I learn the most from? The leader who believes I’m a 10 or the leader who believes I’m a 2?

Good leaders get more out of their people because they think more of their people. They respect and value them, and as a result, their people want to follow them. The positive, uplifting attitude that they bring to leadership creates a positive working environment where

everyone on the team has a place and purpose—and where everyone shares in the win.

If you want to do well in this area, apply the following suggestions when working with people:

SEE THEM AS WHO THEY CAN BECOME. It’s easy to recognize great leadership and great talent once people have already blossomed, but how about before they come into their own?

Look for the great potential that is within each person you lead. When you find it, do your best to draw it out. Some leaders are so insecure that when they see a potential all-star, they try to push that person down because they worry that his or her high performance will make them look bad. But good leaders reach down to lift those people up. They recognize that people with huge potential are going to be successful anyway. The best role they can assume is that of discoverer and encourager. In that way, they add value to them and get to be a part of the process of their emergence as leaders.

CATCH THEM DOING SOMETHING RIGHT. If you desire to see everyone as a 10 and help them believe in themselves, you need to encourage them by catching them doing something right.

When you focus on the negative and catch people doing something wrong, it has no real power to make them any better. When we catch people doing something wrong, they become defensive. They make excuses. They evade. On the other hand, if we catch people doing something

right, it gives them positive reinforcement. It helps them tap into their potential. It makes them want to do better.

Make it part of your daily agenda to look for things going right. They don’t have to be big things, though of course, you want to praise those things as well. It can be almost anything, as long as you are sincere in your praise.

GIVE THEM THE “10” TREATMENT. Most leaders treat people according to the number that they place on them. If team members are performing at an average level—let’s say as a 5—then the leader gives them the 5 treatment.

I believe every person has value as a human being and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. That doesn’t mean you reward bad performance. It just means that you treat people well and take the high road with them, even if they don’t do the same for you.

Begin today to see and lead people as they can be, not as they are, and you will be amazed by how they respond to you. Not only will your relationship with them improve and their productivity increase, but you will help them rise to their potential and become who they were created to be.

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

**ONLY THE PERSON OF
WORTH CAN RECOGNIZE
THE WORTH IN OTHERS**

THOMAS CARLYLE
PICTUREQUOTES.COM

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

WORD FOR TODAY

UCJCI CAMP MINISTRY PRESENTS
A VIRTUAL SUMMER LINK UP FOR
OUR CHILDREN, TEENS AND YOUTHS!

TO THE MISSION (PART 1)
Access Granted!

TO EACH OTHER
Follow Mill

TO THE MISSION (PART 2)
Gwaan wild!!!

TO THE WORD
Download di Message!

TO GOD
Plug In and Charge Up!

Connected

Save The Date!
AUGUST 09 - 13, 2020

and we know that
ALL THINGS
WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
to those who love God,
TO THOSE WHO ARE THE CALLED
ACCORDING TO His PURPOSE

▶▶▶ ROMANS 8:28 ◀◀◀

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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 and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.