



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

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

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transforma-
tion: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:

*The family of **Rev. Mil-
lard Edwards**, who
has passed on.

***Rev. Donovan My-
ers**, who is not well.

***Rev. Dr. Maitland
Evans**, who is recover-
ing from surgery.

***Miss Lesley Hare**,
who is not well.

"FAITH IN ACTION"

Hebrews 11: 1-3:

*1 Now faith is confi-
dence in what we
hope for and assur-
ance about what we
do not see. 2 This is
what the ancients
were commended for.*

*3 By faith we under-
stand that the uni-
verse was formed at
God's command, so
that what is seen was
not made out of what
was visible. The Word
of the Lord*

friends, unlike God the
almighty who is the crea-
tor and sustainer of all the
created order, we see the
stretching of events and
activities from the begin-
ning to the end.



but to give reactions
which are triggered by
fear, desperation, anxie-
ty, worry and when the
panic button is pressed,
we end up opening the
door to issues like
stress, depression, anger,
bitterness, resentment,
despondence and
disillusionment.

Yes, my friends at the
end of 2019 and the be-
ginning of the year 2020
many us never antici-
pated the kind of dis-
ruption and the effects
of Covid19 on our plans,
dreams, aspirations, the
resolutions for the year,
family life and social
and economic land-
scape. All this speaks to
our limitedness in dis-
cerning the future which
is in the hands of the
almighty God.

What makes us
human beings among
other things is our in-
ability to effectively and
efficiently read the un-
folding of our times and
our seasons. Our short-
sightedness is often-
times manifested
through our failure to
adequately respond and
handle issues and expe-
riences that catch us by
surprise. Yes, my

There are numerous times
when our judgement is
based on our past experi-
ences, which are used as
the measuring stick for
the future. Unfortunately,
when one plus one turns
out to be seven or eleven,
and by this, I mean being
or finding ourselves in
spaces and facing the real-
ities we never foresaw.
These manifestations, by
virtual of being human,
leave us with no choice

Now is the time more

“FAITH...”

(Continued from page 1)

than ever to live and demonstrate our faith in the God who never fails, is never caught by surprise and in whose hands our future lies with a sense of certainty.

Borrowing the words of the Apostle Paul from our text **“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see,”** these words encourage us to put our trust in the God who has proved Himself throughout human history and existence that He is not just faithful but able to help us navigate the dark and distressing times of our existence with assurance of landing safe on the other side. No matter how dark and gloomy the cloud may be the sun will surely shine one day.

Let us remain strong and unshaken for this storm is but for a moment.

(Contributed by Rev. Lembe Sivile, Minister, Lowe River Charge of United Churches)



UTCWI Appoints New Chairman



At its recent sitting, the Board of Governors of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), appointed Dr. Beverley Pereira, as its Chairman for the period 2020-2021. She holds the distinction of being the first woman to hold this position since the founding of the College in 1966.

Dr. Beverley Pereira is a distinguished Attorney at Law who is a specialist in Legislative Drafting.

She holds a number of earned degrees, diplomas and certificates in Law and Administration, including a PhD in Law, from the University of London, along with specialized training in a number of related disciplines.

Her career and practice of over 50 years includes, preparation of

legislation, policy formulation, intellectual property law, technology transfer, environmental law and policy, teaching/training, negotiation/mediation.

Since 1995 until her retirement in 2016, she has worked with various campuses of the University of the West Indies, in a number of capacities including, but not limited to, adjunct lecturer and professor, manager, planner, project coordinator and as legal counsel and head of the legal unit.

She has held positions both locally and overseas in the area of intellectual property and teaching.

In academia, she has developed material, designed courses and training modules. She is a contributor to books and publications and has presented numerous papers and lectures in her areas of specialization.

She is a member of the Webster Memorial United Church and has served as Technical Secretary for the Central Mission Council (CMC) of the UCJCI, as Elder in her local congregation and is currently a member of the Executive of the North Eastern Regional Council (NERMC).



LEADERSHIP CORNER

What's the Purpose of Pastors?

The Bible knows nothing of lone Christians, of believers who are willfully independent from a local church. Rather, Christians gather in communities to worship together and serve one another. And as God commands his people to gather in community, he also commands them to be led—led by men called and qualified as pastors or elders (terms the Bible uses interchangeably). As we progress through a series of questions about things we as Christians often take for granted, we now come to the question of church leadership and ask, “What’s the purpose of pastors?”

Common Views of Pastors

In the church today we find a number of common views of the role and purpose of pastors. Unfortunately, some of these, though perhaps well-intentioned, are unbiblical. Here are two prominent views that both fall short of what the Bible teaches.

The first is the ***pastor as CEO***. According to this view, the pastor’s primary purpose is to keep his organization (i.e., his church) running smoothly and growing steadily. Like the Chief Executive Officer within a corporation, he must apply sound business principles to his operation and will find success when he satisfies the desires of church attendees and experiences **numerical growth**. Those who hold this view claim that the “pastor as shepherd” view threatens to stunt the growth of a church and is impractical for the challenges of our day. Though shepherding care is good and necessary, it should be carried out by church members or ministry leaders so the pastors can focus on the challenges of leadership. **Carey Nieuwhof** explains, “Saying the model of pastor-as-CEO is bad for the church is like saying leadership really doesn’t matter. It’s also saying business should get all the best leaders... If all we do is recruit pastors who love to care for people until they die, the church will

die.” The task of the pastor, he says, is to lead, “to take people where they wouldn’t otherwise go.”

The second view is the ***pastor as priest***. According to this view, the pastor is a kind of spiritual guru whose purpose is to take sole or primary responsibility for all of the church’s ministry. In that way, he serves as a kind of mediator between God and his people. While few evangelicals would actually vocalize their adherence to this view, many tacitly hold it when they only go to their pastor for prayer and spiritual care. They may feel that the prayer and ministry of church members are somehow less effective than the prayer and ministry of their pastor. This view may also affect **evangelism**, as believers downplay their own ability to share the gospel and instead only focus on bringing unbelieving friends to church to hear the pastor, as if this is the only means through which God works.

Addressing the Error

While it is true that the wise pastor will learn **practical strategies for leadership**, and while it is true that all truth is God’s truth, the pastor as CEO view has dangerous implications for pastoral ministry. In Jeramie Rinne’s powerful critique, he insists that this view eventually and inevitably reinterprets the church through a business or organizational lens. It is true, of course, that churches “have business aspects. Churches often use financial officers and budgets, employees and personnel policies, facilities and insurance, workflow diagrams and goals, **bylaws** and committees.” All of these are within the scope of a healthy church. But “the problem arises when these businesslike elements become part of a comprehensive business model for the congregation that ignores biblical teaching. It might look something like this:

pastor = president/CEO; staff = vice presidents; members = shareholders/loyal customers; visitors = potential customers.”

John Piper has also warned of the danger of this view, saying, “The professionalization of the ministry is a constant threat to the offense of the gospel. It is a threat to the profoundly spiritual nature of our work. I have seen it often: The love of professionalism kills a man’s belief that he is sent by God to save people from hell and to make them Christ-exalting, spiritual **aliens in the world**.” This view teaches Christians to interpret and evaluate churches like businesses. It teaches them to evaluate pastors like they evaluate CEOs, so their performance becomes more important than their character. They fail to consider that of all the biblical qualifications for pastors, there is just one related to skill. All the others are related to his godly character.

Meanwhile, the pastor as priest model neglects a key doctrine recovered by the Protestant Reformers: the priesthood of all believers. While Luther and the other Reformers affirmed the office of the elder or pastor, they also emphasized that, through Christ, we are all ministers of the gospel and all have access to God. God continues to call men to pastoral ministry, but he also calls every Christian to minister to one another. This view minimizes the New Testament’s emphasis on the role of the pastor as the one who equips believers so they can carry out the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 expresses this: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” The truth is, we are all ministers. Some are set apart to lead as pastors, but we are all called to minister. *(To be continued next week)*

Tim Challies (Church Leaders)

Follow us on



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

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

IGDS

Institute for Gender & Development Studies
Regional Coordinating Office, Mona Jamaica

The Institute for Gender & Development Studies -
Regional Coordinating Office (IGDS-RCO) &
Jamaica Male Advancement Network (JAMAN)

Present

Positive Fatherhood & Paternity Rights: Towards a Model for Development



Moderator: Mr. Dennis Brooks
Producer of 'Jamaican Dadz Podcast'



Panellist: Captain Nickalious Beaumont
Jamaica Defence Force



Panellist: Mr. Michael McAnuff-Jones
Pastor Christian Life Fellowship



Panellist: Dr. Michael Coombs
Public Health Specialist, Founder
and Chair of the National
Association for the Family



Entertainment by:
Michael-David



Panellist: Mr. Jeffrey Moss-Solomon
General Manager
Jamaica Grains & Cereal



Panellist: Dr. Dayton Robinson
Asst. Vice President - Group Human
Resources at Victoria Mutual Group

Sponsored by:



Zoom Webinar

Thursday,
November 19, 2020
6:30 PM Jamaica
7:30 PM ECT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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