



# 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*

12 Carlton Crescent,  
Kingston 10

Tel: 926-8734

E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com)

Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

**OUR VISION:** "*Touching  
Lives, Nurturing Disci-  
ples, Seeking Transfor-  
mation through Christ*"

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## PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who continues to recover from illness
- **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler** who is not well
- **Rev. Royland Thompson** who is not well
- **Rev. Rohan Kong**, whose aunt, **Winnifred Kong**, has passed on. Her thanksgiving service will held on December 22, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Assemblies of the First Born, Mocho, Clarendon.

# UCJCI MAKES STEADY, DELIBERATE PROGRESS

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has been making steady progress towards advancing its Vision: "*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, and Seeking Transformation through Christ.*"

Christ's mandate of Discipleship has been at the forefront of our mission, and is the reason for our Synodical Theme: "*Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life.*"

## RENEWAL & TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

We continue to implement our Renewal and Transfor-

mation programme, with the centre of activity being at the congregational level.

Its general objective has been to re-organize the UCJCI, so that it operates through congregations that are alerted to the unique and special needs of each member. It is also extended beyond the Church, to other persons in the wider community. This programme targets three (3) planks of growth: *Numerical, Spiritual, and Financial*, and we have seen some improvement in all three (3) areas. *Do you see it in your own congregation?*

## UCJCI COMMISSIONS

We have also established Children's and Youth Com-

missions, which provide strategic direction, and policy- and goal-setting support for the Children's and Youth Ministries of the UCJCI.

An Adult Commission will soon follow, for steering the process of developing objectives to govern the ministries to Men, Women, and Young Adults, and to design attendant strategies.

This Commission will assist us to craft an answer to the following question: "*How do we incorporate these groups of persons into the life and ministry of the Church in a more fulsome way, and how do we fund these Auxiliaries?*"

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Congregation in worship at 2018 Convocation (Jamaica)



Men of Meadowbrook United Church at the altar on Father's Day 2018

## CELEBRATIONS!



70:

**Rev. Nicole Ashwood**

**Mrs. Jeannette Rose-Bryan**

**December 21**

**Rev. Gary Harriott**

**December 23**

**Mr. David Tucker**

**December 25**

**Rev. Dwight Kelly**

**December 27**

**Rev. Nevroy Francis**

**December 31**

**Rev. Karleen Thomas-Barnes**

**January 2**

**Rev. Alice Blair**

**Rev. Lloyd Reid**

**Miss Ceta Rose**

**January 3**

**Rev. I. Wayne Silvera**

**January 5**

**Miss Laddia Young**

**January 8**

## UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

## UCJCI MAKES STEADY PROGRESS

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Our Vacation Bible School and Camp programmes continue to be critical aspects of our ministry to children and Youth. These have borne much fruit for numerous years, with many persons making a commitment for Christ, and benefitting from holistic development through the ministries and their activities.

### BUILDING OUR TEAM

We have also continued to increase our special programmes to our Ministers and staff. One such includes seminars offered to our team to assist with pre-retirement preparation. This continues to be an effective tool for helping those in ministry to prepare and transition from active service, to the retirement phase of their life vocation.

Synod Administration Staff Enrichment has also been a part of our design. Persons from the team have received training in areas such as: *"Making the Transition from Staff Member to Supervisor"*, *"Microsoft Office Suite"*, *"Training Skills and Techniques for the Trainer"*, *"Event Planning and Management"*, *"Report-Writing and Note-Taking Skills"*, *"Records Management"*, and *"The Transitioning Role of Today's Secretary to Administrative Professional"*.

### SYNOD 2019

From April 30 to May 2, 2019, the UCJCI will convene its 41st Synod. This is the highest decision-making body of the Church, with members meeting biennially. Its theme remains, *"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life"*, and it will be an opportunity to assess our policy implementation of the past two (2) years, and look forward to our mission priorities for 2019-2021.

The call of Christ continues to God's people. We have chosen to answer, and as we make steady, deliberate process to this end, we reflect, at the close of this year, on the challenges and opportunities that we have had, while making adjustments, and charting a course for the future for all within our reach.

Indeed, we touch the world through our ecumenical partnerships and international relations, and we seek to strengthen our capabilities to more effectively *"Touch Lives, Nurture Disciples, and Seek Transformation through Christ"* in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Join us in this mission and become enraptured with this vision! As we close the year 2018 and ring in 2019, let us remember that we celebrate the Christ of Advent and Christmas all year, when we engage with His Mission. May we allow Him to strengthen us to do so. Happy Advent, a Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year to you! God bless you now and always.



Our RDGSs (Jamaican Regions) at UCJCI National Sports Day 2018



Spectators from the SRMC at UCJCI National Sports Day 2018

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

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Courage: An Indispensable Quality of a Leader

When you look at the life of Jesus Christ, you cannot help seeing courage. It's easy to see in war heroes, but it's also present in every great leader in business, government, and the church.

Whenever you see significant progress in an organization, you know that the leader made courageous decisions. A leadership position doesn't give a person courage, but courage can give him a leadership position.

Larry Osborne offers this observation: *"The most striking thing about highly effective leaders is how little they have in common. What one swears by, another warns against. But one trait stands out; the willingness to risk."*

As you approach the tough decisions that challenge you, recognize these truths about courage:

**COURAGE BEGINS WITH AN INWARD BATTLE.** Every test you face as a leader begins with you. The test of courage is no different. As psychotherapist Sheldon Kopp notes, *"All the significant battles are waged within self."* Courage isn't an absence of fear. It's doing what you are afraid to do. It's having the power to let go of the familiar and forge ahead into new territory.

**COURAGE IS MAKING THINGS RIGHT; NOT JUST SMOOTHING THINGS OVER.** Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. declared, *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."* Great

leaders have good people skills, and they can get people to compromise and work together. But they also take a stand when needed.

Courage deals with principle, not perception. If you don't have the ability to see when to stand up and the conviction to do it, you'll never be an effective leader. Your dedication to potential must remain stronger than your desire to appease others.

**COURAGE IN A LEADER INSPIRES COMMITMENT FROM FOLLOWERS.** *"Courage is contagious,"* asserted evangelist Billy Graham. *"When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."* A show of courage by any person encourages others. *But a show of courage by a leader inspires.* It makes people want to follow him or her. Jim Mellado explains, *"Leadership is the expression of courage that compels people to do the right thing."*

**YOUR LIFE EXPANDS IN PROPORTION TO YOUR COURAGE.** Fear limits a leader. Courage opens doors. Perhaps that's why British theologian John Henry Newman said, *"Fear not that your life will come to an end, but that it will never have a beginning."* Courage not only gives you a good beginning, but it also provides a better future.

Eleanor Roosevelt acknowledged, *"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."* How do you tend to handle fear?

Do you embrace it? Are stretching experiences a regular part of your daily life? Or have you retreated so far into your comfort zone that you don't even feel fear? How must you change to develop a spirit of courage in your life?

*To improve your courage, do the following:*

**Face the music.** Go out and do something stretching, simply for the sake of growing in courage. It doesn't matter what you do as long as it causes you to face a genuine fear.

**Talk to that person.** Most people are avoiding confrontation with someone in their lives—a team member, or a relative. If that's true for you, talk to that person this week. Don't dump on him or her, or abuse them. Speak the truth in love.

**Take a giant step.** If you've known in your heart that you should take a particular step, now is the time to face up to it. Take the time to really look at it. If it's the right thing to do, then do it. A courageous act often brings unexpected positive results.

*Source: "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader" by John C. Maxwell*

