



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10

Tel: 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com

Website: www.ucjci.com

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:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 63 and 45 confirmed cases, respectively, of the **coronavirus**; and against the further spread of the disease.

The local and world economies which are threatened by the spread of the coronavirus.

Volume 6: Issue 13

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Synodical Easter Sunday Service

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures, indeed. As such, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, in further response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, will host an online Synodical Easter Sunday Service on April 12, 2020 for all of our congregations, under the theme, "Life Has the Last Word!"

Streamed live from Webster Memorial United Church (Jamaica), the service will be made accessible at YouTube and Facebook @ Webster Memorial United Church, and on <http://new.livestream.com/webstermemorial> at 8 a.m.

Immediately following the one-hour service, the link of the recorded service will be circulated via WhatsApp Messenger, so that persons who may have missed the live

stream will be able to join together at 11 a.m. via WhatsApp.

Provisions are also being made for persons without internet connectivity. Those persons will be able to hear the full service on LOVE 101 FM at 3:30 p.m. on the said day, and also hear a portion of the pre-recorded sermon on our United on Faith Programme on Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. on Radio Jamaica 94 FM and on Radio Cayman at a time to be determined.

An encouraging sermon will be delivered by the Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, who will also be the communion celebrant.

The joint Holy Communion celebration will be a special aspect of our Easter Service! Please prayerfully prepare yourselves and a place in your home, as well as put aside a piece of bread and a cup of juice. You are invited to share in the prayers and other segments of the com-

munion liturgy, and everyone will partake together at the appropriate time in the worship service.

The Easter Service will also be rich with inspiring worship, and promises to be an occasion which further demonstrates the unitedness of our Church, a people who stand together during times of difficulty.

Isn't that what our gathering around the Lord's table will symbolize? For indeed, 1 Corinthians 11:26 says, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." Indeed, it is the outcome of Christ's death and resurrection that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday—the power of which is the hope that we cling to during the dire circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Let us gather together as a united Church to celebrate, from a place of expected victory!*

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Clement Reid

Miss Joy Williams

April 9

Rev. Alton Clarke

April 11

Rev. Dr. Maitland Evans

Miss Heather Thompson

April 13

UCJCI GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is governed by courts at the congregational (**Congregation Meetings**), regional (**Council Meetings**) and national levels (**Synod**), the highest court being the Synod. It is headed by a **Moderator**, who presides over the Synod, and whose duties include giving pastoral care to the Ministers within the denomination. The **General Secretary** is the administrative head of the church and is assisted by four **Regional Deputy General Secretaries**, who Head the four (4) Regional Missional Councils: **Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council**, **Southern Regional Mission Council**, **North-Eastern Regional Mission Council**, and **Western Regional Mission Council**.



God Specializes in Rescue Missions

Hear is the message that we are able to glean from Isaiah 50:4-9 to the captives and indeed to us who are held captive by COVID-19, *God specializes in rescue missions*. Remember the rescue missions of the Israelites in the wilderness?

On one occasion they were at the Red Sea, at a standstill; for there was the sea in front of them, the mountains on both sides and Pharaoh's army behind. But God said to Moses, "*Stretch out your rod over the sea.*" Moses obeyed and the waters rolled back and provided a way. And what seemed impossible was made possible when Moses obeyed God.

Sometimes, because of our disobedience, we remain in captivity for a long time. The fact is, for God to do a new thing in our lives, for Him to rescue us, we must obey Him. At every stop in the wilderness, in every difficult circumstance, Moses had to obey God in order for them to move on. Whether it was striking the rock for water or gathering manna for one day at a time. And notice that in gathering the manna, they disobeyed God's instruction and collected more than one's quota, and after a day it was no use.

Obedience to God is crucial for rescue operations. The Bible is replete with rescue missions and all of them demanded obedience. "*Get up,*" Jesus said to the man by the pool of Bethesda, "*Pick up your mat and walk.*" To the servants at the wedding in Cana, Jesus said, "*Fill the jars with water*" and then, "*Draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.*" And because they obeyed the master, the day was saved.

The fact is, we have a part to play in our healing and wholeness and deliverance. No one can help us if we are not prepared to help ourselves. I implore us to listen keenly to the health tips and instructions from the authentic sources and obey them, for our deliverance from COVID-19 depends on them. The journey might be longer than expected, but do not lose hope, for the rescue is sure. *God specializes in rescue missions.*

But hear is another sobering reality, *experiences in captivity are formational.* They shape and form us into who God wants us to be. On their way from Egypt, in the wilderness, God had given the law and made a covenant with Israel. On that journey, the people had experienced God's power, anger and mercy; and in the process they had become God's people. For God was shaping and forming them for His purpose. And there in captivity, through their difficulties and challenges, they were being shaped and formed into God's people.

It seems to me that there is no life without challenges. There is no Christian life without temptations. There is no ministry without suffering and setbacks. Think of David being chased all over the place by Saul. Through that experience, God formed him into a king. Think of Paul in Arabia, after his conversion, hiding in different places from those who were after him. That experience shaped his life into a brave and powerful messenger of God. Think of Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness and how that shaped His life.

Even as we are held captive by COVID-19, unable to move about to conduct business, anticipating the inevitable economic fall out, I pray that we are learning the lessons, and are resolving to turn from those unwholesome thoughts and actions that we have harboured and acted out.

The COVID 19 experience presents us with some glorious opportunities to allow God to turn around our lives for the better. What a great opportunity to reconnect with the family, not only physically but emotionally. We are often too busy for each other, we have outgrown each other. It is time to rekindle the spark in the family and rebuild family cohesiveness. And this rebuilding of the family is going to affect a number of things for the better, including abuse and crime. What a marvellous opportunity to build and rebuild relationships, not only in the family but among nations; relationships which are healthy and wholesome; relations that are motivated by Christian love. This is, indeed, a marvellous opportunity to draw closer to God and each other in Christian love.

- Contributed by: Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels, RDGS, NERMC

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadershift from Trained Leader to Transformational Leader

There is a huge difference between trained leaders and leaders who are transformational. The impact shift from trained leaders to transformational leaders will bring the greatest change to your life and the lives of those around you.

If your actions inspire people to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a transformational leader. You influence people to think, speak, and act in ways that make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others. That kind of leadership can change the world!

Trained leaders know how to lead. *Transformational leaders* know why they lead. *Trained leaders* are liked. *Transformational leaders* are contagious. *Trained leaders* influence today. *Transformational leaders* influence today and tomorrow. *Trained leaders* ask people to follow. *Transformational leaders* ask people to make a difference. *Trained leaders* love to lead. *Transformational leaders* love the people they lead. *Trained leaders* are trained. *Transformational leaders* are trained and transformed. *Trained leaders* help people. *Transformational leaders* help people to change. *Trained leaders* have a career. *Transformational leaders* have a calling. *Trained leaders* impact a few. *Transformational leaders* impact many.

There are five actions common to all transformational movements and the people who lead them. If you desire to make the shift from trained leader to transformational leader, start doing these, too.

POSSESS A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT TRANSFORMATIONAL

LEADERS DO—Transformational leaders see things others do not see. Many people see problems and shake their heads. They experience adversity and throw up their hands. They look at challenges and ask “Why?” - not seeing a solution, just venting frustration. When they encounter problems, they see no possibilities. They become victims of negative circumstances and cannot help themselves or others.

Transformational leaders see things differently. They ask, “Why not?” because they are always thinking about trying to create a better future. They see more than others see. Of course, they see the problems. They may even be surrounded by them. But they also see potential in those problems. They believe there is always an answer, a solution, a better way, a brighter future. That belief creates anticipation, not desperation, during the darkest hours. How we view things determines how we *do* things.

FOCUS ON YOUR OWN TRANSFORMATION BEFORE LEADING OTHERS TO IT

—If I want to help others to be transformational, I must first be transformed. I cannot give what I do not have. Neither can you. The first person you must lead will always be you. If you want to see positive changes in your world, the first person you must change is you. As leaders, you and I have to be changed to bring change. We teach what we know, but we reproduce who we are.

TAKE POSITIVE ACTION BASED ON YOUR INTERNAL CHANGES

—An essential step in the *leadershift* from trained to trans-

formational is a commitment to taking action. For real change to occur, we must go from knowing to doing. Action is what brings transformation. Everything worthwhile in life is uphill—all the way. Transformation requires us to walk uphill. Everyday. All the way. Transformation is a result of application, not education.

CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES POSITIVE CHANGE

—What creates an ideal environment? These are the essentials: Leaders who are passionate about transformation; teaching good values such as *attitude, commitment, competence, forgiveness, initiative, integrity, personal growth, priorities, relationships and work ethic*; and creating resources to help people to explore ideas, examine themselves, and decide how they will take action to embrace good values and change their lives.

Most people cannot find the pathway to a better life without help. Transformation needs a living laboratory to be effective. That occurs best in a small group of people where all the members of the group share ideas, speak about themselves with candour and honesty, state their intentions, and hold one another accountable.

If you're willing to commit to changing yourself, inviting a small group of people to join in the process, and then preparing other leaders to become agents of transformation, you can change your world.

Source: “Leadershift” 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)

POINTS FOR PRAYER

- * Those who are infected with the disease.
- * Our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * Our elderly persons.
- * The needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.



World Health
Organization

Home care for people with
suspected or confirmed COVID-19
Take care of yourself and your family

For caregivers

Ensure the ill person rests, drinks plenty of fluids and eats nutritious food.



Wear a medical mask when in the same room with an ill person. Do not touch the mask or face during use and discard it afterward.



Frequently clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based rub, especially:

- after any type of contact with the ill person or their surroundings
- before, during and after preparing food
- before eating
- after using the toilet



Use dedicated dishes, cups, eating utensils, towels and bedlinens for the ill person. Wash dishes, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedlinens used by the ill person with soap and water.



Identify frequently touched surfaces by the ill person and clean and disinfect them daily.



Call your health care facility immediately if the ill person worsens or experiences difficulty breathing.



*"I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE
MOUNTAINS—
WHERE DOES MY HELP
COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE
LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN
AND EARTH."*

- PSALM 121:1-2