

# 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

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

SYNODICAL THEME:

"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life"

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### **PRAY FOR:**



passed on.

Dr. Collin Cowan) given responsibility enwho are ill.

Volume 6: Issue 27

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

# Our Responsibility as Stewards

**66** The United Church in trusted to us. Jamaica and the Caythis, the third Quarter of created man in His own image, ther, it is a responsibility to

o n "Stewardship probably come to mind is, the fish of the sea and over the involve ensuring that the "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 stew- ground." ardship is that I am a crea-\*The family of the Hon. ture of God, but I am not And we should be careful not hoard, exploit, deface or an (daughter of Rev. all of creation is a God- ourselves as well.

man Islands, during Genesis 1:27-28 says, "So God earth for our own ends. Rathe year, will be focusing in the image of God He created care for the earth and all the me, him; male and female He created living things in the way and the them. God blessed them and said that God would wish. Disciple." And if I were to to them, be fruitful and increase ask what is stewardship, in number, fill the earth, and The stewardship role of the the first thing that would subdue it. Have dominion over Christian therefore should

living creature that moves on the

Rev. Ashley Smith, the only creature. But as to take the word dominion to OJ, CD, JP, who has the crown of God's creatits extreme and use it as an tion, I have a responsibility excuse to exploit and abuse \*Rev. Lloyd Reid, to cooperate with and care God's creation, and to control and as human beings who Pastor Joel Camer- for all of God's creation - and hold on to it as if we have are given special responsi-Ronique the fish of the sea, the birds sole rights to it. For when we bility to care for all crea-Hewitt (daughter of of the air, the land animals, do, we not only hurt and de- tion. We must value and Ranford the plants and my fellow stroy the rest of God's crea- care deeply for what has Hewitt), Mona Cow- human beings. The care for tion, but we hurt and destroy been entrusted to us.

The text does not give us the right to plunder the

fowl of the air, and over every 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 un-

derstand that human beings have no God-given right to destroy God's creation.

God values His creation

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Rev. Carlene Walford July 19

> Rev. Louis Sully **July 21**

#### STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF SYNOD

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

and Strategic Planning for Mission.

missions 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 July 19 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 The ministry and mission of the 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

> 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.

with experience and expertise in par- 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 There are 5 Standing Committees: windows onto the streets? And then we expect the government to find the re-Constitution and Doctrine, Church sources to clean up after us; and flooding and disaster are often the result of and Ministry, Finance, Property, 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.

The Children's and Youth Com- 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

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)

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# **LEADERSHIP CORNER**See Everyone As a "10"

ho 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 allstart, 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 SOME-THING 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" TREAT-MENT. 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.

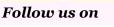
I believe every person has value as a human being and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. That doesn't mean you reward bad performance. It just means that you treat people well and take the high road with them, even if they don't do the same for you.

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











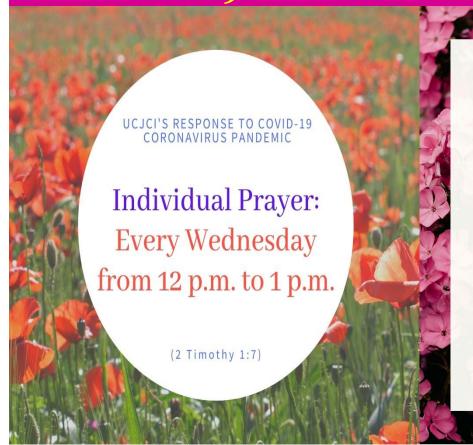
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### UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

### WORD FOR TODAY



# **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE**



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 comorbidities and our tourism workers.
- \* Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
  - \* Our local and world economies.

