



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

April 28, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 17

UCJCI 42<sup>nd</sup> SYNOD THEME 2021 – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

### Synodical Ministry and Mission Priorities for the Period 2021-2023

The following article provides an insight into what observations and thoughts were shared by synod representatives in the daily 'breakout group' discussions during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Synod of the UCJCI held April 11-18, 2021, as they reflected on the past Synodical period and on the way forward.

These conversations took place against the background of all the changes that have taken place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been learning by doing, by trial and error over the past thirteen months, with very little prior warning of the devastating effects of the pandemic or its duration.

#### 1. Worship and Bible Study

Worship has moved online and even in the contexts where people can physically attend worship, congregations continue to offer online worship.

- Opportunities include: larger congregations, with people participating from different places across the Caribbean and the world
- Challenges include: persons who are unable for various reasons (availability of devices and internet connection) to participate in online worship, lack of personal contact, feeling of separation from the worshipping community
- Priorities:
  - Training in preparation of worship that is appropriate for in-church and online worship, with a particular emphasis on intergenerational worship
  - Train music ministry & technical teams so that online worship can be improved & be more inviting.
  - How to be the church outside the church, in the community
  - Do online bible studies from time to time in the format used for Synod and share on YouTube, e.g. do a series on a theme
  - Continued focus on evangelism, including online mission teams responding to online worshippers, who have not yet made a commitment
  - Discussions and recommendations about the requirements for United Church membership, with particular reference to persons who attend worship online from overseas.

#### 2. Technology

- Internet connectivity for all; negotiate with service providers for internet in communities & churches
- Appropriate equipment for online worship, bible study, meetings, etc.
- Training in the use of equipment, content & production
- Create a centralized media & communications unit to produce & disseminate content
- Student ministers to be trained in the use of technology.

#### 3. Ministry

- Focus on recruitment for ordained ministry
- More part-time ordained ministers
- Review of the Charge structure
- Consider merging some congregations
- Review of the role of lay pastors and how they provide support for ministers with several congregations in a Charge
- Equipping the laity for additional roles, e.g. as worship leaders, evangelists, chaplains
- Succession planning at local, regional and Synodical levels.

#### 4. Congregational Ministries

- Change the name/rebrand the names of the auxiliaries to a more missional perspective
- Ministry geared to reaching men
- Children and Youth ministries, including Girls' and Boys' Brigades-review in light of changes resulting from COVID-19
- Couples & Singles ministries.

#### 5. Community Outreach

- Education
  - Support for children who lack internet facilities and devices for online school
  - Support for children who have been left behind academically for over a year
  - Make church facilities available as internet hubs for students and for additional educational support to help children catch up.
- Food support and security
  - Increased need for food packages, feeding programmes due to economic challenges associated with COVID-19

- Rural congregations can create a supply chain by partnering with urban congregations to sell their produce
- Vaccination Support
  - Help people to be vaccinated: promote the vaccine, set appointments & provide transport.

## 6. Peace Programmes

- Develop more peace programmes, e.g. peace ambassadors, peace cell groups, conflict resolution training, peace gardens
- Should the United Church establish one Peace Centre in one congregation in each parish?

## 7. Collaboration

There was much talk during Synod about collaboration; collaboration between two congregations, clusters of congregations, ecumenical collaboration at the local and national level. Some of the priorities listed above offer opportunities for collaboration as well as:

- Advocate with service providers for low-cost internet access in communities
- Share ideas and resources with other congregations who need additional resources in a given area of ministry; develop joint training programmes
- Preparing discussion papers and facilitating dialogue around moral and social issues, e.g. abortion, human sexuality.

## 8. Data

- Train & equip congregations in the use of data collection to inform ministry & mission in the local context.

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*The Girls' Brigade Council held its quarterly planning meeting at the Council Office on April 17, 2021.*



*The CIRM Virtual Choir presented the song 'Holy Spirit Rain Down' during the recently held 42<sup>nd</sup> Synod of the UCJCI.*

*Next Sunday is Mothers' Day!*

Each year on the second Sunday in May, we are invited to celebrate motherhood and express our gratitude to mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers, as well as to many other mother figures.

Needless to say, we don't have to wait for this officially dedicated day to show how grateful we are for these special women in our life. A timely 'thank you', the sharing of burdens and responsibilities, lending a listening 'ear' or the occasional 'special pampering' goes a long way and is always much appreciated any time during the year.

Nevertheless, Mother's Day gives us the opportunity to make our 'ordinary' expressions of appreciation extra-special. Instead of leaving it to the last moment, let us put some extra thought and effort into our preparation, for mothers deserve it. If we are having trouble coming up with new or creative ideas, we can always search online for wholesome and meaningful suggestions. Have a Happy and Blessed Mothers' Day!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 30. (Friday)**

**YLNE YOUTH LINK-UP OPEN AIR FELLOWSHIP – SAV UC 7:30pm-9:30pm**

**May 01. (Saturday)**

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast – 7:30am – Elmslie UC**

**May 02. (Sunday) 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**May 08. (Saturday)**

**Lay Leaders Training Course – via Zoom**

**May 09. (Sunday) 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter / Mothers' Day**

**WILL YOU STAND IN THE GAP**

EZEKIEL 22:30  
 "I LOOKED FOR SOMEONE AMONG THEM WHO WOULD BUILD UP THE WALL AND STAND BEFORE ME IN THE GAP ON BEHALF OF THE LAND SO I WOULD NOT HAVE TO DESTROY IT. BUT I FOUND NO ONE."

**A call to Corporate Repentance**

**R Y/Savannah United Church**  
 Youth Ministry

GT/SS EE/GB

**Youth LMK-UP**

**Open Air Fellowship**  
 On the Savannah United Church Grounds  
 April 30, 2021  
 Starting at 7:30pm-9:30pm  
 Guest Speaker: Pastor Cassius Feare  
 Special Guest Performer: MICHELLE T

BT/NS W.B

**SAVANNAH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**It's a Classic Spring Hatler Tea Party**

SATURDAY MAY 29TH 2021  
 TIME: 3PM - 5PM  
 COST: \$10

SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH HALL  
 17 ASTRAL WAY, GRAND CAYMAN

**CHILDREN'S CAMP JULY 18-23 8AM - 6PM**  
**TEENS' CAMP JULY 25-30 8AM - 6PM**

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

**SUMMER DAY CAMP**  
 THEME: ROOT, SHOOT, FRUIT

**FUN FIELD TRIPS FELLOWSHIP FOOD**

**CI\$100**

**VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER**  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021**  
**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE**

UCJCI responds to the COVID-19 pandemic as a community of faith

**A Call to Prayer Every Wednesday 12 noon—1:00 pm**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."  
 Philippians 4: 7

**PRAY WITHOUT CEASING**

**WORSHIP THE LORD**  
 Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council  
 on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

**May 02, 2021**  
**Mr. John Macmillan**

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