



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The 38th Synod

April 2013

Renewal and Transformation for LIFE!!!

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Renewal and Transformation for LIFE!

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands ended its 38th Synod on 19 April 2013.

The four day gathering commenced with a worship service at the Boscobel United Church. That service marked the end of an outstanding period of service as Moderator for the Rev. J. Oliver Daley and the induction of the Rt. Rev. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield to the office of Moderator.

No Other Cause!

In his final challenge as Moderator, Rev. J. Oliver Daley ended where he began his journey for the last Synodical period.

The church must be the church of Jesus Christ and pursue its core business.

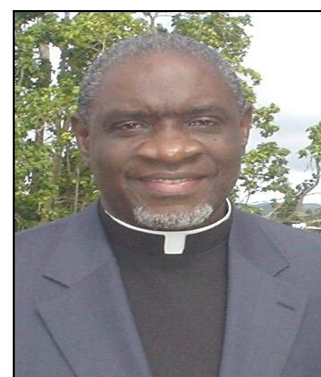
We have made bold our theme: *Renewal and Transformation for LIFE!* The word LIFE in the theme is an acronym for *Liberty Integrity Faith and Environmental Stewardship*. The theme is of particular importance and relevance to our nations and church as the death-dealing realities of life are many: fractured homes and relationships; abused men, women and children. It is a time of mental and emotional fragmentation as persons struggle for stability in a rapidly changing world. Value-principles that served previous generations are being

challenged by a culture of new thought creating alternative life-styles that not only contend for their space in the social arena, but contest the doctrines of the Christian Faith.

Throughout this next period of our ministry with Jesus Christ to all of Gods creation; we will be examples of *LIFE*. Renewal and Transformation for LIFE must not be just a Synod theme. It must be a way of life for every believer called into partnership with God to engage the complexities and ambiguities of our times.

He has been consistent in calling the church to recognize, embrace and pursue: **a)** the supreme authority of scripture **b)** the majesty of Jesus Christ, the Lordship of the Holy Spirit **c)** the need for personal conversion and **d)** the

priority of evangelism.



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**“WANTED:
Persons for a
vocation that leads
God’s people in
bearing witness to
God’s new
creation revealed
in Jesus Christ by
the power of the
Holy Spirit.”**

No Other Cause (cont’d)

His over 44 years of service in the ministry of the UCJCI is testimony that he knows no other cause save that of service in the ministry and mission of our Lord. In his usual consistent call to excellence in the service of our Lord, Rev. Daley invited active consideration of: **a)** our Pastoral Leadership and Authority **b)** our Vocation as Ministry leaders and, **c)** our

Direction for the future; in order that the church may return to the basis of its faith and calling.

For him, the future of the church is Evangelical if these concepts are engaged, the programme of Renewal and Transformation will reap success.

His admonition to the Church is: We must enter a season of prayer

and fasting! Argument Done!



Final challenge as Moderator (Rt. Rev. J. Oliver Daley).

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield - Moderator

In its Opening Service held on 16 April 2013, the UCJCI Inducted Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield as Moderator.

Dr. Noble-Bloomfield has an outstanding record of service spanning 29 years since taking her Ordination vows.

A pastor, counsellor and friend to many takes the Office of Moderator for the Synodical period ending 2015.

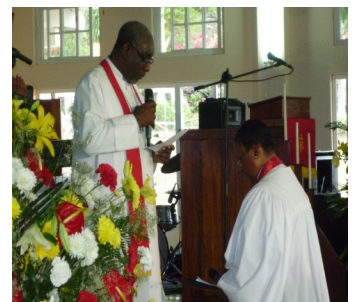
In her response to the call, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Noble-Bloomfield challenged the church to: **“put into action the nouns of our theology**

as we engage and challenge ourselves and those in the Board Rooms, War Rooms, Bar Rooms and Bed Rooms. Corporate and public Jamaica and the Cayman Islands need to know our vision and our passion and the urgency of our call to be prophetic in speech and action at a time such as this in our nations”.

She called for the reassessment of the justice system and the various supports for good social order and in her usual caring but firm manner demanded that those systems be made

to function in a manner that enable honesty and integrity.

She committed to leading the church to swift action, led by the Holy Spirit.



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield receives the mantle of spiritual leader.

**“the watch
word is
ACTION”**

Outcome of the 38th Synod

An overall summary comment is that the experience of the 38th Synod was one of purposive and productive contemplation of the work that the church has to do to fulfill our mission in a changing environment that calls for new strategies of engagement. We arose from the Synod re-energized, focused and recommitted for the awesome task ahead.

The Synodical theme: *'Renewal and*

Transformation for LIFE!' found expression during the Synod through the Bible Studies which were led by Rev. Anthony Chung.

We came away feeling that the future of the church is evangelical. Ministry leaders were encouraged to inspire and motivate congregations to get on with the core business - evangelism.

Congregations should focus the mission priorities that guide our ministry:

- * Evangelism through the Word (preaching and teaching ministries)
 - * Ministry to Children
 - * Outreach
 - * Congregational Administration
 - * Stewardship (with an emphasis on Tithing)
- The intentional focus on these priorities will ensure successful engagement of our theme: Renewal and Transformation for LIFE!

“focus on the 5 mission priorities will ensure successful engagement of our Synodical theme”

Contemplations and Resolutions...

The Synod, in its 38th sitting contemplated and agreed the following:

- * the Synod of the UCJCI supports the preservation of the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman and the definition of parents as a father and mother and therefore is opposed to the repeal of any law which confirms these institutions

- * the UCJCI will advocate for the care and protection of children

- * the church will pursue its core business which is evangelical in nature; thereby making disciples of all people

- * the UCJCI takes seriously, its responsibility in training our children in the way they must grow and go; and as such will strengthen our effort and advocacy for the delivery of moral values and attitudes to our children and young people in educational institutions

- * the acronym *LIFE* - Liberty, Integrity, Faith, Environmental Stewardship must cause us to rise with newness of life as we offer this gift to our fellow sojourners in Cayman and Jamaica and indeed the wider world.

- * each congregation of the UCJCI will intentionally

and creatively seek ways to enliven the theme “Renewal and Transformation for LIFE”

- * the Synod agreed to Constitutional amendments including provisions for membership and term limits for officers of the Church

***Liberty
Integrity
Faith
Environmental
Stewardship !!!***

The Stanford Webley Lecture

“A church that is fulfilling its mission proclaims the gospel”

T*he Identity, Ethos and Mission of the Church* was the subject of the Lecture in honour of Rev. Stanford Webley.

Having served for some 66 years since Ordination in 1947, the now 90 year old Rev. Webley was present at the Synod on Thursday 18 April.

A former Moderator, Chairman of several School's Board,

outstanding Minister, Counsellor, priest and friend; Rev. Webley has served with excellence.

In his response, he expressed gratitude to the Church for sharing in the milestone that commenced in Runaway Bay and noted that it was of significance that after 66 years he was honoured in the same geographic location.

The Lecturer, Rev. Dr. Roy Notice, encouraged the church to focus on

biblical discipleship; youth outreach and development; and community transformation as it participates in the Mission of Christ in the world. He was keen to note that such foci were evident in Rev. Webley's approach to ministry.



Congratulations!!!

- ◆ Claire Trueman on attaining 50 years in ministry.
- ◆ We congratulate the following persons on receiving the certificate of Merit for outstanding achievement in an area of the Implementation Plan of the Programme of Renewal and Transformation:

For Administration

Rev'ds. Alice Blair, Glenroy Clarke, Tara Tyme, J. Oliver Daley

For Outreach

Rev'ds. Edwin Anderson, Dr. Derik Davidson

For Stewardship

Rev'ds. L Christopher Mason, Hyacinth Edwards

For Evangelism

Rev'ds. Egbert Harvey, Eniola Davis, Dr. Dave Hazle

Pastor Edward Williams

For Ministry to Children

Rev'ds Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes, Dr. Margaret Fowler

- ◆ Congratulations to the Rev'ds. Donovan Myers - CIRMC; Novlyn Hanson - WRMC; Astor Carlyle - NERMC; and Elizabeth Chirwa - SRMC on receiving the award for the Minister best embodying the spirit of Renewal and Transformation



“to whom much is given, much is expected”

Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) and UCJCI



The main speaker at the Service of Celebration for Life and Witness, Rev. Dr. Roy Patton, Moderator of the Presbyterian

Church in Ireland (PCI) lauded the UCJCI for its selection of the theme: Renewal and Transformation for LIFE! He told the gathering that such theme was very instructive for the church as well as those who were celebrated in that service for their faithfulness.

He was true to the text in Isaiah 65:17 - 25 from which he encouraged the Synod to keep hope alive, look ahead with joy and anticipation of the new heaven and new earth.

The UCJCI and the PCI enjoy a partnership of sharing people resource for many years, testimony to that is Miss Claire Trueman who has served the United Church for 50 years.

Rev. Dr. Patton was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Daphne Patton and Mrs. Valerie Tweedie who serves as the President of the Women's Movement in Ireland.

“... all the earlier troubles, chaos and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten”
Isa. 65:17

Reflections on the 38th Synod

Organized around the thoughtful and magnificent theme, “Renewal and Transformation for Life” (Liberty, Integrity, Faith, Environmental Stewardship), the Synod revived my hope in the United Church and left me with a new excitement as it conveyed new expectations for the church of the future.

In this connection, I applaud the inclusion of children in the central event, the Opening Service. This is one of the significant signs of the new day. You see, and I believe that if our children are to have faith, it is imperative that they be encouraged to

participate and become an integral part of the ways and life of the church, especially its worship.

That said, who will ever forget that most engaging sermon by the Rev. J. Oliver Daley, the outgoing Moderator? Here he emphasized the need for “Evangelism” to be the watchword, for the church’s future renewal.

In conclusion he declared “Argument Done” when one invites and embraces in ones life the one True “How Great Thou Art”. Magnificent!

The proceedings of the following days were all well executed. Things were unified and dignified. The Communion service stood out for good planning, precision and dignity.

The leadership of the General Secretary and Moderator was A1 – good planning, preparation excellent time management, calm and quiet power and strength. No evidence of ego. I recommend such considerations to anyone in leadership position as well as to those who aspire to such.

Rose Spalding (Miss)

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