



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Volume 3: Issue 35

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Congregational  
Disciples of Christ  
Presbyterian

## UCJCI Children's & Youth Commissions launched!

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"

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Children's & Youth Commissions..... 1-2
- VBS 2018.....2
- Ad Corner .....2
- Leadership Corner ..3

### PRAY FOR:



- Rev. Bevis Byfield who is not well
- Ms. Lorraine Howell who is not well
- Alwyn "Steve" Cowan (brother of Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan) who is recuperating after an attack

The UCJCI's Synodical Children's and Youth Commissions were launched on June 18, 2018! The Church believes that the value of our children and Youth cannot be understated, and must be recognized and honed.

In line with this thinking, these Commissions have been tasked with determining the direction of the Children's and Youth Ministry, ensuring their relevance and positive im-

pact.

The Commissions will cast their vision for the Ministries, provide resources for, and monitor the implementation of, their strategies, as well as evaluate their goals, objectives, and strategies. They will also examine and recommend policies pertaining to the Auxiliary.

Chaired by **Mrs. Cheryl Shaw** (Children's Commission) and **Rev. Nevroy**

**Francis** (Youth Commission), these bodies are comprised of representatives of the four (4) Regional Mission Councils, uniformed groups, Regional representatives of the Auxiliary, and persons with expertise in strategic planning, programme-implementation, fund-raising, and communications, as well as members of the clergy, and Lay Pastors.

*(Continued on Page 2)*



Our Youth minister in Dance at Youthquake 2018

**CELEBRATIONS!**



70:

**Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**

**July 1**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The Commissions will ensure that the six (6) goals of the UCJCI's ministries to Children and Youth are achieved. These include: **Christian Nurture, Denominational Identity, Personal Development, Ministry Growth, Retention of Membership, and Children's/Youth Engagement.**

Through the work of these bodies, our children and Youth are expected to be further enriched for spiritual growth, evangelism, stewardship, the deepening of their spiritual values, and mission-al engagement. We wish those who have offered themselves to serve in this way, God's richest blessings.



A child prays at a recent WRMC Children's Conference

**Vacation Bible School 2018!**

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2018** will be held throughout the UCJCI between the months of July and August. This year's theme in the Jamaican Regions will be: **"Incredible ME: UP Like Heaven"**, drawn from the Synodical Theme: **"Renewal and Transformation—Discipleship for Life"**.

The focus will be on the truth that our Children are uniquely special and incredible, because they were made by the Creative God, with hands of Love and Beauty.

The activities will foster high self-esteem

based in certainty, because Scripture teaches us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). Our Children will also be taught to stand in the face of "giants", as Christ lives in them and has given them a spirit of boldness.

VBS 2018 will be a time of spiritual engagement and fun for our Children! It promises to be a truly memorable, uplifting, and life-altering encounter with the God who made them "Incredible".

*(Information on CIRMC VBS 2018 in next week's UCJCI Update.)*

**THE UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER**

**Duke Street United Church Youth Fellowship**

Presents their 75th Annual Anniversary Concert Under the Theme:

**Taste and See That The Lord Is Good**

Duke Street United Church  
70 Duke Street, Downtown, Kingston  
Sunday July 8, 2018  
Starting @ 5 pm



MC ANDRE MILLER

Psalm 34:8 NIV  
Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.



Admission:  
Adults \$500  
Children 12 and under \$200 at the Gate

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Western Regional Mission Council

**VBS 2018**  
THEME:  
**"INCREDIBLE ME"**  
**UP LIKE HEAVEN!**

I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE  
PSALM 139:14

**1ST STAGING QUIZ COMPETITION**  
CLUSTER 1 VS CLUSTER 2  
CLUSTER 3 VS CLUSTER 4

**4TH STAGING DEBATE COMPETITION**  
CLUSTER 2 VS CLUSTER 4  
CLUSTER 1 VS CLUSTER 3

**Victory Party**  
BRING YOUR MEDALS

VENUE: FALMOUTH UNITED CHURCH HALL  
DATE: SATURDAY JUNE 30, 2018  
TIME: 10AM  
FREE REFRESHMENTS

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Creating an Environment of Synergy

Valuing the differences—the mental, emotional, and psychological differences - in your team, is the essence of synergy. “Synergy” may be defined as the interaction or cooperation between persons or objects to produce a total effect greater than the sum of their individual contribution (adapted from Oxford Dictionaries).

If our perceptions are skewed, we will never be effectively **interdependent**, and that is key to creating synergy in organizations. The person who is truly effective has the humility and reverence to recognize his own perceptual limitations, and to appreciate the rich resources available through interaction with the hearts and minds of other human beings. That person values the differences because those differences add to his/her knowledge, to his/her understanding of reality.

When we are left to our own experiences, we constantly suffer from a shortage of data. However, when we value each other’s differences, we increase our own awareness, and affirm the other person. We give each other psychological air. *We create an environment of Synergy.*

When we introduce Synergy, we create an atmosphere in which it is safe to talk about the negative aspects of organizational life. We unfreeze others, loosen them up, and actually transform the forces that prevent the synergy we seek.

As a result, new goals, *shared* goals, are created, and the whole organi-

zation moves upward, often in ways that no one could have anticipated. Then, that excitement creates a new culture. The people involved in it are engaged with each other’s humanity and empowered by new, fresh thinking, by creative alternatives and opportunities.

*All Nature is synergistic.* Ecology is a word which basically describes the synergism in nature—everything is related to everything else. It is in the *relationship* that creative powers are maximized. The more genuine the involvement, the more sincere and sustained the participation in analyzing and solving problems, the greater the release of everyone’s creativity, and of their commitment to what they create. This synergy is Teamwork, Team-Building, the development of unity and creativity with other human beings.

You can even be synergistic within yourself, even in the midst of a very adversarial environment. You don’t have to take insults personally. You can sidestep negative energy. You can look for the good in others and utilize that good, as different as it may be, to improve your point of view and to enlarge your perspective.

You can exercise courage in interdependent situations, be open, and express your ideas, your feelings, and your experiences in a way that encourages other people to be open also.

You can value the differences in other people. When someone disagrees with you, you can say, “Good! You see it differently.” You don’t have to agree with them. You can simply affirm them, and seek to understand.

#### Application Suggestions:

Think about a person on your team who typically sees things differently than you do. Can you seek out his/her views on a current problem or mission, valuing the different views you are likely to hear?

Make a list of people who irritate you. Do they represent different views that could lead to synergy, if you were more secure and valued the difference?

Identify a situation in which you desire greater teamwork and synergy. What conditions would need to exist to support synergy? What can you do to create those conditions?

The next time you have a disagreement or confrontation with someone, attempt to understand the concerns underlying that person’s position; then address those concerns in a creative and mutually beneficial way. That is the essence of Synergy.

*Source: “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey*

