



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 Disci-
ples, Seeking Transfor-
mation through Christ"**

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis By-
field** who is not
well
- **Rev. Ranford
Hewitt** who con-
tinues to recover
from illness
- **Rev. Dr. Marga-
ret Fowler** who
is not well

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Wednesday, November 7, 2018

COMMUNICATING OUR MISSION

November 3, 2018 marked the beginning of a new phase in the UCJCI's Communications Mission. Twenty (20) United Church members from the **Southern Regional Mission Council (SRMC)** participated in a training programme in Communications Skills, in Mandeville, Manchester.

Dubbed, *"Communicating with Impact"*, the one-day workshop targeted **Congregational Communications Officers**, who have been identified and confirmed to carry out the role of relaying information to their congregations from the Synod and Regional Offices, surrounding the strategic direction, and work of the Church.

These are key individuals, who will assist with ensuring that our congregants are kept informed of our mission priorities, programmes, events, initiatives, and new developments across the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

We have thus far confirmed Communications Officers across one hundred and fifty-five (155) of our congregations, and all these persons will partake of this training programme. This will further enable them to effectively formulate and deliver the messages, via the means that is most appropriate for their congregational context.

The Communications Officers trained last weekend were from the following fifteen (15)

congregations: Salem, Davyton, Bethel, Blue Mountain, Andrews Memorial, Beulah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Olivet, Cascade, Ridgemount, Kilmarnock, Lowe River, Ebenezer, Long Look, and Retirement United Churches.

The attendees first received an Overview of the UCJCI, including our Guiding Principles. They were taught The Communication Process, and the critical elements of Writing for an Audience. Further to these topics, they were guided through Self-Presentation and Public Speaking Skills, as well as the essentials of Social Media and Online Communication.

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UCJCI Congregational Communications Officers in training!

COMMUNICATION TRAINING

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

The presenters for the day were: **Hope-ton Dunn, PhD, Professor of Communications Policy and Digital Media, Director of the Mona ICT Policy Centre at the University of the West Indies, and member of Webster Memorial United Church; Ms. Thelma L. Bartley, Managing Director, ThelKar Communications Ltd. and member of Ridgemount United Church, Manchester; and Ms. Lesley Hare, Communications Officer, UCJCI.**

It was truly a day of learning and development for our Communications Officers! They have been armed with knowledge and ideas on furthering the Mission of our Church through Communications. The personal benefits to the participants are also tremendous. The areas covered will, indeed, assist them to be more effective in their daily living.

All twenty (20) participants have been awarded Certificates of Participation, a culmination of what was deemed an excellent day of inspiration and skills-development.

We are truly grateful for our Communications Officers who have willingly offered themselves to serve in this way. God be praised!

Similar programmes will be held again in the Southern Region in early 2019; in the North-Eastern Region on November 10, 2018 and early 2019; in the Western Region on November 23-24, 2018; and in the Cayman Islands Region in 2019.



The new **Steering Committee of the Caribbean and North America Area Council (CANAAC) of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)** was elected in Georgetown, Guyana, on October 29, 2018!

The Officers and members at large are, from left: Mrs. Simone-Asha Singh-Sagar, Secretary (Presbyterian Church Trinidad and Tobago), Rev. Valeska Austin (Guyana Congregational Union), Rev. Matthew Sams (Presbyterian Church in Canada), Mr. Colin Watson, Co-Convener (Christian Reformed Church in North America), Ms. Angela Martins, Convener (UCJCI), Rev. Lisa Vander Wal (Reformed Church in America), Dr. Gail Allan, Treasurer (United Church of Canada), Rev. Karl Heim buck (Presbyterian Church USA), and Rev. Jesus Oscar Rodriguez (Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cuba).

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER



The North-Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC) will host their Elders and Lay Pastors' Graduation Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. at Webster Memorial United Church.

Let's come and celebrate our new church leaders!



YOU ARE INVITED

to a service of celebration

to commemorate the 180th anniversary of the ministry of the

Salem United Church in the Chapelton Community

to be held at

Salem United Church

Chapelton, Clarendon, Jamaica

on Sunday, 18th November 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

RSVP: 876-863-9913 or by 9th November 2018



Professor Dunn leading one of the segments

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Communication: An Indispensable Skill of a Leader

The success of your ministry, mission, job, marriage, and other personal relationships depend greatly on your ability to communicate. People will not follow you if they don't know what you want or where you are going.

The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to inspire enthusiasm in others. If a leader can't get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message will not matter.

You can be a more effective communicator if you follow four basic truths:

SIMPLIFY YOUR MESSAGE.

Communication is not just what you say. It is also how you say it. The key to effective communication is simplicity. If you want to connect with people, keep it simple.

SEE THE PERSON. Effective communicators focus on the people with whom they're communicating. They know it is impossible to effectively communicate to an audience without knowing something about them. As you communicate with people—whether individuals or groups—ask yourself these questions: Who is my audience? What are their questions? What needs to be accomplished? How much time do I have? If you want to become a better communicator, become audience-oriented. People believe in great communicators because great communicators believe in people.

SHOW THE TRUTH. Credibility

precedes great communication. There are two (2) ways to convey credibility to your audience. First, believe in what you say. People become extraordinary communicators when they are fired up with conviction. Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch observed, "The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire." Second, live what you say. There is no greater credibility than conviction in action.

SEEK A RESPONSE. As you communicate, never forget that the goal of all communication is action. Every time you speak to people, give them something to feel, something to remember, and something to do. If you're successful in doing that, your ability to lead others will go to a new level.

Reflect on this:

Danto Manquez Jr. said, *"A leader must get things done through others, therefore the leader must have the ability to inspire and motivate, guide and direct, and listen. It is only through communication that a leader is able to cause others to internalize his or her vision and*

implement it."

How do you rate your ability to communicate with others? Is communication a priority for you? Do you inspire and motivate people? Do you express your vision in such a way that your people are able to understand, internalize, and implement it? When you talk to people one-on-one, are you able to connect with them? How about with groups?

To improve your communication, do the following:

Be clear as a bell. Examine a letter, memo, or other item you've recently written. Do you meander? Will your readers be able to grasp the words you've chosen?

Refocus your attention. During the coming week, pay attention to your focus when you communicate. Is it on you, your material, or your audience? If it's not on people, you need to change it. Think about their needs, questions, and desires. Meet people where they are, and you will be a better communicator.

Live your message. Are there any discrepancies between what you communicate and what you do? Talk to a few trustworthy people and ask them whether you are living your message. Receive their comments without defensiveness. Then purpose to make changes in your life to be more consistent. The effort to communicate well, is worth the tremendous benefits.

Source: "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader" by John C. Maxwell



The new NERMC UCYPF Executive: front row, from left: Shari-Gaye Soares, Suelan Fung, Jusan Hamilton, Shannon McIntosh; second row, from left: Antonio Williams, Imani Rainford, Khedra Jones, Ashley Murphy; back row, from left: Vanessa Blissett (President), Ashleigh Hutchinson, Romario Slowley, and Joel Battick

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