



UCJCI UPDATE

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

THE UNITED CHURCH
IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disci-
ples, Seeking Transfor-
mation through Christ"

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler** who is not well
- The family of **Rev. Royland Thompson** who has passed on
- **Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle** whose mother-in-law, **Ms. Myrtle Kettle**, has passed on

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Thursday, January 3, 2019

OUR MODERATOR'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The New Year is a time to give thanks for the year past, and a time of new hope.

We give thanks because there is much in life to be thankful for: Our family, friends, and grace and blessings sufficient for our daily living. Even if the past year had been difficult, we are still thankful for the loving comfort and warm support of those around us.

We have new hopes and expectations. Perhaps there were some disappointments and regrets in the past, but we look forward to a new beginning in the New Year.

We will start afresh, change, make up for past mistakes or dismiss the matters from our minds.

We may even look forward to a splendid year ahead.

When we were young, we would always write down our New Year resolutions, and this would encourage us to have plans and



expectations for the year ahead. The new goals would give us directions to strive towards in the New Year.

In Leviticus 23:23-25, God instructed the Israelites to celebrate the New Year. This is held on the first two days of the seventh month

of the Jewish calendar (i.e. during the months of September and October).

The New Year celebration is very important to the Israelites. They assemble as families for a feast on the first two days, and there are blasts from trumpets of rams' horns, to signify the majesty and awe of the Lord. In the evening, they attend religious ceremonies in the synagogues.

For the Israelites, New Year celebrations are a reminder of God's creation and His judgment. They give thanks for each other and what they have, and acknowledge that these are created and granted by God. At the same time, they repent of their wrongs and resolve to change their ways, before God's judgment comes upon them.

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CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Alice Blair**Rev. Lloyd Reid****Miss Ceta Rose****January 3****Rev. I. Wayne Silvera****January 5****Miss Laddia Young****January 8**

* *Solicitor General Nicole Foster Pusey, of Boulevard United Church, is to be appointed to the Court of Appeal.*

* *Lisa Palmer Hamilton, of Meadowbrook United Church, is to be appointed to the Supreme Court.*

* *Carol Edwards, of Webster Memorial United Church, is to be appointed to the Court of Appeal.*

UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER
OUR MODERATOR'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

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We welcome 2019 with joy. Let us give thanks for the past year, and for having our families and friends with us, as we continue the journey through the coming 52 weeks, or 365 days, that the Lord blesses us with. The New Year also means new hopes and expectations: That 2019 will be a better year than the one that had gone by, and that our strength from the Lord will equal our days.

As we enter the new year, the question we do not need to be asking is: What can I do for God? The better question is this: What does God desire to accomplish in and through me?

APPOINTMENT

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Andre' W. Reid as General Manager of Shirley Retreat Hotel & Hospitality Services, United Church Mission Enterprise (UCME).

A tourism professional with a solid marketing communications foundation, Mr. Reid has a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry from notable brands, including the Spanish Court Hotel, Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel, Hilton Kingston, Ciboney Ocho Rios, Air Jamaica, and Royal Plantation. As Sales and Public Relations Manager at the luxury-included Royal Plantation Resort by Sandals in Ocho Rios, St. Ann, he led all communications and resort sales activities, in addition to becoming a certified Wedding Specialist.

Of note, Mr. Reid recently held the post of Marketing and Events Manager at Devon House Development Company Limited, where, as a member of the senior management team, he had responsibility for the development and implementation of the company's global communications activities.

We are happy to have Mr. Reid join our team and wish him the best in his new role.

We wholeheartedly express our appreciation to Mrs. Shernett Smith, former Executive Director of Shirley Retreat Hotel & Hospitality Services, for her diligent and capable work with the team. Thank you, Mrs. Smith!

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Vision: An Indispensable Quality of a Leader

Vision is critical for a leader. Why? Because vision leads the leader. It paints the target. It sparks and fuels the fire within, and draws him or her forward. It is also the fire lighter for others who follow that leader. A leader without vision is travelling in circles.

To get a handle on Vision and how it comes to be a part of a good leader's life, understand these things:

VISION STARTS WITHIN. You can't buy, beg, or borrow vision. It has to come from inside. Out of your creativity and desire for excellence, you will always see what *can* be.

If you lack vision, look inside yourself. Draw on your natural gifts and desires. Look to your calling. And if you still don't sense a vision of your own, then consider connecting with a leader whose vision resonates with you. Become his or her partner. That person may be able to provide the vision, while you make things happen.

VISION DRAWS ON YOUR HISTORY. Vision isn't a mystical quality that comes out of a vacuum. It grows from a leader's past and the history of the people around them. If you speak to a leader, you're likely to discover key events in his or her past that were instrumental in the creation of his or vision.

VISION MEETS OTHERS' NEEDS. True vision is far-reaching. It goes beyond what one individual can accomplish. And if it has real value, it does more than just *include* others; it *adds value* to them. If you have a vision that doesn't serve others, it's probably too small.

VISION HELPS YOU GATHER RESOURCES. One of the most valua-

ble benefits of vision is that it acts like a magnet—attracting, challenging, and uniting people. It also rallies finances and other resources. The greater the vision, the more winners it has the potential to attract. The more challenging the vision, the harder the participants fight to achieve it.

Reflect on this:

Where does vision come from? To find the vision that is indispensable to leadership, you have to become a good listener. You must listen to several voices.

The Inner Voice: As previously said, vision starts within. *Do you know your life's mission? What stirs your heart? What do you dream about?* If what you're pursuing in life doesn't come from a desire within—from the very depths of who you are and what you believe—you will not be able to accomplish it.

The Unhappy Voice: Where does inspiration for great ideas come from? From noticing what doesn't work. Discontent with the status quo is a great catalyst for vision. Are you complacent? Or do you find yourself itching to change the world? No great leader in history has fought to prevent change.

The Successful Voice: Nobody can accomplish great things alone. To fulfil a big vision, you need a good team. But you also need good advice from someone who is ahead of you in the leadership journey. If you want to lead others to produce great results, seek a mentor. Do you have an adviser who can help you to sharpen your vision?

The Higher Voice: Although it's

true that your vision must come from within, you shouldn't let it be confined by limited capabilities. A truly valuable vision must have God in it. Only He knows your full capabilities. *Have you looked beyond yourself, even beyond your own lifetime, as you've sought your vision?* If not, you may be missing your true potential and life's best for you.

To improve your vision, do the following:

Measure Yourself. If you have previously thought about the vision for your life and articulated it, measure how well you are carrying it out. Talk to several key people, asking them to state what they think your vision is. If they can articulate it, then you are probably living it.

Write it down. Writing clarifies your thinking. Once you have written it, evaluate whether it is worthy of your life's best, and then pursue it with all you have.

Do a gut check. Consider what really impacts you at a gut level. What makes you cry? What makes you dream? What gives you energy? What would you like to see change around you? What do you see that isn't—but could be? Once your ideas start to become clearer, write them down and talk to a mentor about them.

When you look deep into your heart and soul for a vision, what do *you* see?

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

