



# 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

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"

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## PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler** who is not well
- **Rev. Henley Bernard** whose niece, **Kara-Loy Gibson**, has passed on
- **Rev. Raymond and Mrs. Ruth Coke**, whose son, **Samuel Martin** has passed on
- **Rev. Tara Tyme-Campbell** whose uncle, **Steve Levy**, has passed on

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Wednesday, May 8, 2019

# UCJCI's 41st Synod Inspires and Challenges!!

“Inspired”, “motivated”, “challenged” are some of the words which Delegates of the UCJCI's 41st Synod used to describe the impact of this sitting of the Church's leadership on their own lives.

The event was convened from April 30-May 2, 2019 in Montego Bay, Jamaica; with the Opening Service held at St. Paul's United Church and the Business Sessions, at SeaGarden Beach Resort.

This biennial gathering is the forum at which the direction of the Church is set and avenues for growth determined. These were certainly accomplished, with the emergence of numer-

ous decisions. The Synod has resolved to establish a chaplaincy/youth ministry through **Hope United Church**, working in conjunction with the **Synod and Youth Commission**.

The leaders also agreed to evaluate the status of all its early childhood institutions, in order to determine appropriate strategies and a response to government actions.

A membership growth agenda will also be set, to more deliberately target numerical growth across our congregations.

In our response to the situation of crime and violence in Jamaica, a deliberate programme of equip-

ping persons with the skills of conflict management and resolution will be developed, through partnership with local and international organizations. The leadership at the local, regional, and synodical levels will then engage the trained persons to serve in ministry.

The Synod will also explore possibilities for partnership in a programme of family life education, focusing on: parenting education and training, reduction of childhood abuse and trauma, conflict resolution, as well as marital and relationship health.

The 41st Synod has also resolved to identify vulnerable rural congregations, and take (Continued on Page 2)



Immediate Past Moderator, Rev. L. Christopher Mason (centre), embraces newly-installed Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, during his induction and consecration at the 41st Synod. General Secretary, Rev. Norbert D. Stephens looks on.



Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, offering his Response and Challenge to the 41st Synod

# CELEBRATIONS!

# UCJCI's 41st SYNOD



70:

**Ms. Lesley Hare**

**May 2**

**Rev. Rohan Forrester**  
**Rev. Dr. Leroy Walters**  
**Rev. Dwayne Johnson**

**May 7**



70:

**Rev. Hylton Dunkley**

**May 8**

**Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**

**May 10**

**Rev. Kevin Calvert**

**May 14**

*Continued from Page 1*

steps to formulate strategic intervention that is directed at arresting present and future decline in such affected communities and congregations.

Further, an independent study of the Renewal and Transformation Structure was commissioned, for presentation at the 42nd Synod. Inspiring deliberations, indeed! There is much to expect in this new period of our Synod!



Immediate Past Moderator, General Secretary, and Chairs of Council lay hands on, and pray for, the newly-installed Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



Replicas of **The Burning Bush**, the Motif of the 41st Synod, signifying the rekindling of our passions for the cause of Christ



Rt. Rev. L. Christopher Mason (then outgoing Moderator) conducts induction and consecration of Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans (then incoming Moderator)



A section of the congregation and clergy

**Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)**

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Effective, Reciprocal Leadership in Congregations

**E**ffective leadership is best understood not by focusing upon personality traits in the leader, but upon the relationship between the leader and those being led.

Focusing upon the situation and relationships shifts the question from: “*What are the traits of good leaders?*” to “*What factors are present in situations where effective leadership is taking place?*” and “*What do relationships look like in situations where effective leadership is taking place?*”

#### **Four factors seem ever-present in situations of effective leadership:**

**Character in the leader** (which generates trust on the part of followers).

**Conviction in the leader** (which helps the congregation to discern its purpose and vision).

**Competencies in the leader** (which help a congregation to function as a healthy system—i.e. deal with the normal anxieties and conflicts of communal life in healthy and productive ways).

**Confluence (a coming together) of leader, congregation, time, place, ministry opportunity, and resources** that is a gift of God’s Spirit and that enables a leader and congregation to work joyfully together in realizing God’s purposes.

First, notice how all four (4) of these factors involve *both leader and congregation, the relationship between them, and the impact they have on one another*. For example, character in a congregation’s leaders helps the congregation trust those leaders,

which in turn strengthens the character of the congregation, which in turn helps the leaders to trust the congregation. It is an upward spiral of character and trust.

Second, it is important to distinguish between *personality traits* and *character traits*. The focus in these four factors is not on personality—introvert, extrovert, charismatic, quiet—but on the character of the leaders and those being led. Put another way, a church can be healthy with a leader who’s an introvert, but not with a leader who is untrustworthy or arrogant.

Third, these four (4) factors can be applied to diverse cultural situations. However, they reflect certain realities of human behaviour and community that are present and must be reckoned with across all cultural differences.

**Why do we call this a “reciprocal” understanding of leadership?** “Reciprocal” literally means “back and forth” or “both ways”. In any situation involving leadership, influence goes both ways. Leaders shape those they lead, but also are shaped by those they lead.

In an extended definition of leadership, Jerry Zandstra points out that leaders both motivate and are motivated by their followers. Leadership is *reciprocal*.

Thus, leadership can be understood only in terms of the leader in relationship to those being led. Such a reciprocal understanding of leadership leads to mutuality and

partnership in ministry.

**Reverend Rick Williams** expressed this mutuality beautifully in a lecture he gave at Calvin Theological Seminary on April 11, 2002, entitled, “*A Glimpse of Pastoral Leadership in a Multi-Racial Church*”. When asked about leadership style, Rick answered, “*I know of a number of pastors who articulate for the congregation where the church ought to be going, and their challenge is to bring them along. I’m not that kind of leader. My strength is to bring people together and say, ‘OK, this is what I think we should be thinking about; and now let’s talk about it and pray about it.’ I’m always amazed by two things that happen then—how much better the ideas are that they come up with together, and how much more responsibility they take for advancing it. I see my responsibility as being a catalyst and making sure we are asking the right questions and facilitating the discussion.*”

Some might misunderstand this reciprocal approach to leadership as being too weak, as lacking in vision and direction. But such is not the case. Being committed to good congregational process doesn’t mean that a leader lacks strong convictions. Rather, he or she has wisdom in “asking the right questions” and strategically guiding the congregation forward.

*Source: Effective Leadership in the Church—A project of the Christian Reformed Church in North America*



# UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

## CERTIFICATE & SHORT COURSES

### Supervisory Management

#### Description

Learn how to create and implement a management control system for any area of any business in any industry and then to manage that area making it leaner, faster and better all the while highlighting your success for the world to see. We all want to grow in our management careers.

The Manager who sits in his/her chair the longest with the most paper on the desk is rarely the one promoted. It's usually the one who takes whatever and whomever is given and makes it BETTER! The one who succeeds where everybody else fails is the manager on the career fast track.

#### Dates

November 23, 2018  
February 18, 2019  
April 13, 2019  
June 20, 2019

#### Contact

phillip.pitter@iuc.edu.jm  
876-754-1921  
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### North Eastern Regional Mission Council

**SATURDAY MAY 11, 2019**

## CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN'S SPORTS & FELLOWSHIP DAY

Races, Games, Prizes

Venue: St. Andrew High School for Girls

Registration at 8:30am

### THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

# SUMMER CAMP 2019

"Youth Campers" Something new and different is coming your way. LOOK OUT!

**THEME: DISCIPLES ON DI MOVE**

**DATES**

- Children's Camp: July 6 - 12 (Ages 8-10)
- Junior Camp: July 13 - 19 (Ages 11-13)
- Pacesetter Teens: July 20 - 26 (Ages 14-17)
- Discovery Teens: July 27 - August 2 (Ages 14-17)
- Young Adults Conference: August 15-18 (Ages 21-40)

**Camp Fee \$8700.00**  
Please note that the fee for Young Adults Conference is a separate cost

**Venue: Madge Saunders Conference Center Tower Isles, St Mary.**

Come and experience Spiritual Growth, Mission and Fellowship