



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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Congregational
Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

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OUR VISION: "Touching
Lives, Nurturing Disciples,
Seeking Transformation
through Christ"

SYNODICAL THEME:
"Renewal and Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



- Revds. Herbert Redway Snr. & Jr. whose son-in-law and brother-in-law, respectively, Mr. Neville Lloyd Jackson, has passed on
- The family of Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler who has passed on. Her thanksgiving service will be held on **September 19, 2019** at **10 a.m.** at Webster Memorial United Church.
- Rev. Joel Downer whose father-in-law, Dr. Noel Johnson, has passed on

25 CHILDREN SAVED at CIRMC Children's Camp 2019!!

Thirty-three (33) campers in the 8-12 age group from six (6) congregations gathered for the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council's Children's Camp from July 13 to 18, 2019, at Prospect Youth Centre, Grand Cayman!

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that **twelve (12) of those children made first time commitments and 13 others made re-commitments to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.**

Placed in three (3) "Families", the campers worshipped, worked, played, fellowshiped and served in mission together during the event.

Most of the campers expressed that serving "Meals on Wheels" to the needy in the community was the most gratifying part of their camp experience. They were also delighted by their visit to the Cayman Turtle Centre, and were challenged by competition in several sporting activities.

Skills development was also a part of the camp programme. The campers participated in cooking, sign language, dance, tie-and-dye, and music classes. Indeed, rounding off this training was the expression of all these skills during the closing service held at the Elmslie Memorial United Church.

Topping the 6-day event was the selection of **Camp Girl,**

Kathryn Chang, and **Camp Boy, Christopher Powell,** both of Webster Memorial United Church, Grand Cayman, for their outstanding attitude and behaviour throughout the camp. Also, **Kenzie McLaughlin** of the Savannah United Church received the **Spirit of the Camp Award!**

We thank God for these precious children who have been part of such an engaging, spirit-lifting, and life transforming experience. We continue to journey with them, offering reinforcement, discipleship, and nurturing. To God be the glory; great things He has done!



Camp Girl, Kathryn Chang, and Camp Boy, Christopher Powell, both of Webster Memorial United Church

Spirit of the Camp Awardee, Kenzie McLaughlin, of Savannah United Church

CELEBRATIONS!

CIRMC CHILDREN'S CAMP 2019!!!



70:

Rev. Henley Bernard
Mrs. Norma Smellie
September 20

Rev. Kraig DeLeon-Diedrick
September 21

Mr. Alja Dias
September 24



The campers during exercise session

UCJCI VALUES



In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

MISSION AND OUT-REACH—Seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people, giving them hope; always acting justly and being advocates of justice (James 2:15-16, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Zechariah 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19).



Camp leaders and junior leaders gathered



Members of the Women's Fellowship Branches in Council serving the banquet meal to the campers



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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

What is Having A Voice If Not To Advocate for Others and Yourself?

By Abigail Scarlett, former Intern to the World Communion of Reformed Churches and Member of St. Paul's United Church (LA)

Text: Esther 4:1-17

Excerpt: Verses 13-14: *“Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, ‘Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?’”*

“Are you a leader? A young activist? A person with a platform, or in any position at all to help others? The answer should be ‘Yes!’

With or without a high position, we all have a voice, and what is having a voice if not to advocate for others or to speak up for yourself? Know that even in a high position, or in a seemingly safe community, or with wealth, you’re not exempt from misfortunes that the rest of the world faces. Use your advantage for good because *‘who knows whether you have not come into this world for such a time as this?’*, to share with others and make great change.

Esther risked her life for her people, she dared to stand up and say what she believed in. Even though keeping quiet would not have directly affected her, she could see how it would affect others. At first, she thought that Mordecai needed just a change of clothes, but what he really needed was her effort; for her to speak on behalf of him and her people.

Don’t stay quiet. Whether you’re in a position of authority or not, speak up for change towards justice. Sometimes it’s easier to only offer money, but you also have a voice, so speak. You may have time, so lend it. It may also be easier to overlook the struggles that others face. Sometimes, because of focusing on our own situations, it can be easy to forget that other people have their own ordeals or may even have worse situations than ours.

In many cases, you can see justice coming forth because of awareness and advocacy. More persons know of the situation or cause you advocate for, and it stirs people to want to become more informed and to inform others. This chain reaction meets the goal: **POSITIVE CHANGE!**

We can see this in cases like the #MeToo movement, where there have been years of voices speaking out against their victimizers without redress. However, the more persons become aware, the greater the chance of the matter being addressed, and this has allowed for a revolution. We all have to be in this together, to make a difference.

Why Should We Speak?

I get asked a number of times why I want to be an advocate for women. It is questioned especially in the area of sexual harassment and violence, even though I have not experienced them. It’s a valid question. But then I think it’s like asking why I empathize? I empathize because we’re all in this to-

gether... What I want for us is not to be naïve. Never say, *‘That could never be me!’* It matters not our station in life; it matters not our age, race, or socioeconomic background. We should all be aware and stand together as sisters...

...There’s a pain in my heart that irks me when women are abused or taken for granted; knowing that we have so much power in us, so much talent and so much to give. Women have so much to contribute to this world. However, it’s being threatened by fear, violence and harassment, which are just a few of the injustices the world already faces.

I won’t pretend that I know the pain that victims of major injustices have gone through. However, my desire is for victims to be rehabilitated and empowered, and for those who have never had the misfortune to never experience it.

It is a continued struggle for all of us to be educated, empowered, and equipped with tools to be great and to make a difference. So let us fight for ourselves and others, to make the world as we know it can be, **Female-Friendly.”**

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October 18-21, 2019

Knox Cobbla Campus, Manchester

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



United Church Men's Fellowship

presents their

34th Annual General Meeting

On **October 5, 2019**

at **Ridgemount United Church, Mandeville, Manchester**

Theme: *"Men Living Lives of Christian Witness and Service, Transforming Lives and Changing Spaces"*

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt,

President, International University of the Caribbean

Devotions by: Rev. Norbert D. Stephens,

General Secretary, UCJCI

Registration begins at **8:15 a.m.** Cost: **\$1,500** (including lunch)

