



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:



- The biological and Hope United Church families of Ambassador Patricia Durrant, who has passed on
- The people of Haiti and The Bahamas

Lucea United Church Hosts Public Lecture on Good Parenting

Scores of residents in Hanover were engaged in a public lecture on good parenting, hosted by **Lucea United Church** on November 19, 2019!

The event, held at **Bioprist in Lucea**, was organized by the church's **Family Life Ministries** in celebration of National Parent Month (November), under the theme, "*Be the Positive Influence: Saving the Youth of Your Community*".

The parents, principals, teachers, students and others who attended the lecture were taught how to become better role models and mentors for their children, as well as how to be supportive of each other in the home.

Keynote Speaker, Social Anthropologist at the University of the West Indies, Dr. Herbert Gayle, shared the benefits of domestic

partnerships, chief among which is that they create greater wealth and stability in the family.

"Currently, only 18 per cent of families have partnerships between mothers and fathers (in Jamaica). Once that moves up into the 20s, 30s and 40s, you are going to see far more stable families, (and) stable families are going to produce stable children, who are going to produce a stable society," he explained.

Dr. Gayle, who specializes in social violence, also noted that creating harmony within homes further leads to fewer gangs and criminal organizations, as the mayhem in our homes, communities and schools create gang violence.

He suggested that "*once you get up and you feel that there is a sense of tomorrow, you are not going to harm others.*" Indeed, the Church of Jesus Christ offers this sense of hope.

Chairman of the **Lucea United Church Family Life Ministries**, Tova-Malka Trench Anderson, expressed the church's commitment to assisting individuals to develop and improve their family lifestyle. Indeed, this is the commitment of the UCJCI, and this is one of our mission priorities.

We thank God for this notable effort by Rev. Glenroy Clarke, Minister of Lucea United Church, and his team!!



Social Anthropologist at the University of the West Indies, Dr. Herbert Gayle, speaks at the event.



Rev. Glenroy Clarke, Minister of Lucea United Church, addresses the gathering.

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Rohan Kong
Mr. Alando Merdith

December 4

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).



Cayman Preparatory and High School 70th Anniversary Service



The congregation in worship at the special service on October 13, 2019. **Pictured in front, from left:** The Hon. Tara Rivers, Member of the Legislative Assembly and Minister of Financial Services and Home Affairs, the Cayman Islands; Mrs. Kim McLaughlin; and The Hon. Alden McLaughlin, Premier of the Cayman Islands.



Children of the school in presentation at the special service



From left: Members of the choir; Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, Moderator, UCJCI; Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI; Miss Angela Martins, Chair, CIRMC; Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (partially hidden), RDGS, CIRMC; Rev. Donovan Myers, Co-Liturgist and Minister of John Gray Memorial United Church; and Mrs. Bertranne Menko, Co-Liturgist, Teacher at Cayman Preparatory School and member of South Sound United Church.

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Walk Slowly Through the Halls

One of the greatest mistakes leaders make is spending too much time in their offices and not enough time out among the people. Leaders are often agenda-driven, task-focussed, and action-oriented because they like to get things done. But *leadership is a people business*.

If you forget the people, you're undermining your leadership, and you run the risk of having it erode away. Then one day when you think you're leading, you'll turn around and discover that nobody is following and you're only taking a walk.

Relationship-building is always the foundation of effective leadership. Leaders who ignore the relational aspect of leadership tend to rely on their position instead. Or they expect competence to do "all the talking" for them. True, good leaders are competent, but they are also intentionally connected to the people they lead.

One of the best ways to stay connected to your people and keep track of how they're doing is to approach the task informally as you move among the people. As you see people in the parking lot, chat with them. Go to meetings a few minutes early to see people, but don't start in on the agenda until you've had time to catch up. Take time to walk slowly through the halls. Connect with people and give them an opportunity to make contact with you.

To help you develop this skill successfully, here are a few suggestions:

SLOW DOWN. To connect with people, you travel at their speed. People at the bottom don't process information as quickly, and they don't make decisions as fast. Part of that is due to having less information. Some of it comes from having less experience. But to lead others, you need to slow down

enough to connect with them, engage them, and take them with you. Leaders aren't necessarily the first to cross the finish line—people who run alone are the fastest. Leaders are the first to bring all of their people across the finish line. The payoff to leadership comes on the back end.

EXPRESS THAT YOU CARE. The people who follow you desire a personal touch. They want to know that others care about them. Most would be especially pleased to know that their boss had genuine concern about them and valued them as human beings, no just as workers who can get things done for them or the organization.

CREATE A HEALTHY BALANCE OF PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEREST. Leaders who show interest in the individuals who work for them need to find the balance between personal and professional interest. Professional interest shows that you have the desire to help them. That is something all good leaders share. Personal interest goes deeper—it shows your heart.

When you take interest in your people as human beings, you need to be sure not to cross the line. There is a point at which interest becomes inappropriate. You mustn't be nosy, invade their privacy or make them feel uncomfortable.

Start by asking fairly neutral questions. You can safely ask how someone's spouse or children are doing. You can ask about people's hobbies or other outside interests. Or you can ask a very general question such as, "How is everything else going?" Then pay attention to not only the content of their answer, but also for any kind of emotional reaction. If they choose to talk, don't judge, don't in-

terrupt, and don't be too quick to offer advice unless they specifically ask for it. *Why should you take the time to do this?* The reality is that when employees' personal lives are going well, their professional lives often follow suit. What happens at home colours every aspect of people's lives, including their work. If you have an idea where people are personally, you can know what to expect from them at work, and you may get the opportunity to help them along.

PAY ATTENTION WHEN PEOPLE START AVOIDING YOU. If you make it a habit to walk slowly through the halls, you will get to know your people and the organization better. You will know when things are working. Your leadership intuition will increase, and when something is wrong, you will pick up on it much more quickly.

As you walk around, you will get used to seeing people. Because you will be seen as approachable, people will come out of their offices or cubicles to chat with you. They'll be visible. If something is wrong with somebody who is normally communicative, that person will suddenly avoid you. So as you walk around, you have to ask yourself, "Who am I not seeing?"

Tend to the people, and they will tend to the business. As you strive to walk through the halls, find your own unique way of doing it. Look for practices that fit your personality, working situation, and leadership style.

Source: "The 360 Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

The United Church in Jamaica
and the Cayman Islands

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**SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL UCYPF**

SRMC YOUTH RALLY- D.N.A FOR CHRIST

Rally of the APOSTLES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019
BRYCE UNITED CHURCH @3PM

Refreshments on sale

Mandeville Singphony #40

A Joyous Celebration

Sunday, December 8, 2019
4:00 pm | Ridgemount United