



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
Website: www.ucjci.com

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:



* **Dr. Norma Smellie**, whose sister, **Mrs. Thelma Williams**, has passed on.

* **Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle**, whose uncle, **Mr. Gladstone Hazle**, has passed on.

* **Mr. Alja Dias**, whose uncle, **Mr. Dean Campbell**, has passed on.

* Persons in **Jamaica** and the **Cayman Islands** who suffered trauma and property damage from the recent earthquake.

Volume 6: Issue 5

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

UCYAAM Month Marked by Evangelism, Caring and Worship!!

With spiritedness, passion and devotion, the **United Church Young Adults Action Movement (UCYAAM)** celebrated Young Adults Month in January 2020, through a beautiful collage of *evangelism, practical expressions of care, and worship!*

Their theme, "Discipleship for Life: Let's Get in the A.C.T.," was strengthened and enhanced by the month's sub-theme, "Mobilized to act...for such a time as this", based on **Esther 4:14**. This passage

tells the story of Queen Esther being *mobilized to act* through encouragement from her uncle, Mordecai—an act that ultimately saved the people of God from impending destruction.

The sub-theme was also inspired by the story of the talents in **Matthew 25:14-27**, through which we are taught good stewardship of our resources.

In this, the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands' Year of Evangelism**, the young adults chose to approach the evangelistic thrust in three (3) ways: *street meetings, UCYAAM Cares Day, and UCYAAM special church services.*

The street meetings were held in three (3)

Regions, namely the **Western, Southern, and Northern Eastern Regions of the UCJCI.**

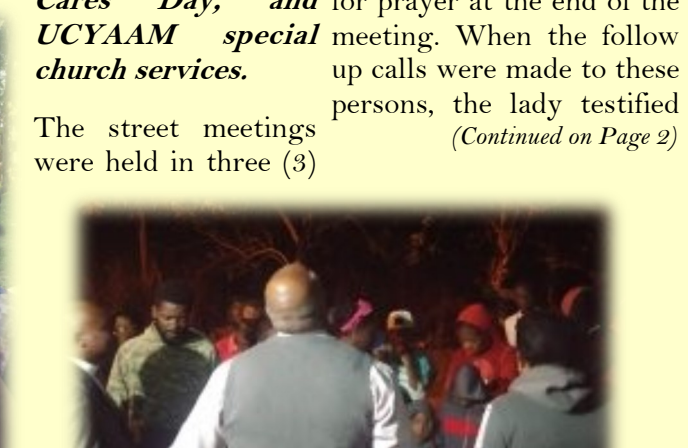
In the **Western Region**, an evangelistic street meeting was held on Friday, January 3, 2020 in the **Savanna-la-Mar** town area. This was supported by twenty (20) young adults from the Region, along with other members and Ministers of **Savanna-la-Mar, Stirling, Big Bridge, Retrieve and Santoy United Churches.**

Indeed, it was an occasion of celebration, when two (2) persons (one male and one female) went forward for prayer at the end of the meeting. When the follow up calls were made to these persons, the lady testified

(Continued on Page 2)



A young adult from Stirling United Church, Westmoreland, feeds a needy community member



Young adults from the Southern Region in street evangelism in the James Hill community

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Ms. Anna-Kay Henry

February 11

UCJCI PURPOSE



PURPOSE OF THE UCJCI

“The purpose of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) has been summarized in our Vision *“Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ.”* We aim for our ministry to be for “all people”, seeking to invite, encourage, and help everyone to become disciples of Christ, while seeking, at all levels, to meet their needs.”



UCYAAM MONTH!!!

(Continued from Page 1)

that she had worked in a bar up to that point, but walked away from that profession based on the Lord's prompting at the street meeting.

The street evangelism in the **Southern Region** was held on January 11, 2020 in the **James Hill community**, led by twenty-five (25) young adults from both the Southern and Western Regions. The spoken word was delivered by **Rev. Lembe Sivile, Minister of the Lowe River Charge of United Churches**, and through the evening's ministry, many persons walked to the altar for prayer, and were supported by neighbouring churches and their leaders.

The **North-Eastern Region's** street meeting was held on January 25, 2020 in the **Lincoln Court community**, and included door-to-door evangelism and praise and worship in the streets. Tracts were issued to community members, and prayers and words of encouragement offered to persons who were sick, as well as those had lost family members earlier in the week and the previous night to gunshots.

Even in the rain, the young adults of the NERMC Region, with and without umbrellas, ministered through prayer, praise and worship, to persons from the community who were in need of prayerful support.

The **United Church Young Adults Action Movement** also declared January 18, 2020 **UCYAAM Cares Day**—a day in which young adults from across the two (2) islands shared the love of Christ with their neighbours in varied ways.

Young adults of **Savanna-la-Mar United Church** visited a needy family and donated items contributed by young adults from the congregation. **Stirling United Church** young adults also expressed their love when they visited a family in the community, while engaging them in devotions, treated them to a meal, massage, washing and moisturizing of their feet, and the combing of the ladies' hair!!

This specific focus for the month culminated in **special church services across all four (4) Regions**. Indeed, the vibrancy, testimonies, creative expressions, praise and worship, and the spoken word filled the hearts of congregants, but also deepened the sense of mission to which many of our young adults across the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** have passionately offered themselves. We thank God for their lives and positive witness! To God be all the glory.



Young adults in street evangelism in the Savanna-la-Mar town area



At Top: Young adults at Mt. Carmel United's special service. At Bottom: Young adults at Mt. Gracious United Church

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadershift from Maintaining to Creating

Have you ever thought about the expectations your profession or industry places on you? Are people in your leadership position expected to hold the line? Maintain the course? Change direction? Get out of the box? Blow up the box?

Some time ago the role of pastors was pretty set. They were expected to be shepherds, and their main job was to feed and care for the flock. The whole mind-set was *maintaining*. But can this kind of culture work against the organization?

It is difficult to overcome a *maintaining* culture. And if you also happen to have an inherent tendency toward inactivity when it comes to innovation, you have even more to overcome.

I've observed that we all tend to fall into one of four (4) different zones when it comes to innovation, which impacts how we live, how we lead, and what we achieve. Here are the zones along with attitude statements that represent them:

THE COASTING ZONE: "I do as little as possible."

THE COMFORT ZONE: "I do what I have always done."

THE CHALLENGE ZONE: "I attempt to do what I haven't done before."

THE CREATIVE ZONE: "I attempt to think what I have never thought before."

In which zone do you naturally gravitate? Do you tend to live in the *coasting zone*, casually—even passively—doing as little as possible? Do you tend to stay in the *comfort zone*, avoiding risks? Do you connect with the *challenge zone* where you try new things and willingly risk failure? Or do you try to stretch yourself the furthest by living in the *creative zone*, where you explore new ideas, seek out other perspectives, and cross bridges in your imagination long before you physically reach them?

The good news is that we have the ability to choose a zone different from our natural one. And I recommend the creative one, because it is where we experience abundance and expand our potential. If you want to take your leadership to ever-higher levels, you need to make the "leadershift" from maintaining to creating, and try to live in the creative zone.

How can you make that shift? I believe you must start the process from the inside out. Roger von Oech suggests that we identify the following:

MENTAL BLOCK #1: 'Find the Right Answer.' It's wrong to believe there is only one right answer to any question. There are always other solutions.

MENTAL BLOCK #2: 'That's not Logical.' Imagination turns possibilities into reality. It's willing to take leaps that logic can't. While logic does have great value and you should keep it, you should intentionally add creativity.

MENTAL BLOCK #3: 'Follow the Rules.' Most revolutionary ideas have been disruptive violations of set rules.

MENTAL BLOCK #4: 'Failure is Bad.' Creative people don't fear failure. They see it as a friend. They know that if they are to experiment, innovate, and create, they will fail. They embrace risk.

MENTAL BLOCK #6: 'Don't be Foolish.' If others don't at first understand or accept you, so what? All the great dreamers looked foolish to someone. How you are perceived by others is less important than how effective you can be.

MENTAL BLOCK #7: 'I'm not Creative.' This self-perception is a barrier to talent, opportunity, and intelligence.

But the truth is that everyone can learn to be creative. The only real block to creativity is our disbelief.

If you want to shift from *maintaining* to *creating* in your life and leadership, then you need to take your crayons back. Here's how:

Build a Creative Culture. Fuel passion; celebrate ideas; foster autonomy; encourage courage; minimize hierarchy; reduce rules; fail forward; start small.

Make Everything Better. Everything can get better. As leaders, we should be catalysts for improvement. We need to champion the idea expressed by **James Russell Lowell**, who said, "*Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but making something out of it after it is found.*"

Make Plans But Look For Options. Predetermine your course of action. Lay out your goals. Adjust your priorities. Notify key personnel. Allow time for acceptance. Head into action. Expect problems. Adjust your plan. Daily review your plans. *Don't seek great security in your plan.*

Place High Value on Ideas. Start gathering ideas. Test every idea that you gather. Analyze your failures. Adapt other ideas. Question all assumptions.

Seek Out and Listen to Different Voices. Creativity thrives when one subject is approached from many different perspectives. Remain teachable.

Imagine Opportunities Everywhere, Take Risks and Prepare for Opportunities. Ask questions. Network. Take action.

Source: "Leadershift" by John C. Maxwell



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER



United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life

SYNODICAL *Ash Wednesday* CONVOCATION 2020

Evangelism: The Heartbeat of the Church
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

VENUE: West Jamaica Seventh Day Adventist Conference Centre, Mt. Salem, St. James | TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
SPEAKER: Rev. Donovan McPherson, Minister, Eltham United Church

NORTH-EASTERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

VENUE: Boulevard Baptist Church, 2 Washington Boulevard, Kingston 10 | TIME: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
SPEAKER: Rev. Norbert D. Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI

SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

VENUE: Clarendon College, Chapelton, Clarendon
TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. | SPEAKER: Rev. Lembe Sivile, Minister, Lowe River Charge of United Churches

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

VENUE: Savannah United Church, Grand Cayman
TIME: 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | SPEAKER: Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Minister, George Town Charge of United Churches

ADMISSION: FREE!! COME FOR RENEWAL AND INSPIRATION!!

Worship, Message from our Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, Communion celebrations & Sermon.
Special programmes for children, youth, women and men, and afternoon group discussions on evangelism!!



WRM C REGIONAL & SYNODICAL ASH WEDNESDAY CONVOCATION

FEB 26
8:30AM
-
3:00PM
WEAR PURPLE

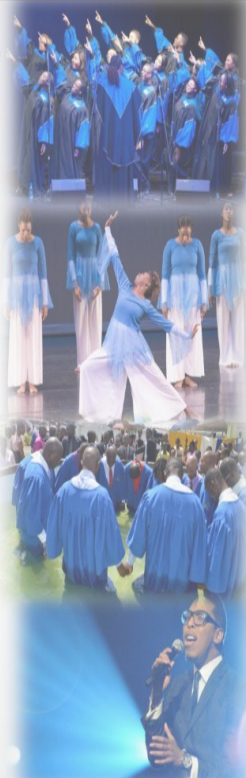
PREACHER: Rev. DONOVAN MCPHERSON

EVANGELISM & HOLY COMMUNION

THEME: EVANGELISM: 'THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CHURCH'

PROVISIONAL LICENSING OF LAY TRAINING STUDENTS

SNACK AND WATER COUNTER BUT TAKE YOUR OWN LUNCH



SPORTS DAY FEBRUARY 8 2020

DELIBERATELY NURTURING ANOTHER (D.N.A)
FOR CHRIST

NORANDA SPORTS COMPLEX,
DISCOVERY BAY, ST. ANN

ADMISSION

\$200
GENERAL

\$100
CHILDREN
UNDER 12

EVENTS

TRACK & FIELD
FOOTBALL
NETBALL ETC

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8 AM

LUNCH WILL BE ON SALE