



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

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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:



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

Persons who have been affected by the **Coronavirus**; and against the further spread of the disease.

Volume 6: Issue 8

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Synodical Ash Wednesday Convocation (NERMC) Inspires

With a fare of worshipful musical ministry, dramatic art, dance, mime, prayer, and communion celebrations, the **Synodical Ash Wednesday Convocation** in the **North-Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC)** on February 26, 2020 was an unforgettable occasion!

Held at **Boulevard Baptist Church** under the theme, **#Evangelism: The Heartbeat of the Church**, UCJCI congregants from across **St. Catherine, Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Mary, Portland and St. Thomas** converged in their numbers for worship, fellowship and inspiration, and based on their responses, were by no means disappointed.

Inspired they were, as the **Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**, in his message to

the Church, challenged those gathered to truly be united in both name and nature, thereby providing an example to an increasingly fractious world. He also encouraged those gathered to be more interested in the *content* and *sharing* of the Gospel than the *form* of so doing.

The congregants were further moved to action, as the sermon, delivered by **Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary of the UCJCI**, was a strong and profound call to a lifestyle of evangelism based on *trustworthiness, integrity* and *charity*. He challenged the

gathering to extend themselves beyond their comfort zones to reach those in need of salvation, wherever they may be located, physically or metaphorically.

With praise and worship led by **Greendale and Lincoln Kirk United Churches**, choir ministry by **Bethel United Church**, separate dance ministries by **Meadowbrook, Lincoln Kirk and Webster Memorial United Churches**, as well as combined mime expression by **Boulevard and Greendale United Churches**, the theme of God's call to the Church and the desired positive response filled the day's expressions of worship and exultation. Indeed, persons were led into deep reflective thought on the significance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, on the first day of Lent. *God be praised for a great day!*



Above: Praise and worship being led by Greendale & Lincoln Kirk United Churches; Below (left): Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI, delivers the sermon; Below (right): Congregants respond to the sermon.



CELEBRATIONS!

SYNODICAL ASH WEDNESDAY CONVOCATION (NERMC)



70:

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield

March 8

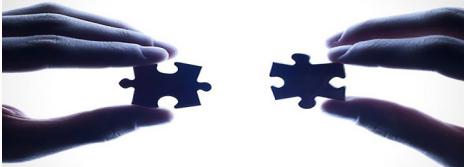
Mrs. Jennifer Martin

March 9

Rev. J. Oliver Daley

March 10

UCJCI PARTNERSHIPS



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands maintains special international relations with the **Council for World Mission (CWM)**, **The Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM)**, **The World Council of Churches (WCC)**, **The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)**, and are ecumenical partners with **The Church of Scotland**, **The United Reformed Church in the UK**, **The United Church of Canada**, **Presbyterian Church USA**, **The United Church of Christ in the USA** and **Global Ministries** among others.



Holy Communion being led by Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans (second left), Moderator, UCJCI



The congregation in praise



Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels, RDGS, NERMC, offers the welcome and introduces the Speaker



Guests from the Presbyterian Church USA join us for Synodical Ash Wednesday Convocation



Meadowbrook United Church offer the liturgical dance



Bethel United Church Choir in song



Webster Memorial United Church in dramatic song



Lincoln Kirk United Church youth minister

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadershift from Directing to Connecting

If you want to become the best leader you're capable of being, you must learn to connect with people. To do that, you must find ways to overcome the challenges of connecting and finding common ground. This can often be a difficult process, especially with a varied team.

Changing from directing to connecting is one of the most valuable shifts you will ever make as a leader. When you direct, it's like building a bridge to others, but the traffic only goes one way. When you connect, it's a two-way street. And because of that, everything improves. Not only are relationships better, but ideas improve because they're flowing in both directions. People work better together, and the team gets stronger. Problems get solved more quickly because communication is better, people know one another better, and they start pulling together. And the environment improves, too.

Here are some ways that are important to a leader who wants to connect with others:

HUMILITY—Let People Know You Need Them. Good leaders are aware that they need other people, and they let them know that. There really is no downside. It keeps the leader's ego in check, it connects the leader and the people on the team, it draws team members into the centre, and it better enables them to fulfil the vision. So, if you want to be a connector, acknowledge your shortcomings and need for others, and be willing to ask for help.

CURIOSITY—Ask People Questions. But start by asking yourself questions. Without asking questions I can easily become comfortable, stagnant. Entropy can easily step in. I would start to accept the status quo without asking if there were a better

way. I would fail to recognize opportunities.

Too many leaders don't ask enough questions—of themselves or others. This happens for a variety of reasons: *They assume they have the answers; they value what they think more than what others think; they prioritize directing others over understanding others; they don't recognize the need to find common ground; they don't understand that questions help to manage expectations.*

Disappointment is the gap between expectations and reality. *How do we close that gap?* By asking questions so that we can adjust our expectations. Knowing the expectations I have of myself makes me more self-aware, which paves the way for me to improve myself and become better. Knowing the expectations I have of others makes me better able to communicate with people and face reality. And knowing the expectations others have of me makes me better able to lead them. All of these connections are made when we use questions to build bridges with others.

EFFORT—Go Out of Your Way to Connect with People. Every relational connection starts with the decision to make the effort to connect. If you care about people, you will be capable of coming up with ways to create connecting experiences with others. But it will take effort. And it will take even more effort to follow through on those ideas. But if you don't—you're not really doing all you can to connect—or to become the best leader you can be.

TRUSTWORTHINESS—Be Someone Others Can Count On. People do not connect with someone they don't trust. They connect with someone they can count on. Simon Sinek said, "People don't buy what you do, they

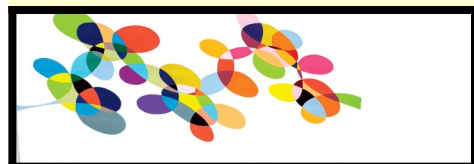
buy *why you do it.*" The *why* deals with motives. Those motives come from the heart and play out as trustworthiness if the motives are good and right.

As a leader, I know I have to keep my motives right. If my primary motivation is to add value to people and help them, then all is good. If not, I'll get off track. And I'm continually aware that to remain trustworthy in the eyes of others, I have to work at being continually successful in three areas: *Integrity in my life, consistency in my actions, competence in my work.* When I do these things well, I become more trustworthy and am able to connect with people—and build the relationship. When I fail in one or more of these, I lose trust and have to work to regain the trust I've lost.

Because I'm only human, I do fail sometimes. *How do I regain lost trust?* By following this process: *I fully acknowledge what I have done wrong; I explain exactly what I am doing to do to try to make things right; I give them an opportunity to share their perspective and add anything to what I shared with them; I do the work to fix the problem; I follow up with them to confirm that the problem was fixed to their satisfaction.* It's amazing how forgiving people are when I follow this process with them. What's even more amazing is how often the relationship is strengthened and improved.

Will it take time to build these connections? The answer is *yes.* But don't let that stop you. In the long run, it will save you time. Your team will get better. And so will you.

Source: "Leadershift" by John C. Maxwell



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

The United Church in Jamaica
and the Cayman Islands

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No.017

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ADMISSION: \$500.00

REFRESHMENT ON SALE

Meadowbrook United Church



CORONAVIRUS FORUM

**Sunday
8 MAR**

5 PM

Come and hear well informed representatives from the Ministry of Health and Wellness, and practitioners from the Public and Private Health Sectors speak about this dangerous life threatening disease