



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 Transforma-
tion: Discipleship for
Life"

IN THIS ISSUE

Synodical Ash
Wednesday Convoca-
tion (WRMC) 1-2

UCJCI Partnerships 2

Leadership Corner 3

Ad Corner 4

PRAY FOR:



Jamaica, which has seen 13 confirmed cases of the **coronavirus**; and against the further spread of the disease.

The local and world economies which are threatened by the spread of the coronavirus.

Volume 6: Issue 10

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Synodical Ash Wednesday Convocation (WRMC) **Renews**

Celebration marked the mood of the 1,087 persons gathered at the **Synodical Ash Wednesday Convocation** held in the **Western Regional Mission Council (WRMC)** on February 26, 2020.

Held at the **West Jamaica Seventh Day Adventist Conference Centre, Mt. Salem, St. James**, under the theme: "**#Evangelism: The Heartbeat of the Church**", the event was hailed by attendees as the best gathering of the Region in one place!

The worship experience was rich, life-giving and filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Congregants engaged in listening to a special pre-recorded message from the **Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**, and also partook of Holy Communion.

Through his sermon, **Rev. Donovan McPherson**, Minister of **Eltham United Church**, referencing Isaiah 61:1-4, Acts 11:19-26 and Luke 5:1-11, re-

minded the congregation that they are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He described the Church's call as one of sacrifice, and called the people of God to be passionate, enthusiastic, full of the Holy Spirit and love, and to be even more effective disciples of Christ.

The 113 children present enjoyed their separate activities, including puppetry, storytelling, singing, discussions, craft, colouring exercises, poetic expressions, the creation of an acrostic on evangelism, as well as teachings on how to evangelize.

The 54 youths present also engaged in separate activities. With open, honest discussions, their first very exciting session was dubbed: "**A mi dis**", which focused on their identity, meaning and purpose, as well as the

governance and policies of the UCJCI.

Their second session was titled, "**IG (Insta God)**" vs. "**IG (Instagram)**". This focused on the youth's identity as responsible evangelists, using the avenues of social media to the glory of God.

The afternoon was spent in breakout group discussions on evangelism, separately held for women and men, as well as community evangelism in **Mt. Salem** and the environs of **Cornwall Regional Hospital**. The latter was led by **Rev. Icylyn Parkinson**, Minister of **Mt. Hermon Charge of United Churches**, and **Pastor Maxene Jones of Farm Heights United Church**.

What a blessing it was for the Region to also commission two (2) Lay Pastors during the event! **Mrs. Veneisha Henry** was commissioned to **Mt. Horeb United Church** and **Mrs. Jezrese Wright**, to **Mt. Pisgah United Church**. *It was, indeed, a day of enrichment and blessing!*



Children at the Convocation display their acrostic.

CELEBRATIONS!

SYNODICAL ASH WEDNESDAY CONVOCATION (WRMC)

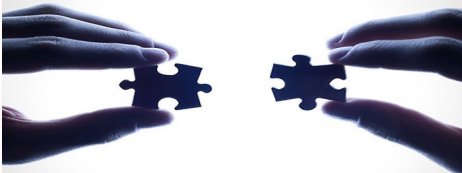


70:

Rev. Jane Kaluba

March 23

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.



Mrs. Jezrese Wright (left) and Mrs. Venesha Henry being commissioned as Lay Pastors. The exercise was led by Pastor Merton Jones (at lectern), Chair of WRMC Council and Lay Pastor of Big Bridge United Church, Westmoreland; and Mrs. Mauleen Henry (not pictured), RDGS, WRMC.



Savanna-la-Mar United Church School performing mime.



Sis. Ann Marie Wright shares the Gospel with the children.



A section of the congregation



Altar call being led by Rev. Donovan McPherson, Minister of Eltham United Church.



Stirling United Charge Choir

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadership from Team Uniformity to Team Diversity

A great definition of team in the Harvard Business Review states, “A team is a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, set of performance goals, and approach for which they hold themselves accountable.” This definition assumes that there is a variety of skills. That implies diversity.

Our differences really can make a difference in our teams, our organizations, and our individual lives. Once we find common ground and commit to bringing the best out of people who are diverse, good things will begin to happen.

DIVERSE TEAMS FILL IN THE KNOWLEDGE GAP. As a leader, it’s important to know what you don’t know. *How?* By engaging with diverse people on your team. If you include a variety of people, then someone on your team will be able to help you. Frequently ask members of your team, “What am I missing?” Then when someone helps you, you are freed up to focus on what you do know and what you do well.

DIVERSE TEAMS FILL IN THE PERSPECTIVE GAP. Malcolm Forbes said diversity is the art of thinking independently together. When everyone thinks and says the same things, it’s the end of creativity and death to an enterprising environment.

As a leader, it is your responsibility to encourage and engage in conversations that draw out different perspectives. You want to know what *they* think. You want your team to challenge you just like you challenge them. It is only then that we get the most out of one another. That’s called win-win.

DIVERSE TEAMS FILL IN THE EXPERIENCE GAP. The greater the differences in personal experiences, the greater the team’s ability to achieve, and the greater number of “tools” the team has at its disposal. As the saying goes, if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Diversity helps prevent us from hammering away at things that need a screwdriver approach.

Good leaders see diversity as one of the best ways to build a world-class team. When properly led, motivated, and unleashed, a diverse group of professionals can give your leadership team an uncommon advantage. *Yet, if inviting diversity is such a valuable practice, why don’t more leaders embrace it?* Because diversity is uncomfortable. Many leaders fail to deal with discomfort and have a difficult time overcoming these common barriers to diversity:

BARRIERS TO DIVERSITY

Fear of Conflict. A diverse team will naturally possess differences of opinion, perspective, and worldview. That almost inevitably leads to conflict. Many people are afraid of that, yet it’s a necessary part of life. Conflict can actually help us.

Lencioni teaches that productive conflict has one purpose: “To produce the best possible solution in the shortest period of time.” When different people with different experiences sharing different opinions all sit at the table with the same objective, you can produce extraordinary results. But it requires people to set aside their titles and positions, personal agendas, and preferences. Everyone must want the best ideas to win, not just their own or their group’s.

Insufficient Personal Network. If

you need to expand your personal network, keep this in mind:

Expanding your network requires *humility, intentionality, energy, time and love.* The latter may be a surprise, but consider this—love makes all things work, and the foundation of love is being willing to value people—including people different from you and people you don’t like. The more you value people, the more you add value to them. And the more you add value to them, the more value they return to the team. What get appreciated, appreciates.

Unwillingness to Deal with Prejudice. There is a saying that will open your eyes to what happens when you’re prejudiced, “*The world is like a hand and all of the people its fingers. If you hate and destroy one group of people, you lose a finger, and the grasp of the world is less.*”

Here are some suggestions on how to *leadershift* to diversity and inclusion:

Create a culture of sharing.

Broaden your perspective on diversity.

Provide solid leadership for diversity to be effective.

There is a paradox in all of this. To embrace diversity, we must celebrate our differences, *while looking for common ground.* If we connect where we’re similar and contribute using our differences, we can accomplish great things.

Source: “Leadershift” by John C. Maxwell



COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

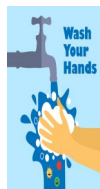
UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO
COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Day of Fasting and
Prayer: March 18, 2020
Individual Prayer: Every
Wednesday from
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY

PRACTISE GOOD HYGIENE

- Use tissue when coughing, sneezing and wiping your nose, then carefully discard it and wash your hands.
- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds regularly throughout the day.
- Use hand sanitizers after touching surfaces.



CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY

- Use toilet tissue to touch bathroom taps and toilet handles, and when opening and closing bathroom doors.
- Open doors with elbows or tissues.
- Use knuckles to flip light switches.

