



# 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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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:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 38 and 14 confirmed cases, respectively, 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.

# The Church Outside the Walls

**O**n March 28, 2020, and who seek the inner churches through these approximately forty-five (45) persons from across all four (4) regions of the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** engaged in an online social media training programme, hosted by the **United Church Young Adults Movement (UCYAAM)**!

*An initiative for the times, it was, even as the doors of our sanctuaries have temporarily closed, but the people have been scattered to minister in their homes, online communities and by telephone.*

This is a great opportunity for the Church, even in a time of crisis. Indeed, unprecedented times call for unusual measures.

We see our call as being to the people of the world who need to hear the **Good News** during a time of great suffering and pain,

strength and solace that only Christ can bring. Social media has proven to be a very effective method for accomplishing this, because of the wide reach of the platforms.

Through the social media training programme, persons were equipped with introductory knowledge of social

media! According to **Hootsuite**, almost 60% of the world's population use the internet, and 3.8 billion people of a world population of 7.75 billion people use social media, with an average of 3 hours and 22 minutes spent daily accessing the internet via their mobile phones.

These glaring, staggering statistics, awaken us to accept that new media is fast becoming the way of the world, and the church has to keep pace with it in order to fulfil our mission, or get left



media platforms (including **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn**, etc.) even as they consider different ways of being the church.

Already, a number of UCJCI congregations have been streaming their worship services for many to view, and the gospel has been spreading beyond the walls of our

behind.

Even as we continue to reach our own people and the unsaved who are without internet connectivity, may we resolve to stay relevant and recognize that the impact we make in the world is not solely dependent on the *word* we share, but the *media* by which we share it.

## CELEBRATIONS!



70:

**Rev. Everton Brissett**

**Rev. Dr. James Gibbs**

**April 2**

**Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey**

**April 4**

## UCJCI GOVERNANCE

### GOVERNANCE

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is governed by courts at the congregational (**Congregation Meetings**), regional (**Council Meetings**) and national levels (**Synod**), the highest court being the Synod. It is headed by a **Moderator**, who presides over the Synod, and whose duties include giving pastoral care to the Ministers within the denomination. The **General Secretary** is the administrative head of the church and is assisted by four **Regional Deputy General Secretaries**, who Head the four (4) Regional Missional Councils: **Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council**, **Southern Regional Mission Council**, **North-Eastern Regional Mission Council**, and **Western Regional Mission Council**.



## Mount Zion Primary School Feature

On February 18, 2020, Links International launched its first chartered **S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)** programme in Jamaica at the UCJCI's **Mount Zion Primary School**, St. James. Links International is an organization of African-American women devoted to strengthening African-American communities through fundraising, education, advocacy and volunteering.



Students of Mt. Zion Primary School pose with their certificates of enrollment.



Students pose with an image representing the *Schoolyard Habitat*, a garden planted there by Links.



Mrs. Onex Bowen (centre), Principal of Mount Zion Primary and Infant School, is pictured with representatives of Links International: Mrs. Kimberley Jeffries (left), International President, and Mrs. Diane Duggin, Chair, International Education Council.

**Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjiupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjiupdate@gmail.com)**



## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Leadershift from Positional Authority to Moral Authority

**M**oral authority is truly the highest level of leadership influence. It comes from possessing good values. It adds value to others. It inspires people. It helps the leader to make the right decisions for the right reasons. It marks a life of words and actions that line up. We know when we are in the presence of someone who has moral authority, and we want to follow them!

Chuck Olson said, *“People follow people, not positions. Your business card may say you’re a leader and in-charge, but if your bank account of moral authority is overdrawn, you will be forced to rely on extrinsic factors to rally your followers. No amount of skill, wealth, personality, education, or accomplishment can compensate for the absence of moral authority. Perks and pay checks are the currency required to enlist people in a project, but moral authority is the currency required to enlist people in a movement. Andy Stanley in his book, ‘Next Generation Leader’, observes, ‘Your position will prompt people in your organization to lend you their hands...But your moral authority will inspire them to lend you their hearts’”.*

#### THE PATHWAY TO MORAL AUTHORITY

One of the dangers when anyone begins discussing moral authority is that it can sound mystical and out of reach. However, it is grounded in four things: **competence, courage, consistency, and character**. Let’s take a look at each of them.

**COMPETENCE—The Ability to Lead Well.** Everything starts here. Competence is the core of moral authority. *If you can’t do your job, if you can’t deliver the goods, if you can’t lead the team well, why would anyone want to follow you?* You can’t cultivate moral

authority unless people respect you.

*How do you build a foundation of competence?* By giving your best, starting with the small stuff. Doing work with excellence to full completion helps a person develop a reputation for competence. That’s true in any profession. But leaders need to also cultivate influence with others and demonstrate competence in their ability to engage with people and motivate and inspire them to work together.

**COURAGE—Moving Forward in the Face of Fear.** Leadership authority shrinks or expands with a person’s courage. C. S. Lewis said, *“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.”* Without courage, you can’t live any other virtue consistently. With courage, especially when facing great obstacles, you begin to gain moral authority.

People admire courage, and intuitively, we understand that it carries weight. We can follow a leader who is courageous.

More specifically, here’s how courage relates to moral authority: Courage encourages people during difficult and uncertain times. Courage enables people to expand their potential (nobody ever reached his or her potential by cowering in fear). Courage helps leaders to find their voice (Martin Luther King Jr. found his voice during the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. His words still resound today: *“Our lives begin to end the day we remain silent about things that matter.”*).

**CONSISTENCY.** Andy Stanley described the value of consistency related to moral authority. He wrote:

*“It is the alignment between a person’s convictions and his (her) behaviour that makes his (her) life persuasive. Herein is the key to sustained influence.”* It is the consistency between values and actions over time that are essential if a leader desires to gain moral authority.

Consistency establishes your reputation. It makes team members more secure. It allows for accurate measurement of your growth. It makes you relevant. It models your expectations for others. It maintains your message.

**CHARACTER—Being Bigger on the Inside than the Outside.** Moral authority is a result of right intentions, right values, right beliefs, right actions, right relationships, and right responses. There is a lot to do right to develop moral authority. That doesn’t mean perfection. We are all human and make mistakes. But to have moral authority, our intentions must be right; the motives of the heart must be good.

The two aspects of leadership are public and private. They resemble the two parts of a tree. One part you see: the public leadership is like a tree’s trunk and branches. That’s the part that bears fruit. However, who leaders are in private is what can’t be seen, like a tree’s roots. If the roots are shallow, then the tree won’t survive. Drought will dry it up. A storm will knock it down. But if the roots are deep, the tree can thrive in almost any circumstance. What does it mean to develop deep roots as a leader? It means having strong character. What kind of character does a leader need to have? Integrity, authenticity, humility and love.

Source: *“Leadershift”* by John C. Maxwell

# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS FEATURE

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Individual Prayer:**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

(2 Timothy 1:7)

## POINTS FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK:

- \* Those who are infected with the disease.
- \* Our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- \* Our elderly persons.
- \* The needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.



## COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY

### JAMAICA

#### ***For information, contact:***

- 888-ONE-LOVE (663-5683)
- 888-754-7792
- 876-542-6007
- 876-542-5998
- E-mail:** covid19@moh.gov.jm OR jacovid19facts@gmail.com



## COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS ADVISORY

### CAYMAN ISLANDS

#### ***For information, contact:***

- 1-800-534-8600
- 1-800-947-3007 (Digicel)
- E-mail:** flu@hsa.ky

