



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:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 105 and 54 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.

Volume 6: Issue 14

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

Children's House Worship

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic has created a new normal for all persons and institutions, including the Church.

Included in the new normal is the heroism of some parents who create a balancing act between the difficult combined tasks of working from home, home schooling and engaging their children in activities geared towards their spiritual development.

In an effort to support these parents and to continue to facilitate ministry to our children outside of the church walls during the outbreak, the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**, through our **Children's Ministry Commission**, has been creating programmes for our children which are circulated via **WhatsApp Messenger** every Sunday, to engage the children in house worship.

The **Children's Ministry Commission** was formed in 2017 and launched in June

2018 to respond to the spiritual, personal, social, intellectual and physical needs of persons below the age of 13.

The Commission seeks to improve our children's knowledge of the Bible, and instill in them Christian principles which will effect positive behaviour change at a time when their moral values are challenged by various

School, Girls' and Boys' Brigades and other Children's Ministry Groups, including performing arts and sports groups.

Yes, now, while there is no Church School as we knew it, but instead, *House School*, the Children's Ministry Commission has used various tools for this engagement, such as **Superbook** and other bible stories, a COVID-19 Awareness comic, a special Palm Sunday series of online-based lessons and activities, a Resurrection Day video, songs for praise time, and encouragement to say the Lord's Prayer during worship time.

The ministry to our children continues during these times of curfews and lockdowns, as we endeavour to keep the vision for their growth and development at the heart of the mission of the Church, for their good and the good of our nations. We wholeheartedly thank the Chair of the Commission, **Mrs. Cheryl Shaw** and her hardworking team for their diligent ministry. *God be praised!!*



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14, NIV

worldviews.

Additionally, the Commission hopes to provide intervention strategies to address some of the prevailing issues that affect our children and to protect their rights.

The ministry caters to Church

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Tara Tyme

April 18

Mrs. Janet McConnell

April 20

UCJCI HISTORY

HISTORY

The journey of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) began as far back as the 1880s, when efforts were made to bring about union between the United Presbyterian Church and Congregational Churches operating in Jamaica. The first complete step in the process was made on December 1, 1965, when the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica and the Congregational Union of Jamaica became one church: *The United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman*.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was later formed, following a historic ceremony held on the grounds of Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica, on **December 13, 1992**. This marked the union of the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.



CELEBRATORY HIGHLIGHTS



THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO HONOR HEALTH WORKERS IN JAMAICA.
MEET NURSE SANDRICE RUSSELL



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Above: Nurse Sandrice Russell, daughter of Rev. Walter Russell, Minister of the St. Andrew Charge of United Churches. **Below:** Three (3) persons from Savanna-la-Mar United Church and one (1) person from Stirling United Church were baptized on February 2, 2020, led by Rev. Everton Brissett, Minister of the Savanna-la-Mar United Charge.



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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Develop Each Team Member as a Person

How do you give your team an edge, helping the B players to perform at their highest level and helping the A players to elevate their game even further? You develop them.

There's a lot more to good leadership than just getting the job done. Getting the job done makes you a success. Getting the job done through others makes you a leader. But developing the people while helping them get the job done at the highest level makes you an exceptional leader.

There is a difference between equipping people and developing them. When you equip people, you teach them how to do a job. If you show someone how to use a machine or some other device, that's equipping. If you teach someone how to make a sale, that's equipping. If you train them in departmental procedures, that's equipping. You should already be providing training to your people so that they know how to do their jobs. Equipping should be a given (although not all leaders do this well).

Development is different. When you develop people, you are helping them to improve as individuals. You are helping them to acquire personal qualities that will benefit them in many areas of life, not just their jobs. When you help someone to cultivate discipline or a positive attitude, that's development. When you teach someone to manage their time more effectively or improve their people skills, that's development. When you teach leadership, that's development.

Many leaders don't have a developmental mind-set. They expect their employees to take care of their developmental needs on their own. What they fail to realize, however, is that

development always pays higher dividends than equipping because it helps the whole person and lifts him or her to a higher level.

Development is harder to do than equipping, but it is well worth the price. *Here's what you need to do as you get started:*

SEE DEVELOPMENT AS A LONG-TERM PROCESS. Development always takes time. Why? Because it requires change on the part of the person being developed, and you just can't rush that. As you approach the development of your people, think of it as an ongoing process, not something you can do once and then be done. You can ask your team members to read a book every month or two and discuss it together. You can teach a lesson. You can take them to conferences or seminars. Approach the task with your own unique spin, and remember that in order to develop your team, you must keep growing yourself.

LEAD EVERYONE DIFFERENTLY. One of the mistakes some leaders often make is that they try to lead everyone the same way. But let's face it. Everyone doesn't respond to the same kind of leadership. You should try to be consistent with everyone. You should treat everyone with kindness and respect. But don't expect to use the same strategies and methods with everyone.

One person will respond well to being challenged; another will want to be nurtured. One will need the game plan drawn up for him or her; and another will be more passionate if he or she can create the game plan themselves. One will require consistent, frequent follow-up; another will want breathing room. Take re-

sponsibility for conforming your leadership style to what your people need, not expecting them to adapt to you.

HELP THEM TO KNOW THEMSELVES. You have to know where you are before you can figure out how to get someplace else. It is the first responsibility of a leader who develops others to help them to define the reality of who they are. Leaders help them recognize their strengths and weaknesses. That is critical if we want to help others.

BE READY TO HAVE A HARD CONVERSATION. There is no development without hard lessons. Almost all growth comes when we have positive responses to negative things.

Good leaders are willing to have hard conversations to start the growth process for the people under their care. When you don't want to have a difficult conversation, you need to ask yourself: *Is it because it will hurt them or hurt me?* If it is because it will hurt you, then you're being selfish. Good leaders get past the discomfort of having difficult conversations for the sake of the people they lead and the organization. The thing to remember is that people will work through difficult things if they believe you want to work with them.

When you continually develop people, there is never a shortage of leaders to build the organization and help you carry the load.

Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" 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

- * Those who are infected with the disease.
- * That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- * Our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- * All elderly persons.
- * The needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.



ONE & ALL: PRAYER AND RESPONSE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

Rev. Dionne P. Boissière

Chaplain at the Church Center for the United Nations.

ONE: All seeing God, look upon those who are now living in isolation, those who must be separated from loved ones for safety reasons, those who are single and/or without support systems, the disabled, those who are already living with mental disease, emotional and psychological disorders, those who are poor and already do not have access to health care or social services. Help them know that social distancing does not mean social disconnection. Help us be the community that we seek.

ALL: *Hear us O God of mercy.*

Prayer 4

#coronavirusprayer
Share your prayers with us:
prayers@forusa.org

FOR



GOD IS OUR REFUGE

and

STRENGTH

A VERY PRESENT

HELP in TROUBLE

THEREFORE WE WILL

not fear