



# 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](mailto:synod@ucjci.com)  
Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://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:



Jamaica and Cayman, which have seen 564 and 129 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 20

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

## COVID-19: The Economic Fallout and Recovery

**A**s a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Church and Society Sub-Committee of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) hosted an online public economic forum on May 17, 2020, under the theme, "COVID-19: The Economic Fallout and Recovery".

With the streaming being undertaken from Webster Memorial United Church, approximately one thousand five hundred and seventy-two (1,572) persons participated across three (3) online platforms.

An engaging discussion it was, with questions from the public fielded by the panellists during the forum.

The Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr.

Gordon Cowans, opened the forum, offering welcome, remarks and prayer, as the panellists, drawn from critical sectors and groups of the society, embarked on their analyses of the current economic crisis occasioned by COVID-19, and what our response should be as a nation-at-large, as individuals, as government and the church body.

19 Economic Recovery Task Force; and Dr. Ernestine Watson, Owner of small business, Everybody's Pharmacy, and President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica. The Moderator of the discussion was Mr. Orville Johnson, Financial Commentator.



**From left:** Dr. Densil Williams, Professor of International Business, UWI, Mona; Mr. Orville Johnson, Financial Commentator and Moderator; Dr. Ernestine Watson, Owner of small business, Everybody's Pharmacy and President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica; and Ms. Nadeen Spence, Activist and member of Jamaica's COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force.

They included, Dr. Densil Williams, Professor of International Business, the University of the West Indies, Mona; Ms. Nadeen Spence, Activist and member of Jamaica's COVID-

proportionately by the poor, and what it means to live as Christian people during such challenging circumstances.

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Framing the discussion, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans shared from Micah 6:8, God's admonition to us to, "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God", in the midst of the pain of the pandemic being borne dis-

## CELEBRATIONS!



70:

**Rev. Garwell Bacchas**

**May 28**

**Rev. Norlene Jackson**

**June 2**

## UCJCI OFFICERS

**The Moderator** presides over the Synod, declares the decisions of the court, preserves order, provides spiritual leadership for the Church, and represents the Church at both ecumenical and national occasions. In addition, the Moderator also provides pastoral care for ordained clergy, lay pastors, persons in training, and full-time commissioned/installed workers.

**The General Secretary** is responsible for the administrative functions of the Church in matters relating to communication, recruitment, training and conditions of service. He/She supervises and monitors the programmes of the regional mission councils, while also supervising the administrative staff.

**The Regional Deputy General Secretaries** manage the day-to-day affairs of the Regional Mission Councils, organizing, coordinating and enabling activities and the use of material resources, assisting in the co-ordination of Synod Committees and establishing and maintaining an efficient communication system.

## COVID-19: The Economic Fallout and Recovery

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With the catastrophic global human cost of the coronavirus pandemic, and a world economy that has lost a significant degree of momentum and has been plunged into a recession as a result, the panellists shared the Jamaican impact of significant and rising unemployment, a reduction in government revenue and economic growth in 2020, from which, it was opined, it will take a significant amount of time to return to pre-COVID-19 levels of economic activity.

Suggestions from the panellists on **innovative ideas** for dealing with the fall-out and recovery, as well as a **protection plan** for individuals, and **smart small business management** included:

The need for **new and re-designed economic sectors**, e.g. the digital and creative economies, such as intellectual property and internet-based skills (due to the need for social distancing). Also, new ways of having concerts and festivals, and equitable alternatives to face-to-face classes in academia will, it is believed, become essential. The need for **more capital projects** by the government, and significant investment in agriculture and digital infrastructure, e.g. bandwidth, so as to allow more people access to the internet; and significant investment in human capital are considered pressing. It was also asserted that there is an imperative for **small business leaders to become more solution-oriented**, find new growth areas, build staff capacity and craft strategies for absorbing sudden shocks to business, with the support of the government.

The panel further asserted that there is a need for greater **organization by the Church in communities**, especially in rural areas, as persons are *“facing the same storm but not in the same boat”*. It was also opined that the Church needs to **mobilize people at the community level** to meet the needs of the people in a greater way, and in so doing, undertake a different kind of missioning, by going outside of the sanctuary to where the people are—working to assist in meeting the material needs of the elderly, the sick and the shut-ins. The Church, it is believed, knows where the people are, therefore the question is, *“How does the Church respond now to the people who are isolated in rural communities—those people to whom the society no longer pays attention?”* The Church should develop an agenda around those people, and afterwards move beyond offering care packages.

The panellists also asserted that the Church has to organize itself to **press those who are in the seat of power** (e.g. the private and public sectors) to respond to the realities of our time, by the latter re-orienting their agenda to suit current needs. The Church should therefore seek to sit at the table of discussions on closing the digital divide, as one matter.

It was suggested that the Body of Christ should also focus more on **public advocacy**. First, by becoming better informed of what the pressing societal issues are, and the underlying factors, and then equipping itself to respond. Church leaders already have an audience. Congregants listen to and respect their elders. The Body should therefore encourage involved citizenry, by passing on topical information to their members and adherents, and encouraging them to speak publicly on the issues.

The Church is also thought to have the potential to be a **building block for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises**, including offering them training and networking. Practical examples of this involvement would include hosting financial and business expos, and educating the citizenry on the message of the Gospel outside of its walls, which is, indeed, relevant to business. *We thank God for the insights shared and look forward to furthering the discussion!*

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Reward for Results

A man was enjoying an afternoon in a small fishing boat on a peaceful lake. He fished as he munched on a chocolate bar. The weather was perfect, his cell phone was turned off, and all he could think about was how happy he was.

Just then, he spotted a snake in the water with a frog in its mouth. He felt sorry for the frog, so he scooped up the snake with his landing net, took the frog out of its mouth, and tossed it to safety. Then he felt sorry for the snake. He broke off a piece of his chocolate bar, gave it to the snake, and placed it back in the water, where it swam away.

*There, he thought. The frog is happy, the snake is happy, and now I'm happy again. This is great.* He cast his line back into the water and then settled back again.

A few minutes later, he heard a bump on the side of the boat. He looked over the side, and there was the snake again. This time it had two frogs in its mouth!

The moral of the story is this: *Be careful what you reward, because whatever gets rewarded gets done.*

I'm guessing that as a leader you are probably strongly aware of this truth. And it doesn't matter if the thing that gets rewarded is positive or negative. Whatever actions leaders reward will be repeated. That's why it's very important to reward results—and to do it the right way. When you use every

tool at your disposal to reward your people, you not only inspire them to do the things that are right for the organization, but also to work harder and to feel better about the job they're doing. Rewarding for results makes you a more effective—and more influential—leader.

To reward results most effectively, follow these principles:

**GIVE PRAISE PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY.** The place to start when it comes to rewarding others is with your praise. You cannot praise too much. But I want to suggest that before you praise people publicly, first praise them privately. Doing that gives what you say integrity; people know you're not just trying to manipulate them by saying something kind.

**GIVE MORE THAN JUST PRAISE.** If you praise them but don't raise them, it won't pay their bills. If you raise them but don't praise them, it won't cure their ills.

**DON'T REWARD EVERYONE THE SAME.** All but the top people in an organization want everyone to be treated the same way. They say that they want everything to be "fair". But is it fair for someone who produces twice the revenue of her counterpart to be paid the same? Should the person who carries the team be paid the same as the one he or she has to continually carry? I don't think so. Mick

Delaney said, *"Any business or industry that pays equal rewards to its goof-offs and its eager beavers sooner or later will find itself with more goof-offs than eager-beavers."*

So how do you go about addressing the pressure to be fair while still rewarding results? Praise effort, but reward only results. Since whatever gets rewarded gets done, if you continually praise efforts and do it for everyone, people will continue to work hard. If they are working in their strength zones and keep working hard, they will eventually achieve good results. At that time, reward them financially.

#### PROMOTE WHEN POSSIBLE.

If you have the choice to promote someone from within or bring in someone from outside—all other factors being equal—promote from within. Few things reward a team member the way a promotion does. A promotion says, *"You've done a good job, we believe you can do even more, and here is a reward for your performance."* And the best promotions are the ones that don't need to be explained because everyone who works with the ones being promoted have seen them grow into their new jobs.

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

- \* A stop to the spread of the disease.
- \* Healing for those who are infected with the disease.
- \* Strength, comfort and peace for the loved ones of persons who have died from the disease.
- \* Encouragement for the children who are confused and fearful during this time.
- \* That persons will draw closer to God, and families draw closer to each other, during this time.
- \* That all persons will take this matter seriously, and responsibly take the necessary precautions.
- \* Support for our healthcare systems and workers who are on the frontlines.
- \* Safety of all elderly persons and those with co-morbidities.
- \* Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.

"BE JOYFUL IN HOPE;  
PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,  
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER".  
(ROMANS 12:12)

