



# 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"

## Out of Weakness, Made Strong

**“Are not two sparrows cares for the little birds. He sold for a farthing, and most certainly cares for you. one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father? But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31).**

Do you feel overwhelmed by the news of the day? Has your life been thrown into a tailspin by the circumstances? Are you worried, fearful, apprehensive about the future? Are you wondering:

*When will this situation end?*

Let me assure you, such thoughts, feelings and questions are reasonable. Jesus knows that from time to time there will be pandemics and other global challenges. Jesus knows our personal challenges and feelings. So He says to us now, as He said to His disciples then: *Do not be afraid, my Father*



have been through and triumphed. Jesus is that High Priest and He will accompany you to the throne of grace and mercy.

Let us go a little deeper together. Let us explore three questions as we journey through these times together:

**What is my situation?  
What do I have?  
What does it matter any-**

Gideon and Moses may help us to answer these questions.

**WHAT IS MY SITUATION?**

The story of Gideon begins in Judges chapter 6. Gideon was in a winepress threshing corn. He should have been on a raised area out in the open where the trash could easily blow away, but here, everything was out of place because of fear of the marauding Midianites. However, it is in that situation that God manifests Himself to Gideon, addressing him as a *mighty man of valour*, for that's what the name Gideon means.

Gideon questioned God about his life. His clan was the weakest in his tribe.

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### PRAY FOR:



\*The family of **Rev. Ashley Smith** who has passed on. We offer our condolence to his loved ones.

\***Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte, Rev. Lloyd Reid, Pastor Joel Cameron, Ms. Ronique Hewitt** (daughter of **Rev. Ranford Hewitt**), **Mona Cowan** (daughter of **Rev. Dr. Colin Cowan**) who are ill.

**CELEBRATIONS!**

70:

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**

July 1

**Mr. Bryan Bothwell**

July 4

**Rev. Clifton Bailey****Rev. Dr. Cephas Stern**

July 7

**STANDING COMMITTEES  
AND COMMISSIONS OF SYNOD**

The ministry and mission of the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** is undertaken through the work of **Synodical Committees**. These committees are made up of representatives from each Area Council, as well as individuals with experience and expertise in particular areas. Committees meet to carry out the plans approved by the Synod, and to make reports on the progress of their work.

There are **5 Standing Committees: Constitution and Doctrine, Church and Ministry, Finance, Property, and Strategic Planning for Mission**.

The **Children's and Youth Commissions** give focused attention to discerning the times and determining the UCJCI's Children's and Youth Ministry direction, in response to the need to be contextually-relevant and impactful. They provide direction to the setting of goals in the Church's ministries to persons between 0 and 12 years (Children's Ministry), and 13 to 25 (Youth Ministry).

The **Education Commission** is responsible for the management of our schools, and ensuring that the polity and ethos of the UCJCI are reflected in our schools.

**Out of Weakness, Made Strong***(Continued from Page 1)*

His family was the poorest in the clan, and there he was hiding, trying to do the right thing in a wrong way. But God told Gideon: *I have called you to deliver your people from their bad situation.* God said an amazing thing to Gideon: *Go in the strength that you have.* When you and I feel at the end of ourselves, God says there is more. The triumph of Gideon is recorded in Judges 8.

**WHAT DO I HAVE?** *What am I left with.*

Exodus 4 records a conversation between God and Moses. Moses was called away by God from tending sheep. Moses judged everything by his past and misgivings. We are like that, too. He came up with every reason why he couldn't do what God called him to do. But God, in patience, went along with Moses, assuring him of His presence and provision, as even now God is doing for us.

But the big question is: **WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HAND?** That was God's question to Moses, and it is God's question to you and me. That old piece of stick, called a rod, was what Moses had—a familiar tool with which he tended sheep and defended himself and the sheep. Moses was most adept at using that rod. Yet, to him, it may not have been of much value.

To God, Moses, with his simple rod, was all God needed. With that rod, Moses led his people to freedom—the Red Sea was parted and water was brought forth from the rock. Don't take your skill, talent and experience for nothing. God will use whatever it is that you have to accomplish great things for yourself and others.

**WHAT DOES IT MATTER ANYWAY?**

That perhaps is a question born of depression and frustration, and God understands. It matters much. For you have a purpose. God's purpose is being worked out even now in your circumstances. It is within our doubts, fears and challenges that God is speaking to us. God is speaking to us about some things that we have wanted to do for so long. God is speaking to us through all of our troubling thoughts. God is speaking to us even through regrets and disappointments. God is speaking to us in our mixed up, confused, 'topside-turvie' situations. God is saying, as Paul said to Timothy: *Stir up the gift that is within you. Let Me use what you have left in your hand. Whatever is still available to you, make it available to Me.*

Like Moses and Gideon, God will strengthen you to cope and triumph, to be an inspiration to others, to bring about blessings and joy and peace. *Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*"

- Contributed by Rev. Paul DaCosta-Pinto, Interim Minister of St. John's United Church.

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

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Invest in Relational Chemistry

**A**ll good leadership is based on relationships. People won't go along with you if they can't get along with you. It is the leader's job to connect with the people they lead. The reality is that some leaders do little to connect with the people they lead. As a leader, you must take it upon yourself to connect, not only with the people you lead, but also with the person who leads you. Here's how to get started.

**LISTEN TO YOUR LEADER'S HEARTBEAT.** Just as a doctor listens to someone's heartbeat to know that person's physical condition, you need to listen to your leader's heartbeat to understand what makes him or her tick. That may mean paying attention in informal settings, such as during hallway conversations, at lunch, or in the meeting that often occurs informally before or after a meeting.

If you know your leader well and feel that the relationship is solid, you may want to be more direct and ask questions about what really matters to him or her on an emotional level. If you're not sure what to look for, focus on these three areas:

*What makes them laugh?* These are the things that give a person joy.

*What makes them cry?* This is what touches a person's heart at a deep emotional level.

*What makes them sing?* These are the things that bring deep fulfillment.

**KNOW YOUR LEADER'S PRIORITIES.** The heartbeat of leaders is what they *love* to do. The priorities of leaders are what they *have* to do—and by that I mean more than

just their to-do lists. All leaders have duties that they must complete or they will fail in fulfilling their responsibility. It's the short list that your boss's boss would say is do-or-die for that position. Make it your goal to learn what those priorities are. The better acquainted you are with those duties or objectives, the better you will understand and communicate with your leader.

**CATCH YOUR LEADER'S ENTHUSIASM.** It's much easier to work with someone when you share an enthusiasm. When you and a friend are excited about something, such as a common hobby, don't you often lose track of time when you're engaged in it? You can spend hours talking about it and never grow tired. If you can catch your leader's enthusiasm, it will have a similarly energizing effect. And it will create a bond between you and your leader. If you can share in that enthusiasm, you will pass it on because you will not be able to contain it.

**SUPPORT YOUR LEADER'S VISION.** When top leaders hear others articulate the vision they have cast for the organization, their hearts sing. It's very rewarding. It indicates a level of ownership by others in the organization that bodes well for the fulfillment of the vision. Each time another person in the organization embraces the vision and passes it on, it's like giving the vision "fresh legs". In other words, when the vision gets handed off, the next person is able to run with it.

**CONNECT WITH YOUR**

**LEADER'S INTERESTS.** *Have you identified the pet projects that your leader really cares about at work? If so, that's good, but how about his or her interests outside of work? Can you name them?*

Leaders sometimes feel isolated and find themselves wondering, *Does anyone else understand?* Though you may not be able to understand your leader's work situation, you can at least understand him or her on some level. When leaders who feel isolated experience a genuine connection with someone under their charge, they often find it very rewarding.

**UNDERSTAND YOUR LEADER'S PERSONALITY.** It's wise to understand your leader's style and how your personality type interacts with his or hers. If you find that your personality is similar to your boss's, then remember that you're the one who has to be flexible.

**EARN YOUR LEADER'S TRUST.** When you take time to invest in relational chemistry with your leader, the eventual result will be trust—in other words, relational currency. When you do things that add to the relationship, you increase the "change in your pocket". When you do negative things, you spend that change. If you keep dropping the ball, you harm the relationship, and you can eventually spend all the change and bankrupt the relationship. People with a lot of history who have invested in relational chemistry build up a lot of change.

*Source: "The 360-Degree Leader" by John C. Maxwell*



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER

WORD FOR TODAY

UCJCI CAMP MINISTRY PRESENTS  
A VIRTUAL SUMMER LINK UP FOR  
OUR CHILDREN, TEENS AND YOUTHS!

TO THE MISSION (PART 1)  
Access Granted!

TO EACH OTHER  
Follow Mill

TO THE MISSION (PART 2)  
Gwaan wild!!!

TO THE WORD  
Download di Message!

TO GOD  
Plug In and Charge Up!

**Connected**

Save The Date!  
AUGUST 09 - 13, 2020

Trust

IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR

Heart

AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN

understanding

PROV 3:5

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)

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

*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, those with co-morbidities and our tourism workers.
- \* Provision for the needy and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- \* Our local and world economies.