



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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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 Transfor-
mation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



*The family of the **Hon. Rev. Ashley Smith, OJ, CD, JP**, who has passed on.

***Rev. Francis, Nevroy** whose grandmother, **Mrs. Eva Cunningham-Johnson**, has passed on.

Stewardship and the Disciple

“For me, it is a beautiful thought that we have the opportunity to be disciples of, and stewards for, the creator and owner of this earth. Psalm 24:1 reminds us of that: *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”*”

We live in **West Rural St. Andrew**, in the community of **Manning’s Hill**. The soil is rich; God’s bounty is evident. Yet very few yards have mango trees that are productive.

This year has been different. Some persons are saying they received crops of COVID mangoes. This may seem to be a jarring reference, yet, for some, God has truly gifted them with mangoes.

Have you looked around to see how you have been blessed? How are you, as a disciple, being a steward of God’s blessings?

STEWARDSHIP

According to scripture, God created Earth for people, and we are stewards of His creation. This means it is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world. We should accept this responsibility and appreciate God's gift of creation for being our home.



Our stewardship of creation involves the caretaking of the environment and animals, as well as our families and communities. **Charles Bugg** defines stewardship in the **Holman Bible Dictionary** as, *“Utilizing and managing all resources God provides, for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.”*

I will briefly share with you an example from the **Man-**

ning’s Hill/Salisbury Plain/ Oberlin Charge of United Churches. One of our members, Brother Frank, is dedicating his retirement hours to the care of the grounds and buildings of one of our churches. He is recruiting others to contribute their time to this project.

He says a disciple should be a willing steward of all the gifts that God has given to us, including our time. Indeed, it is through our commitment as disciples/stewards that we will be able to actively participate in the growth of God’s kingdom.

DISCIPLES

Our decision to follow Christ is ultimately a very personal response. It starts as a personal response to our risen Lord. Simply, we come to Christ as tentative disciples. We come as we are, warts and all. We come with all that we have.

(Continued on Page 2)

CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Donovan McPherson
Rev. Anthony Wallace

August 20

UCJCI VALUES

In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

Relationship with God, so we may know God and relate to God as a person, rather than an impersonal force, knowing Jesus to be Lord of our lives, so we may grow in grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit (Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 3:16-17, Romans 8:1-17).

Stewardship and the Disciple

(Continued from Page 1)

We enter into the journey of discipleship. Our acceptance of the call into discipleship is intended to have positive results on those around us - our church community, our wider community and ourselves. Yet some of us, for years, remain tentative, following Christ at a distance like Peter.

Let's remember afresh that discipleship calls us to full and visible commitment to Jesus Christ, who has called us out of a life of confounding sin into a life that is transforming, transformed and transformative.

What a truly comforting image it is to be invited into the presence of Christ!

This is a special invitation that calls the disciples to follow Christ, to make disciples of others and equally, to become involved in stewardship. According to Wisnewski (2020), *Biblical stewardship is one of the primary ways Christ calls us to live our life*. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit and our response to the urges that will guide and increase our understanding of stewardship. It is our obedient response to the Holy Spirit that will help us to grasp and perform acts of stewardship as a way of life - a life-style.

The disciple is called into a life of holistic stewardship of time, talent, and money. When we begin to dig deeper, we will see that the responsibilities become magnificent and endless, as those stewarding with more experience help to shape and nurture relationships in our churches that will increase stewardship.

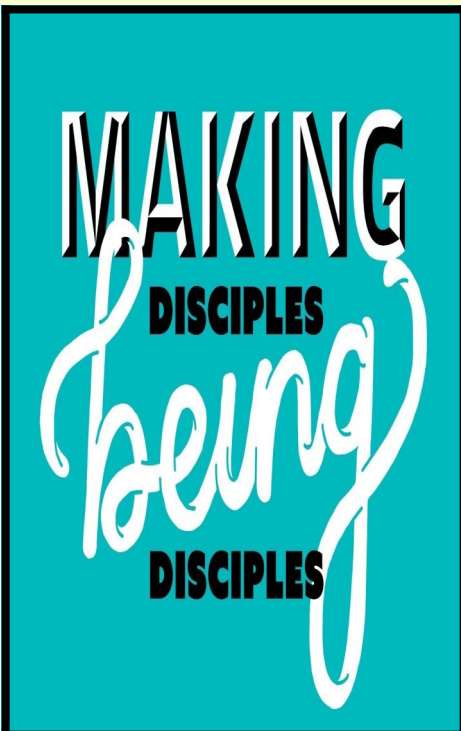
A STEWARD IN COVID-19 TIMES

But how are we as disciples to practice stewardship in these COVID-19 times? With more fervour, as we continue to see and feel mercy.

The UCJCI has been able to meet its financial obligations. Indeed, our church is looking to all of you. The sense of financial vulnerability is very real, even for good, trusting Christians, I know; but as the Lord gives and gives to us again, we must call on our better selves in other areas of stewardship.

Tough times can cast us easily into despondency and prevent us from stepping forward, but they can also inspire our better selves. Consider with me the following: *How is your congregation making a difference even in these times of physical distancing? How are you helping each other? How are you helping your community in these difficult days? Are you reinforcing the public health messages in church? How are you supporting struggling businesses? How are you supporting healthcare and other frontline workers? How can you encourage your congregation to continue giving, so that support will be possible? Amen.*

—Contributed by: Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM), our partner in mission



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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

The Leader's Daily Dozen (Part 3)

(This article continues from last week's Issue of the UCJCI Update.)

If you're willing to work at making your organization a place where leaders lead and do it well, you'll need to shift your focus from leading the people, finding leaders, developing leaders, empowering the leaders while they lead the organization, to *servicing* the leaders as they lead the organization.

If you're ready to revolutionize your organization, then start the process by adopting what I call the "Leader's Daily Dozen". Every morning when you get up and get ready to lead your organization, make a commitment to these power-unleashing activities.

COMMIT YOURSELF TO DEVELOPING A LEADERSHIP TEAM. When I started out as a leader, I tried to do everything myself. Until I was about age forty, I thought I could do it all. After my fortieth birthday, I finally realized that if I didn't develop other leaders, my potential was only a fraction of what it could be. So for the next decade, developing people into good leaders was my focus. But even that has its limitations. I realize now that to reach the highest level of leadership, I must continually develop leadership teams.

Let's face it. No one does everything well. I can't do it all—can you? I need help. You do, too.

If you want your organization to reach its potential, if you want it to go from good to great (or even average to good), you need to develop a team of leaders, people who can fill

in each other's gaps, people who challenge and sharpen each other. If we try to do it all ourselves, we will never get beyond the glass ceiling of our own leadership limitations.

UNLEASH YOUR LEADERS TO LEAD. As leaders, if we feel any uncertainty or insecurity about the leadership development process, it is usually not related to the training we give. The uncertainty we feel comes when we contemplate releasing our leaders to lead. It is not dissimilar to what parents feel with their kids. My children are grown and have families of their own, but when they were teenagers, the hardest thing for my wife and me was releasing them to go their own way and make their own decisions. It is scary, but if you don't let them try out their wings, they will never learn to fly.

As I have grown older, I have come to think of myself as a lid lifter. That is my main function as an organizational leader. If I can lift the leadership lids for the members of my team, then I am doing my job. The more barriers I remove for my people, the more likely they are to rise to their potential. And what's really great is that when the top leaders are lid lifters for the leaders in the middle, then those leaders become load lifters for the ones at the top.

Consider Tom Mullins. He is the senior pastor of Christ Fellowship, a very large congregation in West Palm Beach, Florida. Tom was the founding pastor of his church, so when he first started, he did everything. If a task was to be accom-

plished, if a goal was to be met, if a programme was to be started, Tom had to lead it personally.

But Tom is an outstanding leader. He had no desire to go it alone, to be *Mr. Answerman*. As the organization grew, Tom dedicated himself not only to helping people, but also to developing leaders. The more leaders he developed, the less time he needed to be on the front lines.

Today, more than ten thousand people attend his church every weekend. There are hundreds of programmes and activities going on every week. The church is highly active in the community, building houses for the poor and feeding people. They are constantly reaching out to others. And where is Tom? He's in the middle of it all, coaching, advising, and encouraging. That's where he now leads from most of the time. Rarely is he the top leader in any endeavour anymore. Tom said he is more fulfilled by seeing others succeed—whether it's teaching on the platform or leading the team—than he is by taking the point position. The organization is succeeding beyond his wildest dreams as a result.

The best leaders help others succeed. They lead, empower, and then get out of the way. If you create an environment that develops (great) leaders, that is what you will someday be able to do.

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



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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, those in quarantine and those who have lost, or will lose, their jobs.
- * Our local and world economies.



UCJCI FAMILY AD CORNER



WESTERN REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL- UCYPF

ANNUAL (AGM)
GENERAL
MEETING

AUGUST 22, 2020

TIME: 10AM

PORTFOLIO REPORTS
REGIONAL ELECTIONS ETC..

N.B ZOOM DETAILS WILL BE SENT
AT A LATER DATE

VENUE: ST. PAUL'S UNITED
CHURCH
Streaming live via zoom



Dear Friend,

Are you ready for a breakthrough?

You are invited to an online transformative worship experience that promises to be a riveting and life changing mix of real-world scenarios as shared through the lenses of faith, hope and redemption. A big feature of the event, will be the showcasing of "Released from Lockdown", a play produced by the Webster Memorial United Church to be aired during the event on Sunday, August 30 at 3:30pm.

The production is written by Sophia Lewin and directed by Fae Ellington and will be streamed online for families to watch from the convenience of home. This forms part of the church's virtual faith-based ministry, which has taken on new life since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join online via YouTube, Livestream and Facebook @webestermemorial. Tune in for the pre-show at 3:00pm, which will include a power-packed praise and worship session.

You can't afford to miss this blessing. Be sure to join and be released from lockdown. Plan your watch parties at home and bring your praise for this ultimate family event. Remember to ensure appropriate physical distancing protocols are required for persons viewing in groups.

See you there!

Pastor Rev. Astor Carlyle