



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:



***Rev. Icylyn Parkinson**, whose husband, **Mr. Godfrey Parkinson**, has passed on.

***Rev. Millard Edwards**, who is ill.

*The family of **Rev. Keith Gordon**, who has passed on.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2020

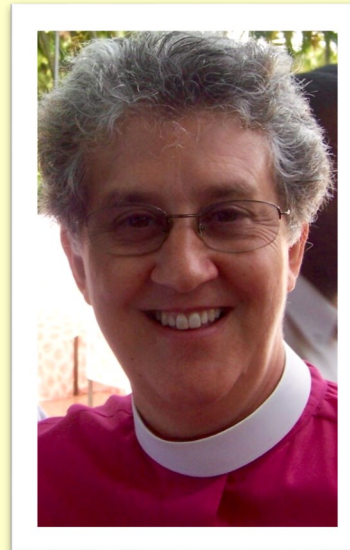
Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler's Library Handed Over to the IUC

A tangible expression of far-reaching contribution to the building of communities and the wider society, the library of the late **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler** was handed over to the UCJCI's **International University of the Caribbean** on August 26, 2020.

Noting the collection, which includes books on Philosophy, Psychology, Counselling, Biblical Hebrew and Economics, **Pro-Chancellor of the IUC, Mrs. Irene Walter**, expressed the value of books for the opening and broadening of the mind.

Described by our **General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens**, in his remarks, as a woman of many facets, he shared that her life objective was to make connections between and among people, between life and faith, and between justice and transformation; and through this donation, she was making another connection—one between scholarship and social ac-

tion. He also expressed the hope that those who read and study from this collection will be motivated to make a contribution to life and living as



she did in her spaces.

Beautiful tributes were shared at the event, as persons described her as an avid reader, admired for her inner strength; a visionary; a pleasure to work with; relatable and practical; someone who pushed the envelope to get things done; and a blessing to the Church.

Moderator of the UCJCI, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cow-

ans, in expressing appreciation for this contribution to the IUC, described **Rev. Dr. Fowler** as a generous soul, concerned with the progress of others. Likewise **President of the IUC, Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt** expressed gratitude for this contribution to the work of the university, underscoring that **Rev. Dr. Fowler** served with passion those who lived on the margins, including those affected by stigma.

Even as **Rev. Fowler's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Fowler**, expressed appreciation for the tributes offered, the **United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** also expresses gratitude to her family, and to **Drs. Leith and Jessica Dunn**, organizers of the event, who worked alongside **Rev. Dr. Fowler**.

We look forward to the stories of lives touched and minds expanded from the reading of books within the collection. May the soul of **Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler** rest in peace.

CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Trevor Hylton
October 4

Rev. Alex Hayden
October 5

UCJCI VALUES

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

Stewardship: By tithing, and with the generosity of thankfulness, the commitment of gifts and resources (time, talents, and money) to advance God's kingdom in the world; the proper care and optimal use of the resources provided for God's work; and the care of God's creation (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Matthew 23:23).

ADVOCACY FEATURE

The UCJCI Calls for Reparatory Justice

Another Emancipation Day, August 1, 2020, dawned on us in a time when there is an upsurge globally of consciousness as to the historical damage done to black identity and lives in the world. Recent protests point globally to greater acceptance that the centuries of enslavement of Africans and their use for free labour has been one of, if not the greatest, atrocities to ever thread the quilt of human history.

Slavery not only enriched families, family-owned businesses and nations, but it enriched some churches of that time as well. Enslavement of African people and the native genocide was orchestrated and perpetrated over centuries in which colonizers were the beneficiaries. Rather than compensating the formerly enslaved at the declared Emancipation, it was the slave owners who were compensated in the amount of some 20 million pounds sterling, which constituted 40% of Britain's national budget in 1833. The period of four years of the Apprenticeship System served as a further method of enriching the former enslavers.

In Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, the Church was often complicit in a system propagating and profiting from the enslavement of Africans. The dominant theologies undergirded the sinful ideologies of the day. The Colonial Church Union existed in the 19th Century as a means of quelling any and all forms of slave resistance or uprising.

We thank God for the witness of those Christians who, through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, proclaimed liberty to the captives in word and deed. The gospel message of liberation inspired the enslaved and freed people to throw off the yoke of bondage.

Our Church, over the years, through its process of renewal and transformation, has sought to come to grips with the challenge to reflect on its complicity in past sins, and the perpetuation of mental slavery. In its quest for true emancipation and social justice for the captives, the Church has made its own call to former colonial masters to compensate formerly enslaved people for the horrible atrocities of the past and the lingering legacies that stifle the development of our people. Not only do we, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, firmly support the call for reparations from relevant state authorities, but have sought through our global network to set an example of introspection, repentance and restitution.

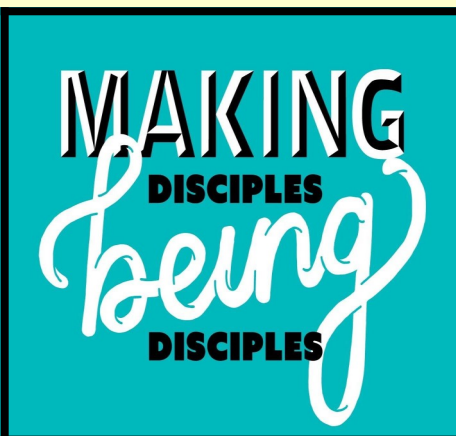
Many wounds of the past may be healed, if in a spirit of genuine reparatory justice, tangible and intangible restitution were made towards our society's development.

We join the call on former enslavers to heed the call for justice. *Pay reparations now!*

- Prepared by: The UCJCI's Church and Society Sub-Committee

HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGIES FOR OCTOBER 2020

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| October 4 | Yahweh Tsuru / The Lord is my Rock |
| October 11 | Yahweh Roi / The Lord is my Shepherd |
| October 18 | Yahweh Tsebaoth / The Lord of Hosts |
| October 25 | El Shaddai – The Lord God Almighty |



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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leaders Are Needed at Every Level of the Organization

The difference between two equally talented teams is leadership. Leadership is what makes the difference at every level of the organization. *Everything rises and falls on leadership.* It really does. If you don't believe it, just put together a group of people without a leader, and watch them. They will drift. When there is no good leader on a team, in a department, at the top of an organization, or heading a family, then the following results are inevitable.

WITHOUT A LEADER, VISION IS LOST. If a team starts out with a vision but without a leader, it is in trouble. Why? Because vision leaks. And without a leader, the vision will dissipate and the team will drift until it has no sense of direction.

On the other hand, if a team starts with a leader but without a vision, it will do fine because it will eventually have a vision. Leaders are visionary. They are always headed somewhere. They have vision, and that vision gives not only *them* direction, but it gives their people direction.

WITHOUT A LEADER, AGENDAS ARE MULTIPLIED. When a team of people come together and no one is clearly the leader, then individuals begin to follow their own agendas. And before long, all the people are doing their own thing. Teams need leadership to provide a unifying voice.

WITHOUT A LEADER, CONFLICTS ARE EXTENDED. One

of the most important roles of a leader is conflict resolution. In the absence of clear leadership, conflicts always last longer and inflict more damage. Often it takes a leader to step up, step in, and bring everyone to the table to work things out. When you lead others, you should always be ready to do what it takes to help your people resolve their conflicts.

WITHOUT A LEADER, MORALE IS LOW. Napoleon said, *“Leaders are dealers in hope.”* When leaders are not present, people often lose hope and morale plummets. Why is that? Because morale can be defined as *“faith in the leader at the top.”*

WITHOUT A LEADER, PRODUCTION IS REDUCED. The first quality of leaders is the ability to make things happen. Leaders are creative in finding ways to help others become productive. Sometimes it means laying out a challenge. Sometimes it means giving people training. Sometimes it means encouraging or putting up incentives. If the same thing worked for every person in every situation, then there would be no need for leaders. Because every person is different and circumstances are constantly changing, it takes a leader to figure out what's needed and to put that solution into action.

WITHOUT A LEADER, DECISIONS ARE DELAYED. I love a story that President Reagan told, showing how he

learned the need for decision making early in his life. When he was young, a kind aunt took him to have a pair of shoes custom made. The shoemaker asked him if he wanted his shoes to have square toes or round toes, but Reagan couldn't seem to make up his mind.

“Come back in a day or two and let me know what you decide,” the shoemaker told him. But Reagan didn't go back. When the man saw him on the street and again asked him what kind of shoes he wanted, Reagan said, *“I haven't made up my mind yet.”*

“Very well,” the man responded. *“Your shoes will be ready tomorrow.”*

When Reagan went to pick them up, he discovered that the toe of one shoe was round and the other was square. Reagan later said, *“Looking at those shoes taught me a lesson. If you don't make your own decisions, somebody else makes them for you.”*

Not all good decision makers are leaders, but all good leaders are decision makers. Often it takes a leader to make decisions—and if not to make them, then to help other make them more quickly.

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)

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



UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Women's Fellowship

Virtual Meeting

October
17th,

Starts at 10:00 am

2020



GREETINGS
From our Moderator:
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



GUEST SPEAKER
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble -Bloomfield

Join us for updates on the Women's Fellowship

DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING
Sunday October 18, 2020

Please register through your Council President.

36 Maxfield Avenue
Church of God of Prophecy

PRESENTS

Alzheimer's Month

UNCOVERING A PATH TO DEMENTIA PREVENTION

With Dr. Albert Chen

Dr. Albert Chen is a Medical Doctor & a Consultant
Clinical Gerontologist (Specialist in study of aging).

He is the President of the Alliance on Ageing
(Jamaica) and the Chairman of the Alzheimer's
Disease Outreach Programme.

WEDNESDAY SEPT 30 | 6PM

JOIN US FOR OUR
ONLINE STREAMING

Meeting ID: 813 2801 0212
Passcode: 841448

YouTube: Maxfield Avenue COGOP