



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
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:



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

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

Volume 6: Issue 39

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

A TRIBUTE TO A DYNAMIC MAN OF FAITH

In a season when the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is resolute in its efforts to assert anew the theological principle of the priesthood of all believers, the life and witness of the late Rev. Keith Livingstone Gordon bears indisputable testimony to the efficacy of this principle.

He and others like him have illustrated well the indispensable role of each member in building up and maintaining a vibrant ministry within the local congregation and as a consequence, being deemed suitable candidates for transferring that energy to the wider denomination.

Born on October 10, 1948, Keith Gordon was numbered among a group of dynamic young leaders and lay preachers who were active within the Davyton Charge the decades of 1970s and 1980s. Led by their pastor, the Rev. Edmund Folkes, this group served as a source of inspiration and support in evangelistic efforts within the Charge and across the United Church.

In 1989, Keith was numbered among a pioneering group in what was then an experiment in a complementary ministerial training programme, a kind of in-service training model dubbed the Institute for The-



ological and Leadership Development, one of the antecedents of the International University of the Caribbean. A notable characteristic of this pioneering group was that, while the majority of its members had exceeded the age of forty, all members were by then settled in families in which each was a primary partner.

Other members of this group were the Rev. James Davis, the Rev. Ranford Hewitt and the late Rev. Leslie Canzius. Under the careful and extremely candid tutelage of the inimitable Rev. Dr. Ralph Hoyte,

they were guided in the theoretical and practical dimensions of their preparation for engagement in ordained ministry.

Keith Gordon, along with his pioneering colleagues, was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments at the National Arena during the first biennial convocation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on April 10, 1994. He continued to render pastoral service in the Medina Charge in the Southern Regional Mission Council, having been located there as Ministry Intern during his days of training. He subsequently served in the Stirling and Riverside Charges of United Churches in the Western Regional Mission Council.

Upon the attainment of the age of retirement, the Rev. Gordon went into full retirement and returned to live in his home district of Davyton. Having passed from us on August 27, 2020, we thank God for his life. May his soul rest in peace.

CELEBRATIONS!

70:

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis
October 16

UCJCI VALUES

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

A Loving Fellowship and Unity: Strengthening our community of believers in a Christ-like manner, by affirming each other and responding to each other's needs with understanding and compassion, so as to encourage others to be drawn to a life in Christ (Romans 15:17); constantly acting in love towards one another, while acknowledging our diversity, but always seeking the unity of the Church for the building of the kingdom (Romans 14:19, Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-16).

**ADVOCACY FEATURE****Now to Overcome the Monster of Crime**

On August 3, 2020, Jamaica witnessed what could become one of the most significant steps in the progress of our independent nation, when the leader of Government, Prime Minister Andrew Holness and Leader of the Opposition Dr. Peter Phillips signed Jamaica's National Consensus on Crime, marking an inflection point in a process towards a new day in the way in which the scourge of crime is handled in our nation.

It marked a stage in a process initiated by the private sector in Jamaica and supported by a raft of civil society participants, including the nation's churches. At an earlier summit held in October 2019, a working group led by eminent academics, was established to formalize efforts being made towards a national consensus on the approach to crime in Jamaica in its various forms of corruption and violence.

The team worked assiduously, meeting widely with stakeholders all across Jamaica in developing a framework for adoption by both major political parties and all parts of Government. It marked a seminal moment in our history and one which must be given sufficient prominence, that all Jamaica may see in it the glimmer of a long-sought solution to the persistence of crime, in particular violence in our society. The organizers recognize that there is a surfeit of cynicism and mistrust in our nation.

Now that national elections are over and the electorate has peacefully and fairly chosen a government for the next five years, it is time for a sharp focus on the most critical national priorities. Chief among them must be crime in its various forms of corruption and violence.

The Consensus provides a crucial opportunity which the nation cannot afford to miss. It sets forth accessible, measurable goals against timelines which are immediately attainable. On these goals, the governments should not be allowed to fail. Some of these goals include legislative and administrative actions to strengthen the capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA), the Courts of Jamaica and other critical stakeholders in the fight against violent crime and corruption.

There is a Consensus Monitoring and Oversight Committee that is established to have responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the respective plans, measure progress, and report (providing regular public updates) on this programme. This committee also has the power to give the consent for adjustments to the established timelines.

Without duplicating or usurping the duties of the Monitoring and Oversight Committee, we, the church, call upon the government to fulfill all the obligations under the Consensus. At the same time, we pledge to support the government to the best of our ability. As a United Church, we call upon our members to hold the government accountable to the fulfilling of the goals that have been established within the Consensus.

There are specific short and medium term goals in which we, as a United Church, take great interest. We will pay keen attention to the implementation of those goals, which are as follows: Having the National Commission on Violence Prevention operational by the end of Quarter 2 of 2021; The passing of the "Integrity of Security Forces" Legislation by the end of Quarter 2 of 2021; and the approval of the outstanding regulations governing the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency by the end of the 4th Quarter of 2020.

The success of the implementation of the goals of the Consensus depends on each stakeholder. It is our prayer that all stakeholders will use all available resources at their disposal – human, physical, and financial – to bring the goals of the consensus to life.

Prepared by: The Church and Society Sub-Committee, UCJCI

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Defining Leadership: What Is It and Why Does It Matter in Church?

“Great men lead people,” Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ said. “But greater men train leaders.” As leaders, we are called not only to raise up followers, but also to equip leaders. How we define Christian leadership is the crucial starting point.

When I teach leadership, I walk through a few definitions, including:

“Leadership is a dynamic process in which a man or woman with God-given capacity influences a specific group of God’s people toward His purposes for the group.” (Robert Clinton)

“Leadership is influence, nothing more nothing less.” (John Maxwell)

Here is the definition I use today:

Christian leadership is a process of influencing a community to use their God-given gifts toward a goal and purpose as led by the Holy Spirit.

But, how does this work? And, how is Christian leadership different?

A SKILL?

A common debate about leadership involves whether leaders are made or born. On the one hand, some believe leadership is simply a skill to be developed. On the other, some think there are natural born leaders, with no refining or development necessary. The answer lies in between these two extremes.

There’s no doubt some are born with a combination of characteristics that easily opens doors for leadership. However, there are additional skills of leadership one can learn.

In his book *Talent Is Overrated*, Geoff Colvin observes how we’ve overestimated the importance of being born with great ability—leadership, sports, music, or other areas—and underesti-

mated the power of deliberate, intentional practice to improve.

Regardless of our starting point we can grow as leaders. I am struck by the reaction people have after taking a leadership class. They feel empowered because they have learned skills to better lead a congregation or ministry. They LEARNED to lead, inside the gift set and wiring God had already given them.

Therefore, whether leadership comes naturally to us or not, we can learn to lead better, often by developing skills. Sometimes those are pure leadership skills, but sometimes they are skills that support leadership.

When it comes to leadership, growing in specific skills allows us to better serve God’s people by leading them well.

SHARED POWER

Christian leadership—the kind that honors God—is not about the accumulation of power. Rather, it is about empowering others.

Theologian John Stott said it best when he said: *“The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power, but love; not force, but example; not coercion, but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”*

There are different types of power when it comes to leadership. For example, there is the type of power that allows you to hire and fire members of your staff. However, if that is the only power you use, it is not Christian leadership, because *“people development works best through inspiration, not authority.”*

Part of that power means we seek to elevate others. Too often, church

leaders focus on their specific and more immediate tasks—preaching the Word, leading in worship, discipling students—to the neglect of the more long-term, yet equally vital, role of developing and releasing leaders.

When we find ourselves in positions of power, we have to be willing, as Stott said, to view our role as leaders as opportunities to serve others through love. Remember our purpose is to help others and bring glory to God.

Understanding the role of power in leadership helps us do both of those things. Great leaders who understand how to use their power will take more blame than they deserve, give more credit to others than might be warranted, and give their leadership authority away to others whenever possible.

LEADERS ARE NOT PERFECT

One of the hardest aspects of leadership is managing expectations. Our leadership skills will not always be perfectly practiced in our lives. I’ve struggled and failed as a leader, and I’ve struggled and failed as a Christian.

Leadership is defining reality, and a central reality of leadership is to point people to a perfect Jesus, not an if we define Christian leadership as obediently following God’s leading by using the gifts God gives us, then humility and openness can help us to develop as we lead others towards God’s kingdom.

Thus, leaders need people speaking into our lives as well. Our role as Christian leaders should be focused on the God we follow and the people we serve. When those realities are present, we will lead well.”

By: Ed Stetzer

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



The United Church in Jamaica and
the Cayman Islands Lay Training
Institute presents

Built to Bend

'A series of Webinars designed to help build a resilient church to meet the challenges of COVID -19.'

Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon in October and November

- Navigating the Digital Space (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Zoom) - October 17
- Developing Content for Social Media - October 24
- Livestreaming Worship Services - October 31
- Producing a Worship Service for Livestreaming - November 7



Presenters

- Mrs Heneka Watkis Porter
- Rev. Kraig DeLeon Diedrick
- Ms Marlene Thomas.

WEBINARS ARE FREE TO PARTICIPANTS. JOIN BY ZOOM.
Register through the UCJCI regional office closest to you.
Zoom link will be provided on registration.

GET CONNECTED AND STAY CONNECTED!



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.