



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 Transform-
ation: Discipleship for
Life"

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PRAY FOR:



*The family of **Rev. Mil-
lard Edwards**, who
has passed on.

***Rev. Icylyn Parkin-
son**, whose hus-
band, **Mr. Godfrey Par-
kinson**, has passed
on.

***Rev. Kimberley
Hines**, whose aunt-
in-law, **Mrs. Avis
Lynch**, has passed
on.

Volume 6: Issue 40

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

THE CALL TO CONTINUE

“ This COVID-19 pan-
demic has forced us
into difficult decisions
and actions which have
removed from our lives
and living the notion of
normality. So some of us
wrestle with the difficult
task of self- or state-
imposed quarantine.

These are not normal
times.

Many of us long for nor-
mality to return, for ac-
cess to our sources of
comfort, entertainment,
social interaction and in-
spiration. All of us long
for the day when this
COVID-19 pandemic will
breathe its last.

If there is one truth I am
convinced about, it is this:
*one of, if not the most diffi-
cult task or activity in life, is
to continue.* To continue
on, despite the prevailing
circumstances.

Thing about it, is it not
difficult to continue to
hope when all the evi-
dence around us suggest
despair; to continue in the

face of disappoint-
ment; to continue in the face of disas-
ter; to continue in the face of
hurt and pain; to continue in
the face of deception?

Is it not difficult to continue
to believe when the preva-
lence of doubt exists; to con-
tinue to walk alone when
others have abandoned the
path; to continue to search



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for the positives in the face
of a negative diagnosis; to
continue to believe in the
potential of another when
they no longer believe in
themselves?

Is it not difficult to continue
to love another person in
the face of anger, abuse, ne-
glect, abandonment, spite or
hate; to continue to commit
to a relationship when the
other partner shows no sim-
ilar commitment; to be com-

passionate when the oth-
er's default is vengeance?

Is it not difficult to con-
tinue when you join the
growing list of those who
are unemployed or fur-
loughed; to continue when
your business goes under;
to continue when you
can't pay your bills or
don't know where you or
your family's next meal is
coming from; to continue
when you are not eligible
for financial assistance
from the state?

Simply put, in the chal-
lenging circumstances of
life and living, it is almost
always difficult to contin-
ue! Often the far more
compelling option is to
give up or to give in.

I know, as you do, that
often we have little choice
but to continue. We hu-
mans adapt; that is our
default. I also know, as
you do, that while life
sometimes pauses, it con-
tinues with or without us.

(Continued on Page 2)

CELEBRATIONS!



70:

Rev. Walter Russell

October 21

Rev. Donald Burke

**Rev. Herbert Redway
Snr.**

Rev. Norbert Stephens

October 22

**Rev. Dr. Richmond
Nelson**

October 23

Rev. Sylvan Hinds

October 26

Rev. Godfrey Meghoo

October 27

UCJCI VALUES

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

Family: Family is a gift from God. As we grow in relationships, we encounter God through each other, and are strengthened to live for God in the world. (Psalm 127:3-5, 128:3-4, Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4).



THE CALL TO CONTINUE

(Continued from Page 1)

However, when we transition from being passengers in life to being determiners of what we do, indeed when we choose to continue, two things are true. Firstly, to choose to continue is fundamentally to be **hopeful**, and secondly, to choose to continue requires us to be **faithful** to a particular path or direction.

What are you choosing to continue to do, or believe in, at this time, that is hopeful and requires your faithfulness?

My simple message to you based on 1 Peter is that in the midst of our lives and living, and more so, in these abnormal times, God's call to us which requires a faithful response, **is the Call to Continue**.

First Peter, a General Epistle, was written to a group of churches in Asia Minor at a time when the Christians were suffering slander and persecution from a larger unbelieving community. Targeting primarily the most vulnerable within the community, this message was one of encouragement for the Christians to hold fast to the promise of God's blessings, while remembering and acting out their calling to act appropriately to those hostile to the faith.

It was a call to continue! Hold fast, don't give up or give in, continue on!

There are three expressions of this **Call to Continue**:

1. Continue To Do your Duty

Do your duty in the faith despite the consequences. Engage the difficult tasks you have and embrace the suffering that will come your way as a result. Five duties are located in this text between verses 13-18: **Be eager to do what is good. Be bold. Be hopeful. Be trustworthy. Be rejoicing.** Note the promise – even if you should suffer for doing what is right/duty you are blessed! To be blessed means God has recognized us, God identifies with us, God empowers us to transform our reality.

2. Continue to be Defiant

Our calling in the face of doubt and fear and discord, in the face of accusation, charge, slander, evil, moral liberalism, ethical temptation, human and physical weakness, illness, disappointment and despair, is to continue to keep the faith!!! Why? Because of who you are and whose you are. You are God's distinctive people!

So we continue: To worship in spite of; to pray and praise in spite of; to study God's Word – light and lamp – in spite of; to be a witness of God's saving and transforming grace in spite of; to be persons of integrity in spite of; to pursue high values and morals in spite of; to encourage and support others in spite of; to challenge the systems and structures which lead to brokenness and evil in spite of.

We will not stop until the earth is filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the seas!

I appeal to you, through the words of 1 Peter 3, to *be hopeful and faithful, to continue to do your duty, continue to be defiant, and continue to be distinctive.* In simpler terms, continue to do what is right, continue to challenge what is wrong, continue to depend on God in Christ, through the Spirit!"

- Contributed by: Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI

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

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Jesus: The Role Model for Christian Leadership

What is Servant Leadership?

It is the focus on the growth of the individual, that they might flourish and achieve their full potential and not primarily the growth and potential of the organization, that distinguishes servant leadership from other leadership styles. The primary concern of the servant leader is service to their followers.

In the secular business schools, it was Robert Greenleaf who, in the early 1970s, proposed the servant leader model. However, the concept of a servant leader is not such a modern concept, but can be found in the biblical account of the life of Jesus Christ. By examining his model we can identify a Christ-centred, Christ-like servant leadership style that works for Christians who lead people in any situation.

Jesus, the Model Servant Leader

Jesus submitted his own life to sacrificial service under the will of God (Luke 22:42), and he sacrificed his life freely out of service for others (John 10:30). He came to serve (Matthew 20:28) although he was God's Son and was thus more powerful than any other leader in the world. He healed the sick (Mark 7:31-37), drove out demons (Mark 5:1-20), was recognized as Teacher and Lord (John 13:13), and had power over the wind and the sea and even over death (Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 9:18-26).

In John 13:1-17, Jesus gives a very practical example of what it means to serve others. He washes the feet of His followers, which was proper-

ly the responsibility of the house-servant. Examination of this passage shows that:

1. Jesus' basic motivation was love for his followers (v. 1).
2. Jesus was fully aware of His position as leader (v. 14). Before the disciples experienced Him as their servant, they had already experienced Him many times before as Master, and as a strong and extremely powerful leader.
3. Jesus voluntarily becomes a servant to His followers (v. 5-12). He did not come primarily as their foot washer, but He was ready to do this service for His followers, if needed.

Jesus wants to set an example for His followers to follow (v. 14-15).

The Servant Leader

From the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, we learn that being a servant leader in the most general sense means being:

- A **voluntary** servant, who submits themselves to a higher purpose, which is beyond their personal interests or the interests of others,
- A **leader** who uses the power that is entrusted to them to serve others,
- A **servant** who, out of love, serves others' needs before their own,
- A **teacher** who teaches their followers, in word and deed,

how to become servant leaders themselves.

The Christian Servant Leader

Applying these considerations of Jesus as a role model for Christian leaders, we can see that, from a Biblical perspective, a servant leader is a person, who is:

- **Christ-centered** in all aspects of life (a voluntary servant of Christ)
- **Committed to serve** the needs of others before their own
- **Courageous to lead** with power and love as an expression of serving
- **Consistently developing** others into servant leaders, and
- **Continually inviting feedback** from those that they want to serve in order to grow towards the ultimate servant leader, Jesus Christ.

(This article will continue in next week's Issue of the UCJCI Update.)

Source: Christian-leadership.org



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

WORD FOR TODAY



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!

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

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