



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

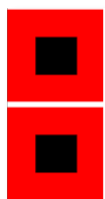
## WEEKLY UPDATE

May 26, 2021

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UCJCI 42<sup>nd</sup> SYNOD THEME 2021 – **Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE** (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)

### Crisis Preparedness and Response Capability Guidelines for Congregations and Council



Another above-normal Atlantic hurricane season is predicted by the NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (noaa.gov) for 2021, and although we hope and pray that we will be spared once again, it is time for all of us and our congregations to make the necessary steps to be ready for all eventualities. In addition to the annual, government-issued hurricane preparedness guidelines to aid us, we also have the '**Crisis Preparedness and Response Capability Guidelines for Congregations and Council**' document prepared by the UCJCI to assist us in this process. The leadership and membership of the CIRMC are strongly encouraged to make every effort necessary in their local context to satisfy the requirements outlined in the document. For easy reference we make it available once again – in two parts, beginning in this issue.

#### Part 1. THEOLOGICAL REASON

Crises come in a number of forms and this year we are all experiencing the effects of COVID-19, even as we are at the threshold of a Hurricane Season.

We cannot protect ourselves from all of these, and here our faith that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ, must play an overriding role. It is important to remember also that personal crises (accidents, death, life threatening disease, abandonment, loss of home by fire, etc.) can affect an individual or a family as much as a national disaster and the persons so affected need the love, care and concern of the Church as much as when national disasters strike.

Secondly, crises take two basic forms: those that are preceded by some kind of warning and those that are unpredictable. The most likely incidences of the former will be hurricanes. These types of crises can be planned for and, normally, additional, specific preparations made once a warning is given. For the unpredictable, some mitigation can, and should, be put in place, e.g. fire and health care insurance, fire alarms and extinguishers. (The Church should strongly encourage members to put in place adequate insurance protection so as not to be dependent on, or a burden to, others and the Government.)

It may be advisable for the Church to find creative ways to help persons secure such protection, rather than rely on helping them

find the larger resources that will be needed in the case of severe damage to buildings or major medical expenses while un- or under- insured. A basic plan can be prepared for some of them – e.g. fire escape routes and routines that will help to alleviate fear. In the case of national or global pandemics, we should ensure we closely follow procedures announced by the national medical authorities. As Christians we have heightened obligations to offer help, sensibly, in all cases.

**Praying together and for each other is essential during a crisis.**

#### Part 2. RESOURCES, DATABANK

Congregations should structure themselves so as to be able to respond rapidly and lovingly in the case of personal crises, without the Minister being the only one responding. Certain personal crises will dictate a particular sensitivity in relating to those affected. Allied to this is the fact that the Minister, or any other counsellor, cannot initiate counselling with someone, no matter how badly they may appear to need it, and here a friendly voice of another member or relative could be vital in getting the person to start talking with the Minister or another counsellor.

The ability to respond will include the establishment of a data bank to ensure that Members and Adherents can be referred quickly to the right agency or person able to help in the particular need. This will include:

- Who is available for counselling, in addition to the Minister? Is there anyone on the staff or amongst the membership appropriately trained and approved by the Minister for this purpose?
- Bethesda Counselling Centre – 946-6575; 923-6488
- A list of other professional counsellors, Government and private, and any specialities.
- The contact details of the local Children and Family Services unit.
- Cayman Islands Crisis Centre – 949-0366 – Crisis Line 943-2422
- Police Family Support Unit – 946-9185, as well as your local station
- Women's Resource Centre – 949-0006
- Lawyers for Legal Advice (besides through the FRC)
- Persons for basic financial advice and referrals to the right company/agency
- Members who can lend a caring ear, some who may have been trained in grief ministry or brief counselling, who can help with insurance claims/explanations, etc.

Either type of crisis can affect all our Members and Adherents. However, there are some individuals for whom the Congregation can and should establish special structures to ensure a level of care on an ongoing basis – e.g. the elderly and others living alone – and in the event of national emergency, such as a hurricane watch/warning.



*The Council office and the Prospect Youth Centre after Hurricane Ivan, September 2004.*

### GENERAL CARE AND OVERSIGHT

Therefore, on an ongoing basis, Congregations should implement a structure and arrangements to ensure attention to the following:

1. That the full list of all our Members and Adherents is reviewed and a ‘needs assessment’ (not an income assessment!) completed for each person. Where special needs, such as listed below, are identified, then arrangements as follows should be made and implemented. (This procedure will require regular, planned updating.)
2. Persons living alone are checked on daily by someone – where there are family members or neighbours who do this faithfully, there may be no need for the Church membership to impose themselves, but simply to let the individual and the relative/neighbour know that we are available to help and who to contact. Depending on the circumstances, the question may also need to be asked whether the person should continue living alone.
3. Special arrangements for similar oversight may also be needed where more than one elderly person live together, and to ensure proper use of medication, taking regular meals, etc.
4. Especially when there are no close, younger relatives involved, the Congregation will want to ensure that the living quarters of such persons are properly outfitted with sanitary and safety equipment, etc.
5. Such ‘alone’ persons should also be visited more regularly, on a planned basis, by the Congregation, invited out where still mobile, etc., as well as the ad hoc visits by the Minister and members in the spirit of friendship and love.

6. Persons with young children also need to be given special consideration in our planned ministries of care and support. The number of children may be a factor, or the income level of the parent(s), the health considerations, and whether there are two parents or only one, and the level of ‘grandparent’ and other family support.

7. Depending on the circumstances of the household (e.g. age), the Church should be alert to ensuring that the home is equipped with basic safety equipment – e.g. fire/smoke detector alarms in house, fire extinguishers, and that the individuals know how to use them.

8. Consideration must also be given to the situation of non-Caymanians living here – do they have any family, or a friends-network already established?

*(to be continued next week)*

## IN OTHER NEWS



*The children at the South Sound United Church share with the congregation what they have learned in Sunday School.*



*Mr. Roy McGregor, Youth Minister leads the children in the action song ‘We are marching in the light of God’.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29. (Saturday)

**Council Meeting** – 9:00am – via Zoom  
**Savannah Women's Fellowship Tea Party** – (see flyer)

May 30. (Sunday) 1st Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity

June 6. (Sunday) 2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
**Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer**




SAVANNAH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

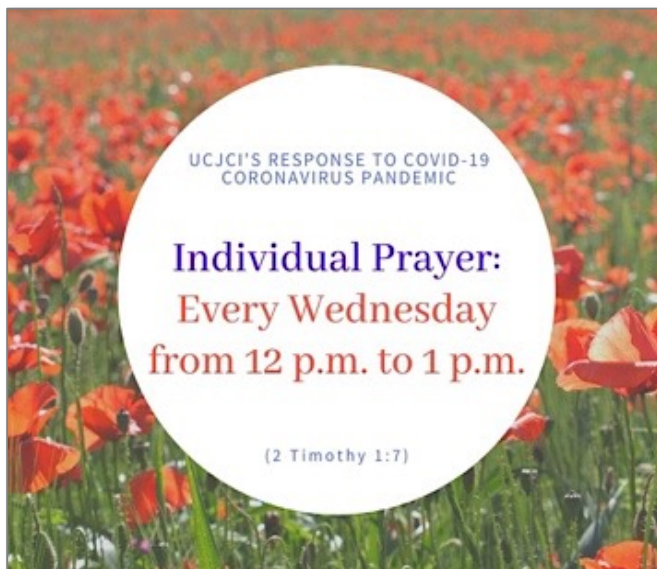


*It's a Classic  
Spring Hatler Tea Party*

SATURDAY MAY 29TH 2021  
 TIME: 3PM - 5PM  
 COST: \$10




SAVANNAH UNITED CHURCH HALL  
 17 ASTRAL WAY, GRAND CAYMAN



UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19  
 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Individual Prayer:  
 Every Wednesday  
 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

(2 Timothy 1:7)



**BE  
 STORM  
 READY!**

**MAKE A  
 PLAN!**

**JUNE 1 – NOV.**



**CHILDREN'S CAMP JULY 18-23 8AM - 6PM**  
**TEENS' CAMP JULY 25-30 8AM - 6PM**  
 CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

**SUMMER  
 DAY CAMP**  
 THEME: ROOT, SHOOT, FRUIT

**FUN  
 FIELD TRIPS  
 FELLOWSHIP  
 FOOD**

**CI\$100**

**VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER**  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021**  
 REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH  
 LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE

**I CAN DO ALL THIS  
 THROUGH HIM  
 WHO GIVES ME  
 STRENGTH**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



on Radio Cayman 89.9  
 every Sunday at 7:45 am

**May 30, 2021**  
 Rev. L. Christopher Mason

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