



UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian

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OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."

IN THIS ISSUE

- THE UCJCI MODERATOR'S MESSAGE 1
- MESSAGE CONTD. 4
- CELEBRATIONS 2
- YOUTH CONVOCATION 2

PRAY FOR:



- Rev. Stottrel Lowe,
- Rev. Dr. Margaret Fowler,
- Rev. Dr. Clinton Smith,
- Mrs. Doris Longmore,
- Rev. Ashley Smith
- Rev. Garwell Bacchus.
- Rev. Astor Carlyle and his family,

ON BEING "MISSIONAL"

Moderator's Message for Synod 2017.

During our last Synod, the decision was taken that for over the next four years, we would push forward in a strategic way towards the implementation of our goal for **Renewal and Transformation**, by encouraging the deliberate adoption of the theme: **"Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life,"** in all that we did as a Church. This, we determined would apply from the Church School level throughout all our Church groupings including the work of our Auxiliary Ministries. We determined to do this, remembering that when this Programme was first launched in 2009, the overall goal and essence was to focus our collective efforts to being a **needs-meeting Church**, (especially for our youth and children), knowing that the outcome would be that our Church would grow **spiritually, numerically and financially**.

We had no doubt that this goal had to be achieved.

For, if any Church --**our Church**, is not being constantly renewed and transformed, then we would not succeed in fulfilling Christ's **Great Commission to go out, to teach and win souls to His Kingdom**.



Rt. Rev. I. Christopher Mason

We have also been aware that to do so, we needed ourselves to become better informed and missional disciples; filled with the Spirit; - empowered and energised as committed Disciples of Christ, to go out and evangelize.

So, as we once more prepare to come together this time, for our **40th Synod**, I am pleased that this collective determination has enabled us to see tangible returns.

Our Auxiliary Groups, which were challenged towards a more missional thrust, are showing growth; - our Youth Camps over the last two years, have consistently shown increased numbers and over the same time, the newly established Youth Convention has doubled in numbers.

Importantly, both the Women's and the Men's Fellowship, as well as the Young Adults and collectively, our congregations, are reflecting in total, notable growth!

It is a beginning... and we thank God, that our efforts over the ensuing seven years are finally reaping the desired results of our **Renewal and Transformation Programme**.

As Moderator of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, I have had the privilege over the past few years to serve my church; my colleague Ministers and Lay Pastors, members and adherents of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in a very special way. It has given me unique insights into how our various groups see "Church" and how I may best serve them as their appointed spiritual leader.

Perhaps the lesson that I would most like to share is my understanding of the true meaning of service as one who has been given the privilege of leadership. It is an understanding of the concept of **'servant - leadership'**. **Continued over page...**

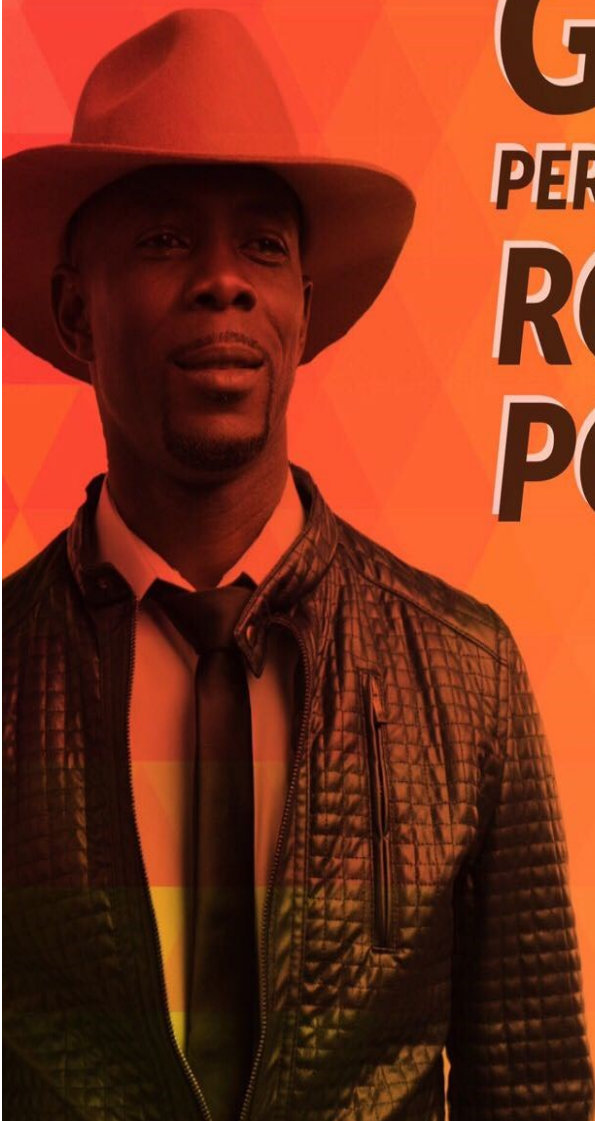


YOUTH CONVENTION

GUEST

PERFORMANCE BY

RONDELL POSITIVE



DATE: APRIL 22, 2017
VENUE: THE KNOX COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
TIME: 8:30 AM

FOR MORE DETAILS
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THE UNITED CHURCH YOUNG
PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

#DAB4Jesus

**Celebrate with our
Youth as they meet
for their
2nd Youth
Convention:**

April 22. 2017

A Celebration of Worship:

- Expression of gifts and talent in worship
 - Inspiration
- Evangelism and Christian nurture through the Word
 - Reflection
 - Recommitment
 - Fellowship

#DAB4JESUS



70:

- **Rev. Tara Tyme – Campbell**
April 18
- **Mrs. Janet McConnell**
April 20
- **Miss. Marsha Martin**
April 22
- **Rev. Wayne Wisdom**
April 23

MESSAGE...

Easter time, brings with it, a special reason to remember the lessons of **servant-leadership** which was so dramatically taught by our Christ just before He was to be betrayed ... It was during a time that heralded that very painful period that eventually led to the gift of the joyous **Easter** time we now celebrate.

The concept of the **leader as servant, was God's**. In the King James Authorised Version Bible, the word 'leader' is used only six times. More frequently the role is called "servant." In fact, God referred to Moses, not as His leader, but as His **servant**. This is also what Christ taught. In His teaching of leadership, Jesus revolutionized the concept, by overturning the existing order. - For, the term "servant" was understood everywhere then, to mean "low prestige", "low respect", and "low honour" – not a role to which many-people would be attracted. However, being a "servant" is **His requirement** for those who would want to lead in His Kingdom. He said **of Himself**, in Mark 10:45, "**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"

When our Lord Jesus washed His disciples' feet against the protest of Peter, who at the time did not fully grasp Christ's intention, hear our Lord's words after He had washed Peter's feet in John 13:vs12.

"¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them".

THE VISION of our Church is: "*Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ.*"

Accordingly, the stated MISSION determines that:

"The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) exists to bear faithful witness to God's love through Jesus Christ and concern for the holistic development of all persons and God's creation through life-giving worship and evangelism, social and educational engagement, personal empowerment, advocacy and faith-formation toward a just and peaceful society and the ultimate experience of God's Kingdom."

God calls us to be a "MISSIONAL CHURCH" - a community of God's people that defines itself, and organizes its life around its real purpose, that of being an agent of God's mission to the world. So, we of the UCJCI have determined our areas of focus, or Mission for the Synod, in two areas: those issues we stand **against** and those we **stand for**.

We stand against the crime and violence, injustice and oppression that pervades our society.

-The Corruption and Lawlessness, that stains us all; -We stand against **Exclusion and Ostracism** as principles against God's laws of inclusion and oneness under Christ; and we stand against **Sexual abuse and Exploitation**, and the scourge of today's world, **Human Trafficking or Modern-day Slavery!**

We not only stand against these things, we commit to do all in our power to eradicate these evils from our society.

At the same time, as a Missional Church we stand for the manifestation of **Justice and Righteousness; Peace and Reconciliation;** -for the demonstration of **Love and Compassion, Integrity and Truth** in our nation. We commit to maintain our historic support for **Education and Industry, Accountability and Responsibility** in our operations within and outside the Church; in the communities of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in which we are found.

We will not only address these issues in the Opening Service of our Synod but we will also gather in the town of Mandeville on the Wednesday, on what we are labelling "**Mission Day**," in memory of the late **Rev. H. Earl Thames** and share these issues with the wider public.

We will do this to demonstrate our conception and re-definition if you will, of the nature of our Church, creating a new paradigm of it as '**missional**' instead of being '**attractional**' in nature; - As **sent ones**, we will **GO**, as Church as **one** people, to evangelize the **lost-pastors and members together, personally engaged in reaching their communities with the message of Jesus Christ as commanded in the Great Commission..**

In so doing, I am sure that we will as a Church **move from a 'church with mission', to being a 'missional church'**. - A church **sent** into the world to continue that which our Lord came to do, in the power of the same Spirit; remembering the words of Christ in John 20:21; "**As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you!**"

So, it is my hope that in this 40th Synod, that we as disciples and servant-leaders, will commit anew to ensure that we all take our various places and responsibilities in Christ, with a confident hope in the victory He has promised those who obey His mission. "To God be the Glory!"