



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Epiphany

January 05, 2024

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Rooted and Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit to Re-connect

The Season of Epiphany



According to the Church's Liturgical Calendar, on January 6, 2022, we enter into the Season of Epiphany. The word 'epiphany' means manifestation revelation. It also means a sudden, profound understanding or realization of something.

Thus Epiphany refers to the assurance of our Christian faith that Jesus is God's self-revelation to the world in human form.

In Western Christianity, Epiphany commemorates the visits of the Magi (Three Kings), who followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet Jesus. Their encounter with Jesus symbolizes the physical manifestation of the Savior of the World to the Gentiles.

In Eastern Christianity, Epiphany is associated with the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. This event is seen as His manifestation as the Son of God to the world.

Like the Magi, may we, too, be open to being surprised as we continue on our journey. Like those at the river Jordan, may we have an 'eye' to see Jesus in the common and ordinary. May we also be rooted and resilient as we (Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite) respond to the many challenges we face in our personal lives and collectively as a Church.

Looking Back to Move Forward

*UCJCI Preaching Theme
for Sunday, January 7, 2024*

Part of our faith journey relates to our ability to ensure that we remain rooted in Christ. What better way to begin the new calendar year than returning to the very beginning (Genesis 1:1-5), as we seek to rekindle the flames of faith through repenting and reconnecting?

This introspective nurturing of our spirits should also lead to our visible transformation, a testimony of God's goodness, which in turn deepens our faith and invites others to repentance and reconnection.

Welcome, New Member!



On Sunday, December 31, 2023, a new member was admitted via transfer of membership from a church in the UK, into the Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, under the leadership of the Rev. Euthman Wray. The new member Mrs Ellen Rose Sherman, received a heartfelt welcome from the Elders and members of the Congregation. May her joining be a blessing for her and her new spiritual fellowship.

Child Care & Protection Policy Workshop

Every year, our Regional Mission Council conducts the Child Care and Protection Policy Workshop. This Workshop is held to ensure that the Children and Youth Ministry in our region satisfies our denominational, national, and international policy standards. These policies aim to protect not only the children and youth but also the leaders and volunteers who work with them, as well as to bring awareness to the importance of providing a safe overall environment in which these ministries are carried out.

Naturally, we expect that all our staff and volunteers who are engaged in these ministries complete the training provided via the Workshop, at the end of which they receive a certification from our Regional Mission Council. This certification is valid across all the regions of the UCJCI, and participation in the Workshop doesn't need to be repeated.

The Workshop consists of one two-hour group meeting via Zoom, scheduled either for a Saturday morning or a weekday evening and focuses on such documents as the Cayman Islands Children Law, the UNICEF Child Care and Protection Rights of the Child, and the UCJCI Child Care and Protection Policy.

If you are engaged in Children or Youth Ministry and have not completed the CCPP Workshop, please contact your Minister, Youth Minister or Church Office and register for the next training opportunity in the first part of 2024.



As we begin a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none. May your year be filled with peace, abundance and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year. (Rev. Marcy Sheremetta)



Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers especially

- The bereaved
- The sick and ill
- Those going through a challenging time
- Those before an important decision
- Those needing guidance, support, or encouragement
- Those who feel lost and hopeless,
- Those caught in the middle of armed conflicts, persecuted, mistreated, exploited, disenfranchised, or abused.

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