



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Epiphany

February 8, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 06

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

At Gilgal, Disciple and Emulate

2 Kings 2:1-12

The story of Elijah and Elisha teaches us that we need to mentor (nurture) others in the Faith. This is a time for 'rolling away' (Gilgal) the idolatrous behaviours in our nations to call forth a new generation of worshippers and God Chasers.

In a time when the nation (kingdom) of Israel had almost totally succumbed to idolatry, Elisha sought God with his whole heart. Elisha was an unashamed God-Chaser. When God sent Elijah to call Elisha, Elisha allowed nothing to hinder him from seeking after God. His relentless pursuit made it easier for him to be disciplined by Elijah. Who are the God seekers in your context who need nurturing/disciplined? Where is God's salvation needed in this time? There is always a need for people who will claim Jehovah as God.

- (UCJCI Preaching Themes - Sunday, February 11, 2024)

Lenten Devotional Reflections with Climate Justice on Mind

2024 Lenten Devotions



The **World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)** has introduced a devotional booklet for Lent 2024, reflecting the theme of the Decade for Climate Justice initiative. The following is an excerpt from the publication, freely available in PDF format on its website:

[Lenten Climate Booklet Compiled \(wrc.ch\)](https://www.wcrc.ch)

Foreword

The planet and life on it are in crisis. We have reached tipping points that, once breached, will cause irreparable damage to the Earth and all the life that it sustains. For us as the church and as Christians, it is imperative that we work towards resolving this crisis that we face and draw on faith resources to be able to do it.

These seven Lenten devotions are an attempt to draw the attention of our churches to the climate crisis we are facing and call the faithful into solidarity with the planet and its most vulnerable people. This work is a part of the Decade for Climate Justice of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and our commitment to the flourishing of all of life.

Written by theologians and pastors from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America, these devotions represent a global perspective and intentional voices of Indigenous people. The theological visions represented in these devotions articulate the variety of theological thinking in the Reformed Communion and draw from our long history of work on ecological justice.

Introduction

Lent is traditionally viewed as a time of renunciation, a time when Christians, in preparation for Holy Week and Easter, volunteer to either fast or renounce, at least for a time, something that they would have otherwise indulged themselves in. Like many rituals, this can be read in different ways. One of the many implications of a time of renunciation, like Lent, is that it shows that there are limits to life. It indicates to us that humans are not people of insatiable wants, and that not everything is up for consumption.

We are in the midst of a planetary crisis caused by the underlying belief that there are unlimited resources for humans to consume and that the planet Earth and all that it holds are intended for human consumption. Yet the Christian tradition and Lent in particular calls us to remember that there are limits to human consumption.

In other Christian traditions, Lent is seen as a time of preparation; therefore, we begin Lent by reflecting on Jesus' time of fasting in the wilderness. In the Biblical understanding, the wilderness plays an important role.

Many Biblical characters start their ministry with a time in the wilderness, it is a place of preparation and the locus from where commitment to ministry begins. In 2023 the World Communion of Reformed Churches launched its Decade for Climate Justice. As part of its programmatic vision, it seeks to engage with its member churches and offer theological, liturgical, and spiritual resources to combat our climate injustice.

These devotions are the public launch of this initiative and they call our churches to prepare themselves and recognize that our planet is not for sale, it is not for unlimited consumption, everything cannot be turned into profit.

We encourage our member churches, congregations, and individual Christians to use these devotions and prepare themselves for Earth care and climate justice during this period of Lent.



The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is the largest association of Reformed churches in the world. It has 233 member denominations in 110 countries, together claiming 100 million people. The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is a member of the WCRC.


Annual Examination of Congregational Records



The Deputy Chairs and Congregational Secretaries gathered together on Wednesday evening, February 07, 2024, at the Council Office for a workshop and the Annual Examination of Congregational Records. The workshop was conducted by the Acting Deputy General Secretary of the CIRMC, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield. The examination included the Minutes of Congregational Board Meetings, Minutes of Congregational Meetings, Members' Lists and Logbooks.



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL



Ash Wednesday Gathering

THEME: HERE I AM, LORD

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
6:30 AM – 9:00 AM

PROSPECT YOUTH CENTRE BEACH – COUNCIL OFFICE

TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
HOLY COMMUNION
FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way.

BETHESDA
COUNSELLING CENTRE

<https://www.bethesdacounsellingcenter.com/>
Tel: 946-6575



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

February 11, 2024
Rev. Louis Sully

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: www.unitedchurch.ky/