



UCJCI UPDATE

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

12, Carlton Crescent,
Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734,
email: synod@ucjci.com.
Website: www.ucjci.com

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

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PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well.
- **Rev. Trevor Hylton**, whose uncle, Noel Smith has passed on.
- **Funeral Service for Allan Wynter**, brother of **Mrs. Carlene Andrade**, will be held on **Sunday May 6, 2018** at **Jamaica Holiness Church in Oxford, St. Elizabeth.**

A CONVOCATION OF PEACE.

The Biennial Convocation of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) which had as its theme, *"Disciples for Life, Disciples of Peace"*, which was held at the **Montego Bay Conference Centre, on Sunday, April 15, 2018**, had some 6,000 persons in attendance including children; who were all caught up in a thrust of engaging their individual and collective efforts as a church, in being agents of peace in a **time of strife and violence.**

The sermon, preached by Minister of the Webster Memorial United Church, **Rev. Astor Carlyle**, chose a provocative quote from Genesis 45: 1-11 in which Joseph invited his brothers to **"Come close to me"**, despite the history of wrongs they had done to him in the past, going as far as plotting his murder. This, said Rev. Carlyle which goes against the natural human desire for retribution, epitomises the business of **peace-making.**

It is a risky business he pointed out, as opposed to **'Peace-keeping'**, which he described as 'maintaining truce at any cost'. **Peace-making** on the other hand, he posited, calls for creative thought, sustained dialogue and deliberate action!

"When we keep our mouths shut, the voice and the influence of evil becomes amplified as peacekeepers and not peacemakers", warned, Rev.



Phillip Supersad sculpts peace.

Carlyle. The all-day conference which saw gatherings of representatives; ministers and members of some 196 congrega-

tions from Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, included, programmes especially presented not only for the adults, but in separate rooms also for youth, and children.

An innovative approach to preaching and presenting the Word, included a sculpture by **Mr. Phillip Supersad**, a member of the Portmore United Church, (who declared himself as perhaps the only Rastafarian member of the Church,) created throughout the day, which was unveiled during the closing exercises, featuring a seated figure releasing a bird of peace.

It is intended to present the completed piece to the Prime Minister of Jamaica as a symbol and a reminder of the UCJCI's collective commitment to peace in Jamaica. Climax of the day of Praise and Worship, was a presentation of plans from each Region, demonstrating **the practical ways** in which Peace was being initiated by their congregations.

CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations:

To Francine and Omar Lewis on the birth of their son Jahreal last Friday April 20.

Mrs, Francine Dennis-Lewis is the Programme Secretary for the SRMC.

AD CORNER



MOUNT OLIVET CHARGE
OF UNITED CHURCHES

PRESENTS

IT'S ANNUAL ONE DAY EVANGELISTIC CONVENTION

Theme: RETURN TO GOD Zachariah 1:3

SUNDAY
MAY 27
2018

Baillieston United Church
Baillieston, Clarendon

SPEAKERS:

BISHOP STEVE HEPBURN (MORNING SESSION)

TIME: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

REV. KEVIN CALVERT (AFTERNOON SESSION)

TIME: 2:00PM - 4:00PM

COME AND EXPERIENCE PERSONAL
AND SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

JESUS CHRIST: IS STILL THE ANSWER

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.

'Disciples of Peace...'

These presentations included a dialogue between Rev. Nigel Pusey of the **Pretoria Road Church**, representing the **North Eastern Regional Mission Council** of the Church (NERMC); who, interviewed by Rev. Paul Pinto, described the various interventions carried out by the Church including street meetings, which had helped to broker peace between two warring factions in the down-town Kingston area.

In the **Southern Regional Mission Council**, (SRMC), contributions towards brokering peace, were reported as taking the form of a **Mediation and Counselling** programme, which is



headquartered at the Ridgemount United Church. Additionally, there are plans to intentionally partner with the Police in May Pen, and the wider **Clarendon** Division of the Police to provide support for the police, by brokering trust between the Police and the wider community.

The plan, stated Regional Deputy General Secretary, for the Southern Regional Council **Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**, is also to offer this programme through its other congregations in the Region, to the police serving the parishes of Manchester and St. Elizabeth, contributing in a practical way to peace initiatives of the country.



The Peace Table with Bible, Candle and Oil, and a seat for people from all walks of life!

In the **Western Regional Mission Council's** (WRMC's) **Norwood, St James** community, which is considered to be a volatile one, the Basic School which belongs to the Church became inoperative because of incidences of crime and violence resulting in children being withdrawn from the school by their parents, fearing for their safety. The Council in its desire to turn this sad outcome into a positive one, has offered the school building for use by the Peace Management Initiative (PMI) as a **"Peace Building"**.

The objective is initially to use the space to establish a **"Peace Garden"** for relaxation and meditation. The Church is currently working with the Church's Peace Management Initiative (PMI), to identify how best the space may be further used in other peace-making activities.

Commenting on the various initiatives being instituted island-wide, General Secretary of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI), **Rev. Norbert Stephens**, states;

"We are not assuming or inferring that our initiatives are new or innovative. What we want to do, is to partner with existing ecumenical and state bodies to make our contribution to the continued efforts being made to make peace in our country."

Disciples for life ...'Disciples of Peace...'

The Peace-making Initiative of the Church, also extends into the Cayman Islands, where according to a recent (March, 2018) report from the **Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC)**, "**the spectre of crime is raising its ugly head.**"

Steps being taken there, are aimed at the youth, as "**Prayer Spaces**" have been created in the United Church schools, aimed at encouraging children to express their thoughts on the ways in which they may play a part in brokering peace.

In these and various other ways throughout the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the UCJCI has confirmed; "**We believe that peace is possible!**"

What was also significant throughout the **Convocation** is that the nearly 800 children and youth who participated, were actively involved throughout the programme in expressing through various ways; in music, poetry, and speechmaking, how they see themselves as '**peace makers**'; in their homes, their schools and their community. This, it was stated, presents **hope for the future!** ■



Mrs. Ivy Clarke -1954-2018.



The Convocation Praise Team (Lincoln Kirk) and Choir (Lucea Charge)

TRIBUTE TO MRS. IVY CLARKE.

Ivy Elizabeth Lynch-Clarke was born on May 20, 1954 to Albert S. and Amanda M. Lynch in the community of Salisbury Plain in Cavaliers, St. Andrew. She grew up with her siblings Eddie (Hubert) Albert (Bertram) Adina (Girlie) & Ruthlyn (Marcia) in very humble settings. Ivy had to wake up early every morning to get water and to go to her grandparents in Padmore to get heavy loads which she would carry on her head.

She attended the Allman Hill All Age School from which she earned a full scholarship to St. Mary's College where she excelled, starting her teaching career at Mannings Hill Primary School. Enrolling later at the Shortwood Teachers College where she studied to become a trained teacher of Mathematics & English.

She later taught at Oberlin High, St. Mary's College & The International University of the Caribbean, and at the Ministry of Education as a Math Coach, and an Assistant Examiner in

Mathematics for the Caribbean Examination Council. She also served as secretary of the Jamaica Association of Principals and Vice-Principals (JAPPs).

Ivy had a special love for children, the youth and elderly. -The joy she had when her alma mater **St Mary's College entered School Challenge Quiz** and when she started the STMC band! She was Oberlin's biggest fan. **Oh how she beamed with pride when they won 'All Together Sing!'**

Ivy joined the Salisbury Plain United Church (formerly a Disciples of Christ Church) at age 17, where she became a part of the youth fellowship group and eventually **met her love and future husband Alfred, with whom she had three daughters.** -Ivy was the church organist/pianist and also served as **youth advisor, elder, board Chairman and Secretary**, holding other board positions within the Mannings Hill/Oberlin/Salisbury Plain Charge and was a **Synod Representative.** **May her soul rest in peace.**

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Teambuilding Application

For the last few weeks, we have engaged in a series on **Teambuilding**. This week, we aim to conclude the series by asking some reflective questions that will assist you to pull together the issues that we have examined, while concretising them intrinsically, for action.

Consider the following:

Think about a team member who typically sees things differently than you do. Consider ways in which those differences might be used as stepping-stones to a solution.

Make a list of team members who irritate you. Do they represent different views that could lead to synergy, if you valued the difference?

Identify a situation in which you desire greater teamwork and synergy. What conditions would need to exist to support synergy? What can you do to create those conditions?

Think about an upcoming interaction wherein you will be attempting to reach an agreement or negotiate a solution. Make a list of obstacles that keep you from applying the Win/Win viewpoint more frequently. Determine what could be done among your team members to eliminate some of those obstacles.

Then commit to **spiritual renewal**. The spiritual dimension is your core. As we read and meditate on the Holy Scriptures, we feel renewed, strengthened, centred, and re-committed to serve our team members.

Also commit to **social/emotional renewal**. Your emotional state influences how you interact with and lead your team. Our intrinsic security comes from within. It comes from accurate perspectives, from living a life of integrity in which our daily habits reflect our deepest values. Peace of mind comes when our lives are in harmony with biblical principles and values; and this affects our relationship with our team. Find the intrinsic security that will positively affect how you relate to your team. Find ways to serve – to help other people in meaningful ways. Also renew yourself in the **physical and mental dimensions**.

If we move on an upward spiral of growth and change, of continuous improvement, we have the fuel to spur our team to also grow and change. That positively benefits the organization. The law of the harvest governs; we will always reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-9).

So then, make a list of renewing activities in your spiritual, social/emotional, physical, and mental dimensions that would assist you to better lead your team. List relationships with team members that you would like to improve. Select one item in each area as a goal for the week. Implement and evaluate.

Remember this: *“The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in...The world would mould men by changing their environment. Christ first changes us, [and empowers us] to change our environment”* (Ezra Taft Benson). If we start with personal renewal, we have essential equipment to build a strong team.

Source: “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey

CAN YOU ASSIST?



Nyle Stewart is the 21 year old son of Pastors Michelle Ashwood and Roger Stewart from the Greendale Charge.

Nyle is well known within youth circles at both the regional and national levels of the UCJCI and continues to make a positive impact on the lives of young people.

Nyle has been diagnosed with cancer and requires treatment which is not currently available in Jamaica.

The cost of this treatment overseas is in the region of **US\$500,000**. The family has established two accounts towards raising the required funds.

Those who wish to contribute may deposit amounts to the following currency accounts:

- Nyle Stewart Fund BNS savings account # 415873 UWI (US\$)
- Nyle Stewart Fund BNS savings account #415872 UWI (J\$)

Your assistance in this effort is truly appreciated by the family so too your continued prayers for Nyle's healing.