

## UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

### VALUE STATEMENT

**The United Church represents a people called by God; to love and Worship God as Creator, Jesus the Saviour and The Holy Spirit the Comforter; to make a difference in people's lives by actively loving and serving those around us; to bring the good news of the Gospel to all people; to nurture each other in faith; to pursue God's justice and peace in all areas of life; so that "God's kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven".**

**In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:**

1. **Relationship with God** –so we may know God & relate to God as a person rather than an impersonal force, knowing Jesus to be Lord of our lives so we may grow in grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Mark 12: 29 – 31, Matt. 3:16-17, Romans 8:1-17)
2. **The Bible** – the preaching, teaching, studying and obeying of God's Word as the supreme rule of faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matt.4:1-11. Eph. 6:10-17)
3. **Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Fasting, Worship etc.)** – personally and corporately communing with the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - attributing honour and seeking after God's heart to be empowered for ministry .(Psalm 95:1-6, Matt6:5-18)
4. **Evangelism** – sharing the story of God's amazing love demonstrated by Jesus Christ in a relevant manner to those without Christ in our community and beyond. (Matt. 28:18-20)
5. **Discipleship and Holiness**– the intentional and relational development of believers to become mature followers of Jesus Christ. (1Peter2:2, Colossians 3:1-17)
6. **Stewardship** – by tithing and with the generosity of thankfulness, the commitment of gifts and resources (time, talents & money) to advance God's kingdom in the world; the proper care and optimum use of the resources provided for God's work; and the care of God's creation. (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Matt, 23:23)
7. **Mission & Outreach** – seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people giving them hope; always acting justly and being advocates of justice (James 2:15-16, Deut. 16:18-20, Zech. 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19)
8. **A loving Fellowship & Unity** – strengthening our community of believers in such a Christ-like manner by affirming each other and responding to each other's needs with understanding and compassion so as to encourage others to be drawn to a Life in Christ. (Romans 15:17); constantly acting in love towards one another while acknowledging our diversity, but always seeking the unity of the Church for the building of the kingdom. (Romans 14:19, Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-16)
9. **Family**- family is a gift from God, as we grow in relationships we encounter God through each other and are strengthened to live for God in the world . (Psalm 127: 3-5, 128:3-4, Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4)
10. **The Work & Worth of all People** – displaying unconditional love to all people, acknowledging all in the ministry of Christ, affirming the priesthood of all believers, embracing the gifts of the Spirit, and enabling each person to participate to the fullest extent possible (Matt.12:28-31, 1Peter 2:4-10, Eph. 4:7-13, 1Corinthians 12 - 14)