

UCJCI PEACE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES



PEACE IN THE CONGREGATION

Readings: Psalm 133 and Ephesians 4:1-4

Peace in the Congregation should be assumed as a 'given'. After all, are we not called to be 'peacemakers' and do we not possess the 'spirit of peace'? Yet not only in today's Church but in the New Testament Church, Paul found it necessary to encourage believers to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

The historical Church has also had divisions. The Great schism in the Church started as challenges around universality versus orthodoxy, differences in language – Latin versus Greek, use or none use of icons and the supremacy of the Pope. These may seem simple to us today, but they certainly led to great controversies and the divide between the Eastern and the Western Church.

The Reformation intensified when Martin Luther nailed the ninety-five theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Some argue that Luther had no intention to divide the church but rather to have the church address the inconsistencies that existed. However, today as a result of Luther's action, we have the protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church.

Paul, in Ephesian 4, encouraged the church to maintain unity and peace. What does that mean for us today? How relevant is the need for unity and peace in the Church today?

- **Issues that divide** us in the Church are sometimes trivial, yet because of stubbornness, power, pride, lack of faith and insincerity of motive- we hold on to our 'way' and our 'traditions'. Sometimes our very praise of God becomes the contentious issue, and many have taken the long walk away from the church, as unfortunately, we tend to alienate those whose views are different.
- Malice, gossip, criticism, lack of encouragement, a judgmental attitude and the inability to forgive **can destroy a Congregation**. As Christians these are not the gifts we should possess. – **Galatians 5: 22-23** offers us the fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- We bring the **societal stratifications** of social class, race, ethnicity, gender, economics and political ideology into the Church and allow them to divide us. We court hypocrisy when we marginalize and dehumanize others who are different from us. We say the Church doors are open to all, but many have had our doors closed in their faces. We need to do much better!
- We must be cognizant that the **triune God**- Father, Son and Holy Spirit by nature invites us to be at peace with each other. Jesus prayed in John 17: 20-22 that we may be one as 'He and the Father are one'. It therefore behoves us to be at one with each other within the local Congregation and with the ecumenical partners.

Continues



CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE!

January 11, 2019

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Abigail Bush -going places

Abigail Bush is a Member of the John Gray Congregation and served as Head Girl at the John Gray High School. She now works with the Governors for Schools in the U.K.



Abigail Bush

Yorkshire and North East England
Area Manager

Abigail was born and raised in the Cayman Islands. She has a BSc in Childhood Studies from the University of Bristol and an MA in Sociology of Childhood and Children's Rights from UCL. Before joining Governors for Schools she did short-breaks with children at a disability charity and worked as a Project Coordinator at a support hub for people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 13 Cayman Keswick

January 15- Council Executive Meeting -Council Office 5:30 pm

January 19 -YLNE AGM -Council Office-2:00pm

PEACE IN THE CONGREGATION-Cont.

- If the **premise of our religion** is God's love for the world (John 3:16) then within the body of Christ, we must not only exhibit love but our attitude towards each other must be one of peace and unity. We must strive to remain 'one in the spirit and one in the Lord'.
- **We have a story to tell the nation and souls to win for Christ.** We therefore cannot be divided amongst ourselves. In today's world we are called to be light and salt and to set the example of goodness. If we cannot achieve peace, how can we expect peace in the world? The world is watching and is awaiting the our 'peace living' ways.
- **Let us resolve to make a change** and usher in the peace of God into the house of God. Let's not bring the havoc in the world into the church, but rather let us take the peace Christ offers into the world!
- **Prayer** - John 17: 20-22



January Theme-
Disciples in Worship

January 13 Mr. Mike Bowerman

January 20 Rev. Alice Blair

January 27 W.F. & Ms. Kathy Jackson

Every Sunday at 7:45am on Radio
Cayman

KNOW YOUR UCJCI CONSTITUTION

Section 2: Powers and Duties of the Regional Mission Council

(From UCJGC Constitution, Chapter 2, Section 2.)

General Oversight 1.

- The Regional Mission Council has the general oversight of all ecclesiastical matters within its bounds, subject to the decisions of Synod.
- The Regional Mission Council is responsible for church funds and property, guards them from injury or improper use, and sees that Congregational property is kept in such a state of repair that the work of the Church is unhindered.
- The Regional Mission Council exercises oversight of Congregations within its bounds.

2. The Regional Mission Council

- shall provide supply to Congregations either during vacancy or in the event of illness or absence of the Minister;
- take the oversight of vacant Congregations to appoint a Chairperson to the Congregational Board when necessary;
- guide a Congregation in the call of a minister;
- ascertain that all collections appointed by the Synod are made according to regulations.

JOHN 17:20 -22

²⁰"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-

PROGRAMME SECRETARY /
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL

Please email rdgs@cicucjci.com
for a detailed job description
Application Deadline: January 25, 2019

Fellowship Breakfast



February 2, 2019

at 8 :30AM

George Town Yacht Club

606 North Sound Road

Theme:

Disciples! Bring Forth Good Fruits

Guest speaker

Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble - Bloomfield

Cost : \$25.00

All are invited



Cayman Council Women's Fellowship

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