

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Strategic Priorities of the Synod 2007-2009

GOALS	STRATEGIES	ACTION STEPS	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME	SUCCESS INDICATORS
Rekindling the Church's Missional Calling	Prepare and promote the year '2008' of Prayer and Renewal	Develop a series of bulletin inserts – a different one each week		Standing Committee	From Nov 07	Observation
		Introduce a programme of progressive fasting. This programme will start with a one meal per week fast, progressing to two meals, and eventually three, with the goal of three meals, one day per week.		Local Congregation	Begin now and reach goal by Ash Wednesday	Positive feedback
		Include in the Sunday bulletin 'Matters to Pray About' over the coming week		Local Congregation	Beginning immediately; ongoing	Observation & feedback
	Establish a Sunday/period in the calendar for deliberate mission focus	Determine a date/period		Synod Admin/Standing Committee		The date/period is communicated to local congregations
		Develop a study based on Roderick Hewitt's book on mission, also CWM booklets <i>Equipping Local Congregations for Mission</i> and <i>You, Me and Nehemiah</i>	RH's book w/ permission to photocopy & CWM's booklets	Standing Committee		
	Enable the ministry of evangelism to find expression throughout the whole church	Extend an invitation for commitment to Christ at the end of every Sunday morning service		Local Congregations		Invitation given
	Affirm the Kingston Declaration on Disabilities:	Conduct an audit to determine support for persons w/ special needs	Survey instrument	Regional Councils		Completed surveys received
	▫ Identify a model congregation and inclusivity					
	▫ Engage the study of the WCC's policy on inclusivity					
	▫ Support for JCC on its monitoring of the declaration					
	Encourage Councils to study and engage the Accra Confession on Economic Justice					
	Become proactive in crime prevention and peace building initiatives					
	Engage issues such as HIV/AIDS, sexuality and sexual orientation					

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Restoring the Quality of Leadership for Ministry and Mission	Design a comprehensive training programme for all Church School teachers						
	Conduct parenting skills workshop in Councils						
	Be deliberate and consistent in the training and preparation of Elders	Elect Elders at least 6 mths before start of term and set a particular w/end for training	Nominations Committee	Local Congregations		Elders are elected and training held	
	Ensure nurture and discipleship training programmes at all levels						
	Build leadership capacity and trust between and among ordained and commissioned ministers						
	Provide consistent pastoral care support to ordained and commissioned ministers and their families	Develop a Pastoral Care Team	Led by Dep Chair Congregational Board to incl Chair of Leadership & Facilities Cttees/ Dep Gen Secretaries et al	Local Congregations & Synod Administration		Increased level of support for the minister as well as the increased interaction between the congregation/synod and minister	
			Provide a Prayer Card with suggestions for daily prayer.	Prayer Card	Local Congregations & Synod Administration		Each member received a Prayer Card
			Send ministers, at a minimum, verbal greetings, eg on birthdays and milestones in ministry	Ordination and birth dates	Local Congregations & Synod Administration	Beginning immediately; ongoing	
		Find a tangible way to show appreciation to minister		Local Congregations & Synod Administration	Annually		

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Re-Invigorating Children, Youth and Young Adults' Ministry	Improve the quality of ministry among our children (special focus on children's homes)						
	Develop discipleship and nurturing ministry to enable effective involvement of children, youth and young adults						
	Ensure adequate budgetary support for children, youth and young adults' ministry						
	Protect our children from violence and crime						
	Facilitate the development of an intergenerational approach to worship and ministry	Select one youth or young adult to serve on Worship Planning Team.			Local Congregations		Participation including input given on behalf of younger members
		Select one teenager to serve for a period of 'X' years at a time. This will allow for greater representation on the Congregational Board			Local Congregations		Three-month evaluation conducted, participation of young people at Congregational meetings; feedback from young people

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Renewing and Transforming Local Congregations	Focus on prayer as an expression of submission and trust	Pair up members to pray for one another daily – a different subject each month	List of areas for each month	Local Congregations	Jan-Dec 2008	Increased comfort level in praying - and feedback
		Study simple prayer formats eg ACTS, praying Scripture, one-liners		Local Congregations		Increased public prayer
		Provide more opportunity to offer public prayer eg during service, dedicated prayer service, etc		Local Congregations		Increased public prayer
	Facilitate life-giving worship	Introduce a three-minute 'Time with the Children' in church	Good story-tellers	Local Congregations		Positive feedback; greater interest in attending church by children
		Eliminate Children's Church during regular worship time to fully embrace the children in the church family; introduce 'Time with the Children' in church	Good story-tellers	Local Congregations		Increase in children's attendance at church and their presence for the entire service
		Use the Musical Prelude as a time of quiet meditation. Print words to this effect on Sunday Orders of Worship. This will better prepare the congregation for worship, eg quieting their spirits to focus on the worship and to create a more reverent atmosphere	Office staff	Local Congregations		Observing the something of the congregation and positive feedback
		Provide activity packets to children at Sunday morning worship between 'Time with the Children' and the sermon. This will hold their attention as well as increase their spiritual knowledge	Internet access or 'photocopiable' material; included in the packet could be eg Bible story book, crayons/pencil and activity paper based on sermon	Local Congregations		Observing that children are more settled during the Sermon
		Highlight (verbalise) three notices only whether or not printed or bulletin, on Sundays to better inform and assist people in remembering and possibly attending the more important activities.		Local Congregations		Observing that people are more attentive while the Notices are being read and by feedback and increased attendance at services/events
		Ensure printed prayers use everyday language and sentences are not too long to make prayers more meaningful for and understandable by everyone,		Local Congregations		Positive feedback and increased participation, especially by the children

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		Use small groups from the choir to sing the choir items. This will create greater loyalty to the choir and to offer a variety in presentation	Groups should consist of both 'weak' and 'strong' members and the members alternated so as to give every chorister the opportunity to sing in a small group, thereby creating a sense of belonging	Local Congregations	Occasionally	Positive feedback from the congregation as well as increased attendance by and interest from the choir members
		Sing very familiar choir pieces as congregational pieces. This will provide a greater variety of songs for the congregation to sing and also increase the choir selections by them learning more songs		Local Congregations		More familiar choir items are printed on the Order of Worship for congregation to participate in; new pieces being sung by the choir; positive feedback from the congregation
	Engage in active evangelism	Tell children Jesus loves them and provide an opportunity for them to make a commitment to Christ during every Sunday School lesson/devotional time		Local Congregations		Positive feedback; interest in attending SS, increased financial giving & committing their lives to Christ
	Deepen the understanding and practice of stewardship – tithing and volunteerism	Teach tithing in SS giving simple reasons incl because of love for Jesus		Local Congregations		Increased financial giving
		Teach this discipline to general membership	The Treasure Principle: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving' or other material	Local Congregations		Increased financial giving & volunteers/volunteer hours
	Re-align pastoral charges to maximise possibility	Re-align multi-point Pastoral Charges which include churches that cross jurisdictions		Regional Councils		Positive feedback from and decreased travel time for affected ministers
	Shape/Sharpen the strategy to reverse the negative growth trend and propel the renewal agenda of the Synod	Encourage each member to befriend one person, preferably associated with their own congregation, who does not attend church		Local Congregations		Feedback on how relationship progressing; increase in SS &/or church attendance/communicant membership, ultimately
		Provide adult Church/Sunday School for all levels – out of conflict with regular worship time		Local Congregations		Observation and feedback

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	Foster spiritual and numerical growth at all levels	Print the series topics/texts in the Sunday bulletin prior to the start of each series to motivate/encourage members to attend Bible Study and to better prepare them for each study. Subsequently, print the topic/text for the upcoming week in the Sunday bulletin		Local Congregations		Increased attendance & participation at Bible Study
		Provide devotionals, lectionary-based if possible, free of charge/at cost to assist in the spiritual development of members	Devotionals & Common Lectionary	Local Congregations		Positive feedback
		Follow the Common Lectionary both in Sunday School and Church for reinforcement to increase the spiritual knowledge of the children	SS material based on Common Lectionary & Common Lectionary	Local Congregations		Increased participation at the second service –that could be Sunday School or church
		Introduce a three-minute 'Time with the Children' during the Sunday morning worship to increase their knowledge of the Bible and generate interest in attending church	Good story -tellers	Local Congregations		Increased attendance of the children, their participation and the length of time they remain in church during the service
		Encourage the less spiritually mature to each seek out a spiritual mentor with whom they will make regular contact to increase their knowledge of the Bible		Local Congregations		
	Strengthen the financial position of the whole church					