



# UCJCI UPDATE

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE UNITED CHURCH  
IN JAMAICA AND THE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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*Congregational  
Disciples of Christ  
Presbyterian*

## UCYAAM Conference 2018 Inspires!

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**OUR VISION:** "Touching  
Lives, Nurturing Disci-  
ples, Seeking Transfor-  
mation through Christ"

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### PRAY FOR:



- **Rev. Bevis Byfield** who is not well
- **Nyle Stewart** as he grapples with life-threatening illness
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well
- **PEACE** in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

The United Church Young Adults Action Movement (UCYAAM) held their annual Camp/Conference on August 16-19, 2018! The event, held at Madge Saunders Conference Centre under the theme: "Now is the Time: Dweet fi Christ... Dweet fi Life", certainly proved a nurturing ground for the over 60 young adults present.

Descriptions such as "educational" and "enriching" were some of the impressions of the Conference by the enthusiastic participants. They were challenged to take steps of faith in Ministry, business, marriage, and other critical aspects of their lives. Indeed,

the Camp's notable impact led one young man to accept Christ's salvation, while many other participants renewed their commitment to the Lord!

The Conference programme was tailored to both the Young Adults and their children who were present. It started on a high note and so it ended, with a schedule packed with open discussions on marriage, social media and the Christian identity along with other burning issues, the sharing of testimonies around a bonfire, bible study, organic backyard farming, instructions in floral arrangements, motivational and inspirational talks, a business development ses-

sion, beach frolic and evangelism! The excitement of the young people was also taken to the streets, where they shared with, testified to, and prayed for others, including young men in Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

Our Young Adults were also specifically challenged with a Call to Ministry by the **Reverend Henley Bernard**, which they eagerly received. They also engaged in keen and spirited discussions with **Rev. Norbert Stephens, General Secretary, UCJCI**, and **Rev. Gary Harriott, part-time Minister of Bryce United Church, Manchester, and Family Counsellor.**

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The new UCYAAM Executive, elected at the Conference on August 18, 2018 (Please see names on Page 2)

**CELEBRATIONS!**

**UCYAAM Conference 2018 Inspires!**



**70:**

**Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt**

**August 30**

**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

**August 31**

**Mrs. Karen Francis**

**September 2**

Sis. Alice Hamilton, member of Baillieston United Church being honoured and celebrated on her 100th birthday, August 26, 2018.

Rev. Rohan Kong, Minister, presents her with a plaque, as her children stand by her.



Rev. Rohan Kong presents a letter to Sis. Alice Hamilton from Queen Elizabeth II, UK Monarch



*(Continued from Page 1)*

Sunday's worship experience was likewise intense and rich, to the extent that tourists joined in out of curiosity, upon over-hearing their celebrations!

The UCYAAM Annual General Meeting was also held at the Conference, and there, the young people passed the baton of leadership to the following persons pictured on Pg. 1:

From left: **President-Elect, Suzette Edwards-Brissett** - Savanna-la-Mar United Church; **1st Vice-President-Elect, Carlene Andrade** - Hyde Park United Church; **2nd Vice President-Elect, Debesha Grant** - Seafield United Church; **Evangelism & Discipleship Coordinator-Elect, Nickaya Hamilton** - Portmore United Church; **Treasurer-Elect, Pastor Peter Neil** - Castleton United Church; **Secretary-Elect, Shelly-**



Young Adults and Youth Representative minister to football players on the beach



Best Dressed awardees: Ms. Donna Reid and Mr. Carlyle Nesbeth

**Ann Brown** - Greendale United Church; **Assistant Secretary/Treasurer-Elect, Ann-Marie Wright** - Savanna-la-Mar United Church; **Public Relations Officer-Elect, Kimberley Wint** - Greendale United Church; **Public Relations Officer 2-Elect, Paula Mullings** - Lowe River United Church; **Sports and Culture Coordinator-Elect, Jason Notice** - Castleton United Church; **Co-opted Assistant Sports & Culture Coordinator-Elect, Keisha Lawrence**, St. Paul's United Church.

This Executive Body has identified six (6) critical objectives for its two-year term in Office. These include: *Christian Nurture, Building Fellowship, Discipleship, Engagement with the mission of the Church and the issues of our society, and Evangelism.* They are indeed enthusiastic about their Mission, and we seek to honour them for willingly offering their time, energy, and insights to the cause of Christ.

We also say a heartfelt "Thank you" to the outgoing UCYAAM Executive. Their work has indeed helped to improve the life of the Auxiliary and the wider Church. God bless them richly for their sacrifice.

The new Team now takes the baton, and we are already thankful for their spirited approach!



Presentation by the Music Family

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Leading the Process of Church Growth

Do you sometimes feel stuck? Has your church growth levelled off or even started declining? Do you think you might be bumping up against growth barriers—those issues that we face at various points in Ministry that stop or reverse our church's growth?

**Pastor Nelson Searcy, Founder and Lead Pastor of The Journey Church in New York City** proposes a clearly defined system for dealing with church-growth barriers. He has found that Ministers generally deal with the same inevitable barriers. However, by becoming proactive in learning to identify and break through these barriers, we can keep our momentum and continue growing for God's glory!

*First and foremost, make sure you're always asking yourself the right question about growth.* The wrong question is: How do I get my church to grow? Your job is not to force growth. Church growth is ultimately not what we can do in our own power, but about God's power and His choice to work through us. Refuse to settle for anything less than God's vision for your church.

*The right question is:* What is keeping my church from growing? Healthy organisms grow. If you feel stagnation set in, barriers are inhibiting your growth. Implement plans to remove them.

After asking the right question, make two (2) affirmative decisions:

One: *"I believe God wants to grow my church."* Second Peter 3:9 tells us: "The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise to return as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." Your church is part of that redemptive plan. God wants it to grow.

Two: *"I want to see my church grow."* Does thinking about the next barrier

you're facing scare you into inactivity? Don't get discouraged. God never gives us a vision without supplying what we need to fulfil it.

*Now recognize and meet these growth barriers head-on:*

**SPACE:** This is the most fundamental barrier we all face—and the easiest to overlook. Church leaders tend to love full rooms, but the truth is that when a room reaches 70% of its seating capacity, it's full. Here is a four-step exercise to perform frequently as your church grows:

**Step 1:** Determine how many seats you have in your main worship space.

**Step 2:** Multiply that number by 0.7 (70%)

**Step 3:** Determine how many people you averaged in attendance over the last month

**Step 4:** Is the number in Step 3 greater than the number in Step 2? If the answer is Yes, you will need to open up more seats or find a larger location.

This is important, as people will stop inviting their friends because they perceive there is no more room. Some regular attendees will stop coming because it may be hard to find a seat.

Starting a second service may be a good way to circumvent this barrier, but starting this too early usually does more damage than good.

For example, let's say a church of 120 persons decides to start a second service. Inevitably, one service will have 100 people and the other one will have 20—it's impossible to equally divide two (2) services, although careful choice of service times does play a part. Over time, the 20 people will be disappointed with the small crowds and filter back into the larger service. The better choice then, for a church of 120 is to find a larger space and grow to

300 or 400 before starting a second service.

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT:** Growing churches are led by growing leaders. So, if you've stopped progressing personally, your church is not far behind.

Start by setting up a personal growth plan for yourself, focusing on Leadership Ability and Spiritual Maturity. An organization can never outpace the inherent qualities of its leader.

When a Minister/Pastor isn't growing, the sermons will become stale, the congregation's passion for ministry will wane, the staff will stop growing, and the church will stop growing.

An intentional reading plan is the single best avenue for personal growth. Set a reading goal that will stretch you—perhaps a book a month—and spend focused time in the areas of theology, church history and philosophy, in addition to reading your Bible.

Also, schedule time to attend key conferences and plan opportunities to seek out and meet mentors. Personal development is essential not only for your own health and balance, but also for the growth of your church.

As your Ministry progresses, you might find that you have to break through these barriers more than once, but the benefits are immeasurable.

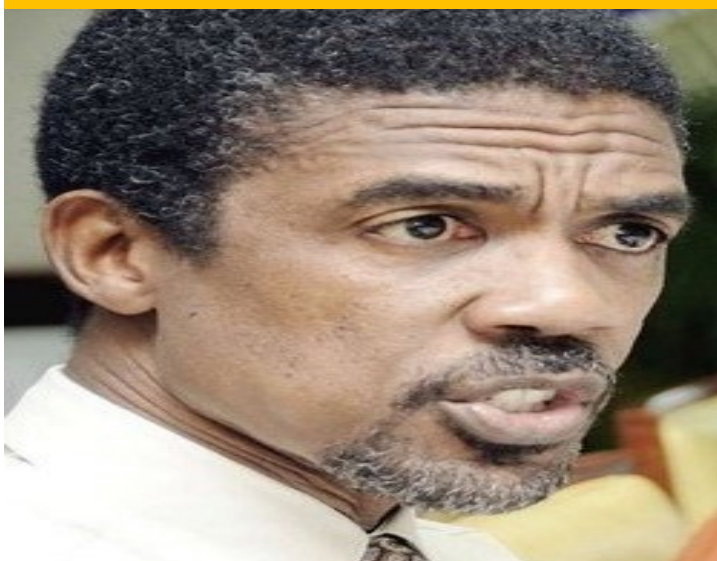
*(This article will continue in next week's UCJCI Update.)*

*Source: "5 Barriers to Church Growth"  
By Nelson Searcy*



## PROFILES OF NOMINEES FOR MODERATOR: 2019-2021

### Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans



An ordained Minister of the UCJCI since 1986

Served in **pastoral ministry at St. Andrew Scots Kirk United Church** from 1983 to 1993

Became **Principal of Knox College** in 1994, a post he held for almost twenty (20) years, then **Head of Knox Community College** until his retirement from the institution in 2018

Was awarded the **Diploma in Ministerial Studies** from the United Theological College of the West Indies and **Licentiate in Theology** from the University of the West Indies

Obtained the **Doctor of Ministry degree** from Columbia Theological Seminary and the **Diploma in Education, specializing in Guidance and Counselling** from Church Teachers College

Was awarded the **Bachelor of Science degree in Economics** from the University of the West Indies and a **Master of Commerce degree in Economics** from the University of Melbourne, Australia

Recently served as **Chairman of the Southern Regional Mission Council** and is a **Founding Member of the Inner-City Development Trust**

**Member of the National Advisory Council on Disabilities, Caribbean Coordinator of the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network of the World Council of Churches, Founding Member of the Cari-Folk Singers, and Member of the 3D Projects Management Committee**

Served as: **Chair of the Synod Committee on Disabilities, the former Education for Ministry & Mission and Strategic Planning Committees, Member of the Finance Committee and Member of the Board of the United Church Mission Enterprise**

Now serves as **Minister of St. Paul's United Church (Lockett Ave.)**

### Rev. Gary Harriott



Ordained Minister since 1991

Served in **pastoral ministry at the East End/Gun Bay Charge** in Grand Cayman, **Ebenezer and Webster Memorial United Churches**, and presently on a part-time basis at the **Bryce Charge of United Churches** in Manchester

Served as **Interim Minister for the Shortwood and Lincoln Kirk United Churches**, and the **Denbigh and Lowe River Charges**, and was **Director of Youth Ministries, Chaplaincy and Counselling, and Ministerial Formation** for the UCJCI

Holds **Diplomas in Ministerial Studies** from the Jamaica Bible College and the United Theological College of the West Indies, a **Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology** from the University of the West Indies, a **Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Psychology and Counselling** from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's College in Canada, in collaboration with the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), Jamaica

**General Secretary for the Jamaica Council of Churches** since September 2006 and **Secretary for the Jamaica Umbrella Group of Churches** from 2006-2018; **Former Coordinator of the Counselling programme at Webster Memorial's Eden Garden Social Services**, current **Host of the Family Counselling programme on RJR**, **Leader of Noonday Meditation on RJR**, and **Radio Jamaica's Spiritual Advisor**

**Lectured** on a part-time basis at the International University of the Caribbean, and has **positions on various Boards and Committees**. These include: **Director of The Violence Prevention Alliance**, **Director of LOVE FM**, **Director of the Ecumenical Loan Fund**, **Member of the National Leadership Prayer Breakfast Committee**, **Member of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical HIV & AIDS Initiative and Advocacy Reference Group**

**Member of the General Council of the IUC**