



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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Disciples of Christ
Presbyterian

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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
- **Pastors Roger and Michelle Stewart** and **Rev. Nicole Ashwood**, as they grieve the loss of their son and nephew, **Nyle Stewart**
- **Rev. Ranford Hewitt** who is not well
- **Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan's** brother, **Steve**, and daughter, **Mona**, who are recovering from surgery
- **Rev. Rohan Kong** whose mother, **Ms. Audrey Smith**, has passed on. Her thanksgiving service will be on October 13 at 2 p.m. at Pike United Church

Volume 4: Issue 10

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

TIM Programme Reaps Holistic Development!

On May 7, 2018, Ms. Mickesha Fearon of Lincoln Kirk United Church embarked on an overseas training mission that has enriched her with a fresh Christian perspective and invaluable holistic development.

This year's Training in Mission (TIM) programme, sponsored by the Council for Word Mission (our partners in Mission), began with two (2) months' exposure to Auckland, New Zealand, continuing with another three (3) months in Suva, Fiji, and will end with two (2) months of training in Seoul, South Korea.

The life-altering programme is dual in its aspects. A primary component of the experience has been the biblically-based courses offered to the participants. These have included: "Engaging Church", "Encountering God", "Interrogating God", "Decolonizing Scriptures", "Indigenizing Church", and others.

Her most impactful Modules have been, "Situating Mission" (Module 1) and Acclimatizing Mission (Module 3).

Module 1 brought into focus for her the harsh reality of the impact of slavery on her nation, Jamaica, birthing in her a new appreciation for her ancestors who



persevered despite the tremendous hardships experienced. Module 4 was based on Climate Change, an engaging and intriguing topic for her, which brought extended knowledge beyond the borders of Jamaica, and taught her that our carbon footprint affects not only humans, but all of God's creation.

Like the other Modules, the latter has empowered her to return to her community with what she has learnt, equipped with the knowledge and willingness to change her lifestyle for the benefit of the Climate and creation.

Indeed, it has been an enlightening and faith-building experience for Mickesha. She has found that the concept of the Mission of Christ is understood very differently in each geographical context that she has visited. Her understanding of this Mission has broadened beyond prayer and the usual practises of evangelism. Mission, for her, now includes speaking *with* the people in the margins, instead of speaking *to* them.

She now believes that, beyond quoting scriptures, we are called to give power to the powerless and voice to the voiceless, and to speak out against injustice, whenever it is apparent.

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AD CORNER



The Thanksgiving Service for **Mr. Nyle Stewart** will be held on **Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 12 p.m. at Greendale United Church.**

Please join the family in cheerful colours, as we celebrate Nyle's Homecoming.

A **Prayer Meeting** will be held at Greendale United Church on **September 27, 2018 at 6 p.m.** Persons desirous of offering tributes will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

For further details, please contact the Greendale United Church Office at 876-749-1737.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
MT. OLIVET UNITED CHURCH
 PRESENTS
OLE - TIME SINTING

Culture, music, Games, and food

No. 836
 On sale -side orders
 Manish water
 Ackee & Salt fish
 Blue Drawers
 Jerk chicken & pork
 And other baked products

Menu
 Carried Goat
 Escovitched Fish
 Fried Chicken
 Baked Chicken
 Stew pork
 Cost: \$600

No. 836
HEROES DAY
Monday
15 October
 2018
 From 10am-6pm

Venue:
@Knox Cobbla Campus

Additional Attractions:
 Cultural concert, and other surprises
 Adults: \$200 Children: \$100, Quadrille
 Proceeds in Aid of church Building fund



The United Church Men's Fellowship will be hosting their **Annual General Meeting** on **October 6, 2018** at **Ridgemount United Church, Manchester**, at 9:30 a.m. The cost is: \$1,500 (includes lunch). Registration and coffee fellowship begin at 8:15 a.m.

Men's Fellowship Sunday will be observed on **October 21, 2018** under the theme: "**Men Living Lives of Christian Witness and Service**".

TIM Programme Reaps Holistic Development!

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Even more than the contextual experience, the knowledge she has gained in her classes has influenced her perspective on Christianity. Prior to participating in the TIM programme, her view of Christianity was about being Christ-like and attaining spiritual growth only. While she recognizes that her spiritual growth is important, being a Christian now means thinking of the other person - "Ubuntu ngumntu ngabanye abantu" - meaning, "a person is a person through other people". She has also realized that the Mission is not only about us, but about creating an environment of peace, love, stability, and equality for the present generation and those to come.

While in New Zealand, Mickesha was placed at Solway Trust for exposure to Mission. This organization caters to intellectually-disabled persons, who have been ostracized by their families and communities.

During the TIM participants' visits to the Trust, they played games, karaoke, and puzzles with their new friends, who openly, and happily welcomed them. Despite their disabilities, they joined them in song, greeted them with warm hugs, and shared their stories with them.

Another placement was at SPLICE, which provides a variety of services to the community, chiefly homes for the homeless. Mickesha's greatest takeaway from these placements was a deeper understanding of

Mission - particularly that it can be done by the simple act of lovingly sharing space with someone who is vulnerable.

Even as she engages in the last leg of the programme, Mickesha has begun to think about the contribution that she will make to the UCJCI, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on the whole, upon her return home.

She has begun to put together a concept note for an Environmental Stewardship project that she hopes to launch - one which is in line with the Church's focus on Renewal and Transformation, Jamaica's Vision 2030, and the World Council of Churches' Advocacy on Food for Life Campaign.

By way of this project, Mickesha aims to interrelate Climate Change with Theology, clean up three (3) local communities, create a space for young people to express themselves through art and poems on scriptures related to the environment, bridge the gap between the youths of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, among other ventures.

While she misses her Jamaican food, and does not have the opportunity to speak with her family and friends as often as she normally would, she has gained family in her fellow TIM participants, and a tremendous amount of exposure to new cultures and perspectives, deepening her understanding of life and humanity - a good starting place for a life of mission!

Western Regional Mission Council
 presents
MINISTERS IN CONCERT

\$500

September 29, 2018
St. Paul's United Church
4:00 PM
Come and be blessed
Children 12 yrs and under pay \$200 at the gate

Sponsored by: **PARADISE ORCHARDS Events Center**
 Perth Town, Trelawny | 876-430-5710
 For all your: Weddings, Receptions, Formal Functions, etc.

Send comments and news about your congregation to: ucjiupdate@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Generosity: An Indispensable Quality of a Leader

“Your candle loses nothing when it lights another.” John C. Maxwell

Nothing speaks to others more loudly or serves them better than generosity from a leader. True generosity isn't an occasional event. It comes from the heart and permeates every aspect of a leader's life, touching his or her time, money, talents, and possessions. Effective leaders, the kind who people want to follow, don't gather things just for themselves; they also do so in order to give to others.

Here's how to cultivate the quality of generosity in your life:

Be grateful for whatever you have. It's hard for a person to be generous when he or she is not satisfied with what they have. Generosity rises out of contentment, and that doesn't come with acquiring more. If you're not content with little, you won't be content with a lot. And if you're not generous with little, you won't suddenly change if you become wealthy.

Put people first. The measure of a leader is not the number of people who serve him or her, but the number of people he or she serves. Generosity requires putting others first. If you can do that, giving becomes much easier.

Don't allow the desire for possessions to control you. More and more people are becoming enslaved to the desire to acquire. If you want to be in charge of your heart, don't allow possessions to take charge of you.

Regard money as a re-

source. Someone once said that when it comes to money, you can't win. If you focus on making it, you're materialistic. If you try to, but don't make any, you're a loser. If you make a lot and keep it, you're a miser. If you make it and spend it, you're a spendthrift. If you don't care about making any, you're unambitious. If you make a lot and still have it when you die, you're a fool—for trying to take it with you. The only way to really win with money is to hold it loosely and be generous with it to accomplish things of value.

Develop the habit of giving. The only way to maintain an attitude of generosity is to make it your habit to give—your time, attention, money, and resources. Richard Foster advises, “Just the very act of letting go of money, or some other treasure, does something within us. It destroys the demon greed.” If you're enslaved by greed, you cannot lead.

Are you a generous leader? Do you continually look for ways to add value to others? Are you giving money to something greater than yourself?

To whom are you giving your time? Are you pouring your life into others? Are you helping those who cannot help you or give anything in return? If you aren't giving in the small areas of your life, you're probably not as generous a leader as you could be.

To improve your generosity, do the following:

Give something away. Find out what kind of hold your possessions have on you. Take something you truly value, think of someone you care about who could benefit from it, and give it to them.

Put your money to work. If you know someone with the vision to do something really great—something that will positively impact the lives of others—provide resources for him or her to accomplish it. Put your money to work for something that will outlive you.

Find someone to mentor. Once you reach a certain level in your leadership, the most valuable thing you have to give is yourself. Find someone to pour your life into. Then give him or her time and resources to become a better leader.

In the words of Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, “All that is not given is lost.” What are you currently losing by holding on to it? Giving is the highest level of living.

Source: “The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader” by John C. Maxwell



Rev. Nevroy Francis, Minister of Portmore United Church, being pinned by former Girls' Brigade President, Ms. Juanita Bernard, as he was commissioned as Chaplain for the 5th St. Catherine Company (Portmore United Church) on Sunday, September 16, 2018

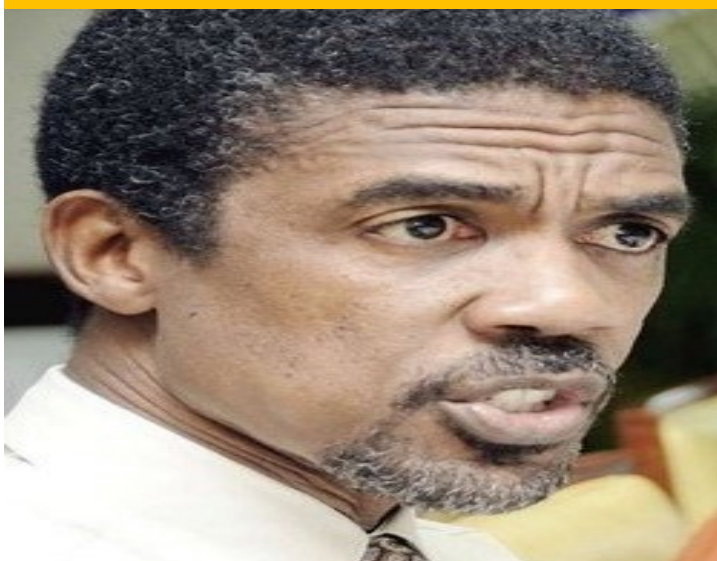
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PROFILES OF NOMINEES FOR MODERATOR: 2019-2021

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