



UCJCI UPDATE

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN
JAMAICA AND THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

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*Congregational
Disciples of Christ and
Presbyterian*

MINISTRY TO OUR YOUTH

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OUR VISION: "Touching
lives, Nurturing Disciples,
Seeking Transformation
through Christ."

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PRAY...



For:

**Rev Astor Carlyle
who lost his uncle**

**Rev. Bevis Byfield
who is not well**

**Rev. Dr. Clinton
Smith**

The Youth are our future". The saying is a truism, simply because it does in itself underscore a vital truth. It is particularly so in terms of the future growth of our Church.

That is why the **40th Synod was in this context one of celebration.** The Church celebrated growth in numbers of our youth programmes particularly that of our Camp Ministry.

Not satisfied to rest on one's laurels as it were however, General Secretary, Rev. Norbert Stephens, laid out ongoing plans aimed at ensuring that the growth initiated, would not only be sustained, but further developed. In this context, plans for the development of the Youth Fellowship Ministry were outlined.

They included:

Celebration of the establishment of a **Synodical Youth Ministry Council.** This Council said the General Secretary will seek to ensure the six

goals of youth ministry (ages 13-25) are achieved being: **Christian Nurture, Growth, Involvement, Personal and Leadership development, Identity, and Retention .**

The Council, he said, would comprise of **youth representatives, programme secretaries, uniformed groups, ministers, youth leaders and specialists** drawn from United Church, with major responsibilities for **Visioning , Resourcing, and Monitoring Evaluation .**

CHURCH SCHOOL MATERIAL

The nurture of our youth in the Word, has always been a major concern for the United Church. The struggle to identify appropriate Church School Material for use in this context, has therefore been an ongoing one.

In late **2015,** a consultation was held with the three regions in Jamaica to consider available options for Church School Material.

'Two options were considered: **Spill the Beans'** and the **'Caribbean Bible Lesson Series'**. It was determined that Church School Teachers who are accustomed to following the Lectionary Readings and liturgical seasons were far more appreciative of the **Spill the Beans** material because it had a strong liturgical outlay. It was however, considered by some as not user-friendly, un-relatable and wordy.

The **Caribbean Bible Lessons** on the other hand, were thought to have a strong Caribbean flavour, and to be "extremely user friendly," breaking down as it did, the day's lesson into segments that are easily understood and which require little preparation. It was also noted that there are both **user and teacher manuals,** enabling bot teacher and student to interact with the lesson. Based on the responses across the Regions, it has been recommended by CMC that the **"Caribbean Bible Lesson Series"** be designated the approved Church School material for the Jamaican regions.



70:

Rev. Donovan McPherson
Rev. Anthony Wallace

August 20.

ORDAINED & LAY MINISTRY CHAT

Persons interested in the *Ordained or Lay Pastoral Ministry of the United Church* are invited to a meeting on **Saturday, September 16, 2017, at Ridgemount United Church, Mandeville, at 9:30 a.m.**

Interested persons are being invited to indicate their interest by sending an email to:

REV. HENLEY BERNARD,
at:
minform.ucjci@gmail.com

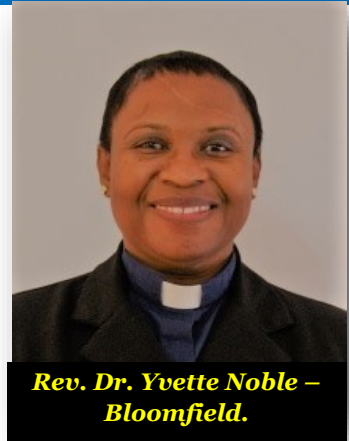
REGIONAL MISSION COUNCILS LAUDED FOR SUCCESSSES!

As part of its thrust to enhance the functions of the **Renewal and Transformation Programme of the Church**, a key strategy towards giving due focus to the local congregation was the establishment of Regional Mission Councils. Four were formed; -in Jamaica, are the Western Regional Mission Council, currently headed by **Mrs. Mauleen Henry**, the Southern Regional Mission Council, by **Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**, the North Eastern Regional Mission Council, headed by **Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels**, and the Cayman Island Regional Mission Council, by, **Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield**.

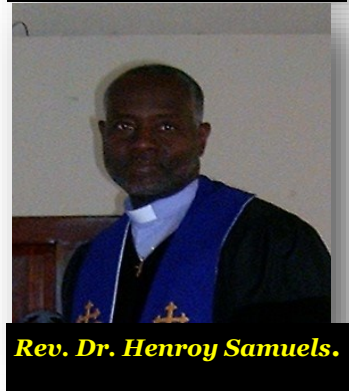
In his report to the **40th Synod**, General Secretary, Rev. Stephens spoke of an occasion to celebrate the work of the RMCs which has seen them resourcing the congregation's locus of ministry and mission.

There can be little doubt", he said, "that significant work has been done to have the Regions supporting and **driving the work of the congregations**. We celebrate the strengthening of the **Elder's Training Programme in Cayman**, the **Children's and Youth Ministry initiatives** in the **Southern Region**, the **Children's and Lay Ministry** in the **Western Region**, the **Eldership Training programme** and the drive to **congregate churches under 30 members** in the **Northern Region** and **the contextual approach to becoming a missional church in all the Regions**.

While noting the need for further work to be done in improving accurate data capture, the General Secretary said that there was much in the work of **all Regional Mission Councils to be applauded, as they continue to push forwards with the Renewal and Transformation Agenda with dedication and commitment to the cause of Christ!**



**Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble –
Bloomfield.**



Rev. Dr. Henroy Samuels.



Mrs. Mauleen Henry



Mrs. Rose Wedderburn