



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

September 30, 2020

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Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Popular Report



All Charges were well represented at the Council meeting held at the Webster Memorial Church Hall on Saturday, September 26, 2020.

CELEBRATIONS

Council expressed its gratitude to Ms. Angela Martins who served as Chair of Council from January 2015 to January 2020. Several Members offered their words of appreciation and thanks to her and in response Ms. Martins indicated her deep appreciation for the privilege for having served the Council and wished the Council well.



Council received a generous donation from Mr. Handel Whittaker and his family.

REGRETS

Condolences were expressed to Mrs. Renée Barnes and Mrs. Lynette Meghoo on the passing of their Aunt and Sister Mary Adina Mangaroo.

SYNOD

Synod 2021

The initial meeting of the 2021 Synod Planning Team was held on September 22, 2020 and the recommendation is for the 42nd Synod to be virtual. The various working teams are being identified and Council will be kept abreast of the process.

Lay Training Institute

In direct response to the changes and challenges of being the church in these times, a series of virtual training programmes have been designed for the last quarter of 2020 and the promotion will begin shortly.

Topics will include: 'COVID19 and the End Times, Navigating the Digital Space, Developing and Assessing Content for Social Media, Live streaming Worship Services, Pastoral Care in a Time of Physical Distancing, and Mental Health Concerns- Coping with Isolation and Job Loss. The regular Lay Training Programme will re-commence in January 2021.

CWM Mission Grants

The initial grant CIRM received from the CWM of KYD 3407.59, will be used to acquire technological equipment. To this end, the Council's Technology Team chaired by Mr. Christopher Allen has been formed. For the second CWM grant, whereas in the Jamaican Councils the funds will be used to acquire tablets for students, the proposal is that in the CIRMC, the amount should be retained for Counselling Sessions at the Bethesda Counselling Centre. These sessions will be for persons who have been affected in any way by COVID19. This retainer will allow BCC to offer counselling gratis to these persons.

CIRM

East End / Gun Bay Charge

The Charge is now vacant, and the Rev. Rohan Forrester is the Interim Minister and Pastor Ormond Williams will continue as the Lay Pastor in the Charge.

Search Committee

Council appointed Mrs. Debbie Humphreys (Chair), Mr. Edmund King, Mr. Clive Hinds, Ms. Camile Watt and Mr. Handel Whittaker as members of the Search Committee to nominate the candidates for the new Council Executive to be elected at the January 2021 Council meeting.

Council Task Force

The CIRMC has established a taskforce to explore the new opportunities and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic on Congregational life. This situation has provided the occasion to revisit the deferred conversation about how the CIRMC functions. Rev. Donovan Myers and Dr. E Elizabeth McLaughlin are the Co- Chairs of the Task Force and the other members are Pastor Ormond Williams, Mrs. Sharon Thomas and Mr. Christopher Allen. The Chair and RDGS are ex-officio members of the Task Force. We continue to pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit as we discern the way forward.

Cayman Prep and High School

The school has re-opened smoothly and inside classroom learning has resumed. The student and staff complements have not been adversely affected by COVID19.

Council approved the appointment of the **Rev. L. Christopher Mason as the Chaplain** for the High School and as a Governor on the Board. Appreciation was extended to the Rev. Donovan Myers who served as the Chaplain for CPHS for over six years.

The 2020 external examination results were excellent. Please see the highlights below:

Year 11

66 Year 11 students gained 169 A* passes, 369 A*-A passes out of a total of 640 entries with 98.5% of students gaining 5 or more A*-C passes.
69.7% of our Year 11 students earned 10 or more A*-C passes and 93.9% of our Year 11 students earned 7 or more A*-C passes.
At IGCSE/GCSE 88.3% of all passes were A*-B and 99.2% were A*-C.

Year 12

64 Year 12 students celebrated outstanding success at AS level with a 100% pass rate with 95.1% of all passes in the A – C band with an outstanding 71.2% at A – B.

Year 13

42 Year 13 students celebrated outstanding success at A2 level with a 100% pass rate with 98.4% of all passes in the A–C band with an outstanding 88.3% at A*–B.

Bethesda Counselling Centre

During the months of January to June there were 291 client sessions with a total of 357 contact hours. The referrals were diversified with the continued increase of referrals from friend and families and past clients. Council commended Ms. April Lewis for the tremendous amount of work accomplished at the BCC during this period

Children and Youth

As of March 25, 2020 all regularly scheduled children and youth ministry activities in our congregations were cancelled due to the locally introduced Covid-19 curfew and subsequent restrictions on public gatherings and social distancing.

Our Youth Ministers/Workers promptly adapted to the challenge posed by the restrictions and shifted their ministry from face-to-face interaction to regular online presence utilizing various platforms such as Zoom, YouTube and WhatsApp. The children and youth were also regularly participating in the Sunday online worship services.

Following the lifting of lockdown and the easing of public gathering and social distancing restrictions in late August 2020, our congregations began introducing a gradual resumption of their regular, face-to-face Sunday School, youth group and other activities based on their local situation.

Our Youth Ministers participated in a much deserved Retreat held on August 18-20, 2020 at the Morrith’s Resort which they greatly appreciated.

Women’s Fellowship



Members of all Women’s Fellowship Branches are invited to participate in a virtual meeting which will be held at The Council Office at Prospect from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, October 17,2020.

The United Church Women’s Fellowship has organized ‘A Day of Prayer and Fasting’ on Sunday, October 18, 2020, with special focus on the COVID- 19 pandemic, including the effect on the lives of our families in the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

In the Cayman Islands Regional Mission, on Sunday October 18, 2020, for one (1) hour prior to our Sunday morning worship services persons are inviting all persons to join in the special hour of prayer in our various Congregations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 4. (Sunday) 18th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday**

**October 3. (Saturday)
Elmslie Men’s Fellowship Breakfast – 7:30am - Elmslie
Girls’ Brigade Leaders’ Retreat/training – 9:00am –
Council office**



on Radio Cayman 89.9
every Sunday at 7:45 am

October 4, 2020
Rev. L. Christopher Mason

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: rdgs@ciucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky