

Wednesday February 10, 2021



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VOLUME 7  
ISSUE 6

UCJCI  
DISTRIBUTES  
TABLETS



PREPARE  
TO SERVE

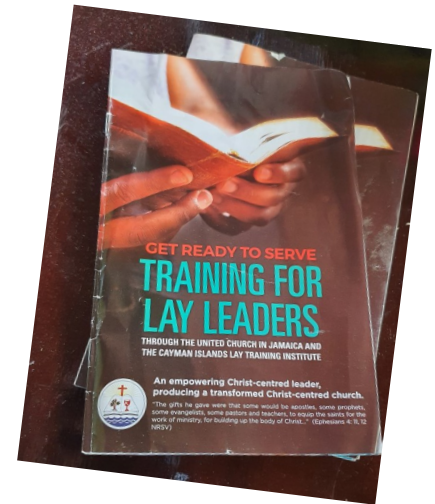
Training for Lay Leaders Resumes

A NEW WAY TO  
LOVE - UCYPF  
OUTREACH PROJECT

Our Vision: Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ



# READY, SET, GO... GET READY TO SERVE - *Training of Lay Leaders Resumes*



**R**e-branded UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course, training for lay leaders in the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands resumes on Saturday February 13, 2021 and continues on 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month for the next 6 months.

In 2020, UCJCI launched a re-vamped programme to prepare laity (members of the church who are not part of the clergy) for the role of leadership through a systematic approach to training in areas considered pertinent to the exercise of ministry in the church and community.

However, with the onset of COVID 19, the training had to be postponed in February 2020, shortly after it started. The programme resumes with online delivery of training using Zoom. This will allow persons to participate in the training from their homes. The added advantage is that the process of standardized delivery will be advanced with the same training being delivered at one time regardless of the location of the participant.

This approach to training, not only comports with health and safety protocols which are operative in Jamaica, it also enables the United Church to utilize technology to advance the work of preparing persons to lead. In so do-

ing, the frontiers of training are extended and the tremendous capabilities fashioned by human beings imprinted with the image of a creative God are harnessed for the glory of God.

The International University of the Caribbean will provide certification for the course. The training begins with the topics—**Spiritual Gifts and the Discernment of Call, The Role of Lay Leaders in Congregational Life and the Spirituality of a Leader.** The lecturers are—Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle, UCJCI Warden and Lecturer at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), Rev. Norman Francis, UCJCI Associate Warden and Lecturer at UTCWI and Rev. Nigel Pusey, Minister of the Boulevard/Pretoria Road charge.

Persons who began training last year are invited to return for the full programme and others who wish to begin training are also welcome. Regional Mission Councils will guide interested persons through the registration process. (Cont'd on page...)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Get Ready to Serve	2
News from Congregations	3
Day of Fellowship 2021	4
UCJCI Distributes Tablets for Children	6
Prayer & Worship Points	8
Upcoming Events	10

# NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

## Mannings Hill Secures Help for Children's Education

'Aunty Happy', Karen Smith, elder at Mannings Hill United Church had a vision. It was for children to have the tools they needed to access education online. The mission was to engage persons locally and overseas to make it happen. On Sunday January 31, the vision was achieved for twenty children of the Mannings Hill Youth and Sunday School departments were presented with tablets because of the kindness of donors



*(Cont'd from page 2)*

Elders and persons preparing for that role, leaders of special ministries such as children and youth and persons offering themselves to serve as Lay Pastors are the primary target groups for the Lay Leaders Certificate Course. However, any member of the church who desires to serve in the church and community is welcome to register to participate.

The Course is offered in three modules, the first module begins on Saturday February 13 and involves 15 subject areas. All persons who will serve in UCJCI as elders going forward are required to complete this module. Those who will serve in special ministries are required to do Modules 1 and 2 as the second module provides deeper engagement with special areas of ministry. Persons offering to be Lay Pastors are required to complete Modules 1, 2 and 3, the latter focusing on responsibilities of a Lay Pastor as well as areas of training which will prepare this special category of leaders for their role.

Do you have questions? Please contact your Regional Mission Council which will provide further information on the programme.

**Ready, Set, Go. It's time to prepare to serve.**

Karen Francis  
Coordinator, Training of Lay Leaders



Left: Elder Jennifer Martin and Chair of Council presents one of the tablets to a young beneficiary.

Below: Rev. Ranford Hewitt prays God's blessings over the instruments accompanied by elders Marva Taylor and Jennifer Martin



Members of the Youth and Children's Department at Mannings Hill United Church.



# DAY OF FELLOWSHIP 2021



On Ash Wednesday 2021, members and adherents of The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands will gather virtually for Day of Fellowship worship events which mark the beginning of Lent, the period leading up to Easter.

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL**

**ASH WEDNESDAY CONVENTION**

*Theme: Rooted, Resilient:  
Responding in HOPE*

**A PEOPLE OF HOPE: YOUTH ARISE**

Join our children and youth as they lead us in worship. Listen to inspiring stories of resilience from our young people.

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 | 10AM  
venue: Ridgemount United Church



STREAMED ON  
@Ridgemount United Church

It has been the tradition in UCJCI to meet in regions for a day of worship, teaching, fellowship and witness. In the past, face to face gatherings engendered spirit-filled and enriching experiences. This year face to face interaction will be limited to the locations from which worship will be live-streamed.

North Eastern Regional Mission Council



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
*Day of Fellowship*



THEME:

**Rooted &  
Resilient;  
Responding in  
H.O.P.E**

**Portmore United Church**  
**February 17, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Join us on Youtube/Facebook.  
Prepare your communion elements at home.



# DAY OF FELLOWSHIP 2021



Western Regional Mission Council

Wednesday

FEB 17

9AM-12 noon

\*STREAMED LIVE FROM  
St. Paul's United Church  
(Montego Bay)

Via  
WRMC YouTube Channel

## ASH WEDNESDAY

### VIRTUAL Day of Fellowship

*A day of Fasting - Worship & Prayer*

**Preacher: Rev. Glenroy Clarke**  
(Minister, Lucea United Charge)

Theme: Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE

\*Sacrament of Holy Communion  
will be observed

\*Liturgical Colour:  
Purple/Lavender



**On Ash  
Wednesday  
February  
17, 2021  
distance  
will not  
deter  
worship.**

With strident conviction of faith in God and a determination to be faithful to God's call to the church to make disciples, UCJCI declares we are:

**Rooted, Resilient:  
Responding in H.O.P.E.  
(Hope, Opportunities,  
Peace and Evangelism.)**

This is the theme of the 42nd Synod of UCJCI which will be launched on Ash Wednesday. Please note the plans for your region and

**JOIN IN THE WORSHIP.**



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 2021  
7:30 – 9:45 am

Location: Savannah United Church

**Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE**  
(Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)



# UCJCI DONATES 155 TABLETS FOR EDUCATION

155 tablets have been donated by the United Church in partnership with Council for World Mission (CWM) to children across Jamaica at the primary school level.

With the onset of COVID 19, CWM offered funds, through its COVID-19 Mission Initiative Fund, to assist churches and partners in the mission initiatives they are taking in response to the Covid-19 pandemic as a means of offering solidarity, witness and care. Applications were invited for work in community which would address needs of vulnerable groups which could include the recently unemployed, victims of domestic violence, health care workers, children in education and other areas deemed fit.

UCJCI has targeted beneficiaries among the 65% of pre-primary, and 76 % of primary school age children who are accessing learning by mobile phones, noting that approximately 30,000 students remain

unreached by online learning. These results have grave current and future implications for children, youth and their families, especially those in poor and underserved communities, and for whom education represents their bridge to improved socio-economic conditions-breaking the cycle of poverty and disenfranchisement.

In response to the call by the government of Jamaica for civil society to participate in the partnership around education in this time of crisis and most importantly, the call to mission, UCJCI's project to provide tablets for pre-primary and primary level students addresses the deficit among this age group who will receive the lesser portion of the tablets to be distributed by the government of Jamaica.

It is noteworthy, that in addition to these 155 tablets, congregations and auxiliaries of UCJCI have also responded with donations of tablets. Through UCJCI bi-lateral partnerships wards at UCJCI Children's Homes have also benefitted..

## Children from Eleven Schools benefit in the West



Rev. Norbert Stephens (General Secretary UCJCI), Linishke Grant (Grade 4 student, Mt. Hermon Primary & Infant Schools), Mrs. Cameron Waite (Principal)



Mrs. Onex Bowen, Vice-Chair for Missions, WRMC ,gave the vote of thanks. Rev. Stephens presents a tablet to Ms. Sophia Bucknor, Principal Brownsville Primary



"I am pleased to express gratitude on behalf of all the students who have received tablets today. Thank you wholeheartedly.

They will be of great benefit to us. I assure you that we will take care of them." These were the words of Naturelle Forrest who responded on behalf of the children who were recipients of the tablets in the Western Region. 37 tablets were donated to students of schools in Goodwill, Brownsville, Mt. Zion, Pell River, Cacoon, Pondsides, Mt. Hermon and Blauwerie., Friendship, First Hill and Discovery Bay at the primary, infant, all-age and preparatory school levels.

"Education is dynamic and with the changes, we must face ways to adjust and adapt. Thank you for making our jobs as principals easier and for making a little boy or girl happy."  
—Mrs. Onex Bowen, Principal of Mount Zion Infant and Primary schools.

Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)



## Children from Twenty-four Schools benefit in the South



Ms. S. Gayle of Morgan's Pass Primary receives a tablet from Rev. J. Oliver Daley, Chairman of SRMC while Mrs. Rose Wedderburn Regional Deputy General Secretary looks on.



Four Paths United Church was the location for presentation of 48 tablets in the South. Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Cowans presents to young Gary Coleman as Ms Shelly-Ann Johnson, Principal Pleasant Valley Primary looks on.



Front Row: Mrs. Angella Scully – Vice Principal, Bryce Primary School. Students- ( Girl) Tshani Trought- New Green Primary Grade 5, (Boy) - Aljay Pitter- Ebenezer Primary Grade 3, Mrs Nicola Mattis Allen – Teacher, Ebenezer Primary (Blue Skirt) Middle Row- Mrs. Marcia Lennon- Acting Principal, New Green Primary Mother of Aljay Pitter Back Row- Rev Anthony Chung- Minister, Ridgemount United, Ms Blossom Foster- Vice Chair, Mission- SRMC, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, Moderator, Rev. J. Oliver Daley, Chairman of SRMC, Mrs Rose Wedderburn, RDGS- SRMC, Mrs. Janet McConnell, Human & Mission Resources Manager, Synod

## Children from 15 Schools benefit in the North East



Port Maria United Church and Webster Memorial United Church were the settings for the presentations of tablets in the North Eastern region. Sixty-two tablets were distributed to children from schools in Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Mary. Here (left) a young student from Jeffrey Town Primary in St. Mary receives a tablet from UCJCI Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans. On the right: Chairman of Council, Mrs. Jennifer Martin (centre) stands with students and a teacher from Chetolah Mel Nathan Education Centre.



**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Mrs. Anna-Kay Henry McGregor**



**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Rev. Gerald Emmanuel**



**FEBRUARY 17**  
**Rev. Carlington Douglas**



# PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY

*Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.- 1 Chronicles 16:11*

## LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER FOR:

- ◆ Persons in Cayman and Jamaica whose mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health have been impacted by COVID-19
- ◆ Good judgement and decision-making in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ◆ All UCJCI and other ministers of the church as they serve and practice self-care
- ◆ Access and delivery of education and the challenges faced by children, parents, teachers and administrators in Jamaica
- ◆ Rev. Donovan Myers' and family
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke, who has been hospitalized.
- ◆ Health care workers and members of the security forces in Jamaica and Cayman.
- ◆ Persons who are unemployed.

UCJCI'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

**Individual Prayer:**  
**Every Wednesday**  
**from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.**

(2 Timothy 1:7)

**SUNDAYS WITH CWM**  
*Journeying together* **2021**

*Life-Flourishing  
Communities*

Devotional available from the CWM website

<https://www.cwmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Sundays-with-CWM-2021.pdf>

## HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY THEMES

The liturgies developed by the House Worship Team reflect the Synodical worship themes.

**THEME FOR FEBRUARY:**  
**Rooting our Emotional Health in  
God brings us Hope**

**FEBRUARY 14**

(Transfiguration Sunday)

**We too are beloved by God and can be used  
by God to be a blessing to others.**

**FEBRUARY 21**

**Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me  
your paths.**

Liturgies are available from the Minister/Lay Pastor,  
Communication Officer of your congregation and  
from your Regional Mission Council Office.

*Send comments and news about your con-*

# Upcoming Events



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

HUMAN AND MISSION RESOURCES UNIT presents a Workshop on

**THE CONGREGATION AS EMPLOYER: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LAW**

via Zoom

**FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Who should attend:

**Ministers and Congregational Secretaries or Administrators**

of congregations where staff members are employed by congregation/congregational board.

To register:

Email Ms. Monique Lofters [programmeassistant-hmr@ucjci.com](mailto:programmeassistant-hmr@ucjci.com) by **January 31, 2021**, to book your space.

For additional information, contact:

Mrs. Janet McConnell  
Human and Mission Resource Manager  
[janel-mcconnell@ucjci.com](mailto:janel-mcconnell@ucjci.com)  
or 876-926 6059 or 876 509 4669



North Eastern Regional Mission Council Youth Fellowship

**OUTREACH PROJECT**

For details call or WhatsApp 876 274 1319



•All proceeds go towards a Home or Individuals within the United Church

•Donations may include Food Items, Clothing, footwear, toiletries etc

Collection period ends Feb 27, 2020

FOR EVENT DETAILS CALL OR WHATSAPP 876-276-1310 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Spread love with #lovealwayswins



**A VIRTUAL MEMORIAL EXPERIENCE**

Is planned to celebrate the life of Rev. James Davis on February 18, 2021, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The link will be provided via UCJCI Communication channels soon.

Follow us on



@ucjci



## UCJCI VALUE S

“In seeking to live out our calling, we particularly value and are committed to:

### Spiritual Disciplines

(Prayer, Fasting, Worship, etc.):

Personally and corporately  
 communing with the Triune God –  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 attributing honour and seeking  
 after God’s heart, to be empowered  
 for ministry  
 (Psalm 95:1-6, Matthew 6:5-18).

**IN THE COMING  
 ISSUE...**

**BEYOND THE PULPIT**  
***Fasting in a Feasting  
 Culture***

**Special Ash Wednesday  
 Issue**

## THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian*

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

Tel: 876 926-8734

E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

Moderator

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans**

General Secretary

**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council  
**Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield**

Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
 (Interim)  
**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**

**SYNODICAL THEME:**

**“Renewal and Transformation: Discipleship for Life”**