



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

February 24, 2021

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LAUNCH OF UCJCI 42ND SYNOD

Plan to Participate

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR CHURCHES

THE CALL TO PRAYER

UCJCI Responds to COVID 19 Challenges

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 8

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

MODERATOR LAUNCHES THE 42ND UCJCI SYNOD



The whole church is called to pray for revelation and direction.

The 42nd Synod of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was officially launched at Ash Wednesday Day of Fellowship worship events last week.

In a video presentation shared in all regions, the plans for the upcoming Synod were outlined by the UCJCI Moderator, Rt. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans.

"This Synod has found us in uncharted waters. We are holding a synod amidst a pandemic, requiring us to abide by strict protocols of limitations on the number of persons gathering in a space, physical distancing, the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and minimum physical contact."

He continued; "The theme for this synod is Rooted, Resilient, Responding in HOPE, and in this regard HOPE means Health, Opportunity, Peace and Evangelism. The call is to be Rooted, Resilient, and Responding by offering HOPE through health, opportunities, peace and evangelism."

The Moderator noted that the Opening Service and business sessions will be held at Webster Memorial in Jamaica with far less persons than usual because of the strict guidelines which must be followed. "Our delegates from the congregations in the Cayman Islands will not be able to come (to Jamaica) because of travel restrictions. However, we will interact via Zoom and a blend of streaming will be engaged. This will allow for participation across the wider church. So the synod for the most part will be virtual."

The Moderator concluded: The whole church, every congregation, every auxiliary, every member is called upon to pray for our upcoming synod. Let us be in prayer for revelation and direction, to pursue the next synodical period, **Rooted, Resilient and Responding in Hope.**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

42ND SYNOD

APRIL 11-18, 2021

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

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SYNOD 2021

Schedule of Activities

Plan to Participate

PRE-SYNOD ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Pre-Synod Consultation
- ◆ Pre-Synod Children's Rally
- ◆ Thematic Expressions (Art, craft etc.)

More information will be available soon



OPENING SERVICE

Sunday April 11

4:00 p.m.—Webster Memorial in Kingston, Jamaica

- ◆ Constitution of Synod
- ◆ Induction of Moderator—Rev. Gary Harriott
- ◆ Introduction of the theme for the 42nd Synod



BIBLE STUDIES

Monday to Thursday

6:00 a.m. each morning

Bible Studies will explore the theme components

Monday - Health

Tuesday - Opportunities

Wednesday— Peace

Thursday April 1—Evangelism



BUSINESS SESSIONS

Monday to Thursday

10 a.m. each day

- ◆ Reports from committees, commissions and regions
- ◆ Interaction with UCJCI Institutions
 - ◆ Youth Synod report
 - ◆ Workshop on Evangelism
 - ◆ Group/regional work
 - ◆ Resolutions.



EVENING EVENTS

Monday April 12

5 p.m. Celebration of Life and Witness

Tuesday April 13

6 p.m. Meet the Moderator

Wednesday April 14

5 p.m. Public Lecture on Pastoral Care in recognition of Rev. Raymond Coke

Sunday April 18

4 p.m.—Closing Service

- ◆ Highlights of the week
- ◆ Theme expressions
- ◆ Moderator's Challenge

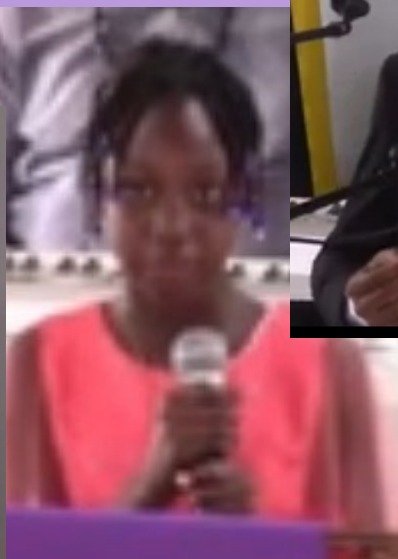




Newly elected Youth Leaders National Executive (left) and Council Executive of Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (right) were installed. (Below) A view of the congregation gathered for worship at Savannah United Church.



Youth in the Southern Regional Mission Council were preachers of the Word— (right) Joel McConnell, Andrews United Church (below) Brisen Thompson, Lowe River United, and Shamari Ricketts, Blue Mountain United Church



SCENES FROM

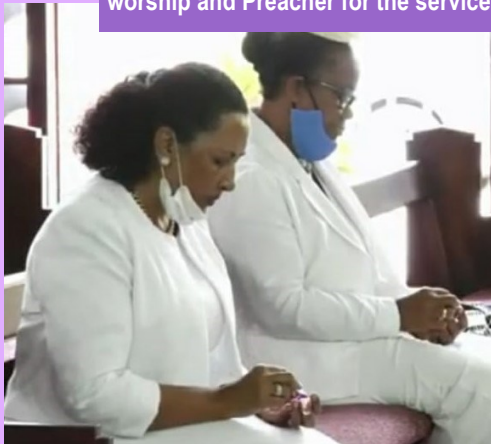
DAY OF FELLOWSHIP 2021



(Left) In North Eastern Regional Mission Council, a highlight of the service was the induction of Mrs. Jennifer Martin as Chairman of NERMC.



In Western Regional Mission Council the introduction of the launch of Synod by Regional Deputy General Secretary, Mrs. Maureen Henry. (Below) Lay Pastors worship, a section of the congregation is seen, dancers from Lucea United share in worship and Preacher for the service, Rev. Glenroy Clarke licences Lay Pastor, Merton Jones.



THE SEASON OF LENT



THEMES FOR HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

THEME FOR FEBRUARY:

**Rooting our Emotional Health in God
brings us Hope**

FEBRUARY 28

How do we keep our emotions in check when we face conflicts especially those that jeopardize our emotional wellbeing?

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 □ Romans 4:13-25 □ Mark 8:31-38 □ Psalm 22:22-30

THEME FOR MARCH:

**Rooting our Spiritual Health in God
brings us Hope**

MARCH 7

How faithful are we to God's commandments?

Exodus 20:1-17 □ 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 □ John 2:13-22 □ Psalm 19

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

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

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

- ◆ In thanksgiving for God's work of healing for Rev. Donovan Myers and for continued mercies.
- ◆ Preparation for the 42nd Synod of the United Church
- ◆ Leadership in church and community in Cayman and Jamaica in the service of people
- ◆ Healing and health for members of the United Church and the wider community who have contracted COVID 19
- ◆ Seniors who are not coping well with the challenges of isolation and reduced social engagement.
- ◆ Good judgement and decision-making in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ◆ The family of Rev. James Davis
- ◆ The recovery and healing of Mrs. Ruth Coke
- ◆ The health of Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke
- ◆ The health of Leathland Berry, brother of Doreen Barnett

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)



UCJCI responds to the COVID-19 pandemic as a community of faith

A Call to Prayer

**Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 p.m.**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer** and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

James 5:16 (NRSV)

UCJCI COVID-19 ADVISORY

Suggested Protocols for Congregations with Infected Persons

From Advisory#30—

UCJCI COVID-19 Response Team

We celebrate compliance to the protocols for having worship services among our congregations across both nations. However, due to the exponential rise in cases in Jamaica, we are receiving reports of members of our congregations who have contracted the disease and have visited or worshipped during the incubation period or while infected (often without knowing).

Many of you are unsure of what to do when this occurs. We have consulted with the Ministry of Health and Wellness and offer you the following as guide:

1. Once there is a confirmed case, please instruct the member/adherent to quarantine at home for the recommended 14 days as well as those with whom she/he may have had contact in the congregation.
2. Inform your Congregational Board and your congregation of the situation without disclosing, where possible, the person's identity.
3. Organize the cleaning and sanitization of the affected buildings.
4. Contact the Ministry of Health and Wellness COVID-19 Line and inform them of the situation. They will register your case, which will allow you access to additional information and instructions.
5. Services can resume following sanitization of the sanctuary.

Privacy protocols

- We wish to remind you of the duty of care we have to our members and adherents, this includes their health, wellbeing and privacy. Strict observance to the established protocols are fundamental to exercising this duty of care. We strongly advise that where persons are not well or have flu like symptoms that they stay at home. Each person's illness represents a challenge for the community.

- Where the minister or lay pastor tests positive for the virus, she/he must immediately advise the RDGS, the Congregational Board and have the Elders sensitively share the information with their Cell Group/Districts/congregation. Information that is shared from a reliable source is easier to manage and reduces or eliminates rumours and/or speculation.
- Where a member tests positive for the virus, she/he must take the responsibility of informing the minister/lay pastor. The minister/lay pastor should then respect the privacy of that person and, where possible, without disclosing the person's identity inform the Congregational Board and congregation of the situation.
- The Congregational Board with knowledge of those who are positive should sensitively ensure, if required, support for the pastor or person(s) affected.

Gatherings

Public gatherings in Jamaica are restricted to 10 persons.

Funerals and Weddings

In Jamaica, funeral services are allowed in sanctuaries with a maximum of 15 persons, inclusive of the family, pastor, musicians and any support staff. We continue to encourage online gatherings for the celebration of the life and witness of those who have passed on, while the restriction remains in place. Burials are permitted with a maximum of 15 persons including the pastor, family members, and cemetery/grave personnel. Please note that the duration of burials should not exceed 30 minutes. In Jamaica,

Weddings are allowed in the sanctuary with a maximum of 50 persons once the sanctuary is in compliance with the distancing rule of one person per 40 sq. ft., with persons being at least 6 feet apart.

Upcoming Events

UCJCI LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE



TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS

The second training session in the Lay Leaders Certificate Course for 2021 is scheduled for **Saturday February 27**

beginning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Topic:

Introduction to Leadership

Lecturer:

Mrs. Janet McConnell

UCJCI Human and Mission Resources Manager



If you are interested in joining in this session please register with your Regional Mission Council



UTCWI Graduate Studies Department presents

Inaugural

Lecture



Presenter: Rev. Dr. Norman Francis
United Church Ministerial Tutor, UTCWI

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

@ 4:30p.m via zoom.

Topic: "The Synoptic Trial and Mockery Scenes: Matthew's Redaction of Mark in presenting Jesus as the Archetype of the Yom Kippur Ritual"

Meeting ID: 870 1338 3106 Passcode: 114613



Upcoming Events



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES

MID-WEEK Service

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2021 AT 10AM

SING THEM OVER AGAIN TO ME,
SONGS IN/FOR TIMES OF DESPAIR

"FIX ME JESUS"



PREACHER: ALJA DIAS

PLEASE WEAR SOMETHING WHITE

You Tube @ KRAIG DE LEON DEIDRICK
LIVESTREAM



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES

PRESENTS

FOUNDERS' WEEK 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



MAR 1	Worship Service, UTCWI Chapel	6:00 p.m.	<small>JA time</small>
	Theme: Ministry in Changing Times Preacher: Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith Alumni, Moravian Minister, Barbados		
MAR 2	Founders' Day Lectures 1 & 2	9:00 a.m.	<small>JA time</small>
	Theme: Prophetic Hope & Engaged Love: God talk in a time of pandemic Speaker: Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, President Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, USA		
MAR 3	Conference: Opening Session	6:00 p.m.	<small>JA time</small>
	Keynote Address: The Most Rev. Dr. Howard K. A. Gregory Bishop of Jamaica & the Cayman Islands Archbishop of the W.I. Primate & Metropolitan		
MAR 4	Conference: Setting the Stage for the Conversation	9:00 a.m.	<small>JA time</small>
	Presentation: Dr. Allthea Spencer-Miller Assistant Professor, Drew University School of Theology		
MAR 5	Conference: The Way Forward	9:00 a.m.	<small>JA time</small>
	Panel Discussion: - Rev. Dr. Cuthbert Edwards - Rev. Germaine Lovelace - Rev. Norva Rodney - Rev. Patricia Sheerattan-Bisnauth	- Rev. Norbert Stephens - Rev. Canon Grace Jarvis - Rev. Daniella Dockman	



FEBRUARY 27

Rev. Icylin Parkinson

UCJCI VALUE S

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

Evangelism:

Sharing the story of God’s amazing love demonstrated by Jesus Christ, in a relevant manner, to those without Christ in our community and beyond

(Matthew 28:18-20), (1 Peter 2:2, Colossians 3:1-17).

**IN THE COMING
ISSUE...**

**LENT,
SELF-DENIAL
AND PRAYER**

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 ♦ Website: 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”