



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

May 5, 2021

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PRAY FOR

INDIA

**KEEPING
CHILDREN SAFE**

Congregations
**ENCOURAGE
EMPOWER
ENGAGE**

**CANACOM Partners
with Mothers Against
Violence**

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 18

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

United, We Protect Our Children



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands launched a Child Care and Protection Policy in May 2016. The policy establishes basic provisions for the protection and safety of children — infants, children up to 12 years of age and young persons, ('teenagers') under the age of 18— who are under the care and responsibility of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Scope

The Child Protection Policy takes into account the need for directives surrounding the general safety and care-giving of children as well as physical and interpersonal conduct within the church: on its grounds, within its congregations and in all church-related activities including church services, Sunday or Church School, summer camps and church excursions.



Volunteers for children's ministry in Western Region Mission Council participate in a Child Protection Policy Workshop

Clergy, lay pastors, elders, Church or Sunday School teachers and superintendents; youth leaders, camp counsellors, volunteers and all adults within the church environment interfacing with children on a regular basis are expected to observe the terms of the policy. The policy covers recruitment, administration and monitoring of all activities involving children within

and outside the United Church premises.

Governing Principles

Among the clear governing principles is adult supervision of children during all activities of the United Church, which includes parental supervision, activities conducted by caregivers and in the daily operation of United Church auxiliaries such as children's homes. For example, it is expected that, as much as is feasible, authorized, same-gender adult caregivers accompany children to the restroom during church services and other activities.

Another governing principle is the observance of specific accountability processes for the recruitment of persons working directly with children, through the work of the church. This includes appropriate screening and background checks.

Training

The matter of training is addressed in the policy which contains an overview of the training and support mechanisms to facilitate the sustainability of child welfare and protection in the United Church.

The policy requires that training will be delivered to the Minister, elders and other leaders – including Church/Sunday

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school teachers, Superintendents, youth workers and others involved in leadership of children. This is to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the legal requirements for the safety and protection of children and the United Church's Child Protection Policy in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Training will include addressing the principles of safeguarding of children and is designed to share knowledge on risk management in all applicable United Church fora. Training exercises shall include procedures to reinforce the monitoring systems of the Synod of the United Church in its quest to create child-friendly congregations. The requirement for all Ministers to attend these sessions is expected to be mandatory.

Key Requirements

It is important to note that it is incumbent on all leaders in the 2 nations to be aware of the reporting obligations of members of the society, and to be guided by such legal requirements. This includes requirements for reporting abuse, *suspensions of abuse or neglect by parents, guardians, school teachers and significant others, or other sensitive matters shared by children. Any known or suspected abuse should be reported to the Minister.*

Included in the policy is a Code of Conduct which provides recommendations and directives regarding interaction between adults and children. For example, in cases *where meetings are held between an adult and a minor in an enclosed environment, it is expected that doors with window panes be used or that doors be left open or ajar throughout the meeting and that other persons should be close by and informed of the meeting.*

Leadership

Leadership responsibilities are clearly stated in the Child Protection Policy.

The Minister of the Charge is the chief accountable officer of the Charge. He/ She is responsible for the leadership, direction and management of the pastoral/ministerial services delivered by the Charge. These responsibilities include authorization for other members of the church participating in formal and informal church leadership at various levels such as teaching Church/Sunday School, leading Praise and Worship, leadership within the Girls' and Boys' Brigade/ Brownie groups. By extension, the Minister will ensure that the policy is accessible to the membership and leaders, is understood by all, and is being observed within the Charge.



Training in Childcare and Protection was conducted in all councils. Here participants in Cayman learn together.

The Board of Elders is also integral to the implementation and management of this Child Protection Policy. The Board will review and uphold selection criteria for leaders, and assist in the appointment of Safety and Protection Officers in each congregation. The Safety and Protection Officers shall be tasked with upholding UCJCI Child Protection Policy and administering its interventions.

United Church members, elders, leaders and the ministerial team will therefore act in accordance with their roles and will collectively work to mitigate the risks of abuse of children, youth and the adult leaders that interface with them.

Framed within National Laws

UCJCI's Child Protection Policy was neither formulated nor is being applied in a vacuum. The United Church wishes to work with the governments of both nations at all levels, to look at legislation, policies and structures, and to ensure that institutions can prevent and respond to violence against all children. The policy is applied within the ambit of the Child Protection laws of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and both nations have signed on to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

All congregations should aspire to conforming to the policy. The policy and related instruments are available through all Regional Mission Councils.

HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY TO ALL TEACHERS IN UCJCI

Teachers Day is recognized on May 5 in Jamaica, however we celebrate all our teachers in Jamaica and Cayman

YOUTH SUNDAY AT SAV

Sunday April 25, 2021 was celebrated as UCJCI Youth Sunday and the children and youth at Savanna-la-Mar United were fully engaged during the worship service. They participated well. The maximum limit was 30 and we had a total of 18 youths - thirteen (13) youth fellowship members and five (5) church schoolers in attendance. Rev. Brissett preached from the theme: "Act while there is strength". Here are the different ways the young people led and participated in the service.



Nadera Binns (left) moderated with Sis. Judith Jamieson (Young Adult).



Prayer of ACTS were offered by Rev. Brissett and Tessania Poyser.



Mr. Travaughn Binns, Vice President of the Youth Fellowship read the Moderator's message for Youth Sunday and Miss Michalia Wright read the UCYPF Synodical President's message.



(Left) Children and youths singing the Children Song.

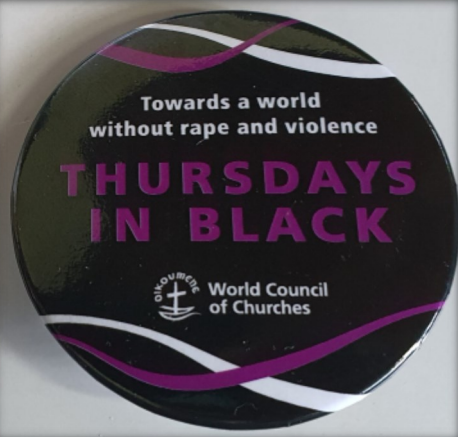


(Right) Special Item in song (Tasha Cobbs - Goodness of God) was done by Tresannia Poyser before the sermon.

Children and youth were also involved in other ways—Kianna Muir assisted with the PowerPoint presentation and Travaughn Binns with the Facebook live feed. Vereika Golaub shared a poem and Jordan Woodbine gave the Welcome and Announcements. The Church was led into a time of Praise in Worship by the Junior Praise Team led by Nia Brissett, musical selections were rendered by saxophonist Kristian Jones of Big Bridge United and bible readers were Vashane Berry and Deyonte Poyser.

- Contributed by Ann-Mare Wright

Remember
to wear Black
on Thursday



Take a
Stand!
Work for
a world
without
violence.



BLACK
THURSDAYS
SUPPORTED BY UCYPF

DAILY DOSE

LET'S CLICK INTO ADVOCACY



"SPEAK UP

for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

SPEAK UP

and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

Proverbs 31:8-9

#UCYPFDailyDose
Week 12: Youths, Let's Click

Mothers Against Gun Violence— CANACOM and PMI in Partnership

CANACOM

Caribbean & North America Council
for Mission (CANACOM)
and
Peace Management Initiative (PMI)
(Mothers Against Gun Violence)

Ceremony of Agreement

The Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) has entered a new and exciting partnership with the Peace Management Initiative (PMI). PMI has for some years been spearheading a project called the Moms Against Gun Violence. The aim of this work is to assist mothers whose families have been affected by gun violence.

By way of deepening our relationship, the Council for World Mission (CWM) has granted CANACOM a sum which has made it possible for CANACOM to assist the PMI in strengthening this programme.

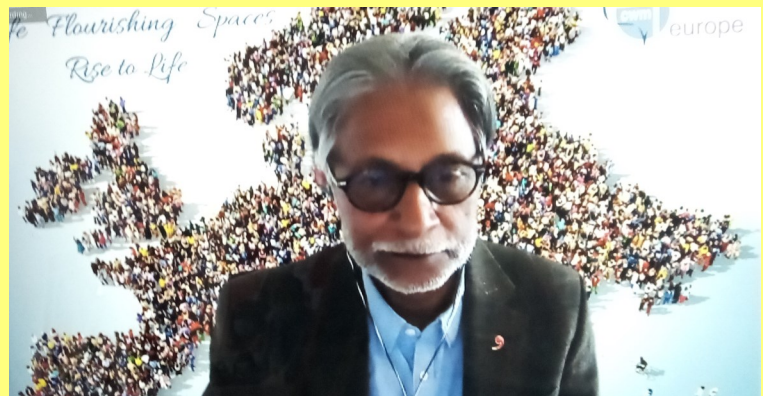
On Monday April 26, 2021, a ceremony of agreement took place in the Cecile Nelson Conference Room at the Kings Gate United Church.

Rev. Dr. Michael Jagessar brought greetings from the CWM. Rev. Carlington Keen, Chair of CANACOM, Mrs. Merle Buchanan, Treasurer of CANACOM and Mrs. Berthlyn Plummer, Senior Manager, Head of Social Work, PMI, signed the agreement in the presence of representatives from CANACOM, PMI & CWM.

- Contributed by Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, CANACOM



Official signing of CANACOM/PMI Agreement. Mrs. Berthlyn Plummer (second left) PMI and Mrs. Merle Buchanan (3rd right) CANACOM, exchange a greeting as CANACOM staff and representatives share in the moment..



Rev. Dr. Michael Jagessar representing Council for World Mission which provided funding for CANACOM's work with PMI



Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary, CANACOM, makes remarks at the signing.

SAYING 'YES' TO SERVICE

THE ROLE OF THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Henley Bernard, Director, Ministerial Formation, UCJCI challenges congregations to be active in recruiting members for ministry.

In the face of a less than desirable level of engagement by members in providing leadership for, or simply participating in ministry at various levels of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the question has, undoubtedly been asked repeatedly concerning the efforts of the Church, by which is oftentimes meant the Synod, to bring this undesirable state of affairs to an end.

PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Any meaningful discussion of this matter must, at some point, acknowledge that getting persons to embrace and exercise the notion of 'the priesthood of all believers' which posits that everyone has an indispensable and complementary role in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ, should never be perceived as being an automatically done deal. Experience has taught that such a project requires careful planning and implementation.

In most Christian denominations, the local congregation is the most basic expression of the Church. It, therefore, stands to reason that such a body is best placed to encourage and provide accompaniment for the living out of this idea, 'the priesthood of all believers', by the individual Christian within the local congregation.



Encourage

Empower

Engage

NURTURING SPIRITUAL HEALTH

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain numerous references in which the faithful, or the believer, is likened unto a fruit tree which gives convincing justification of its reason for being, through its faithful reproduction of its kind. This being so, each denomination must be perceived as being like an orchard that is expected to make pleasing return on investment for that larger enterprise which is the Kingdom of God. It is a well-established fact that the capacity for sustaining the productivity of any orchard is oftentimes heavily dependent on being supplied with healthy seedlings that may be nurtured into prolific fruit-bearing trees by a well-structured and successful nursery project. It is precisely this role that each local congregation needs to play in the United Church in 2021 and each year following!

Faithful pursuit of this effort cannot be limited to the half-hearted, almost insincere effort of a few, but must be reflected in the concerted, whole-hearted engagement of the congregation in its entirety. Every member should not only be helped to acknowledge the stake he/she has in the work that the witness of the local body of Christ embodies, but each should be encouraged and empowered to become actively engaged in the pursuit of a divinely endowed responsibility.

Through the auxiliaries and nurture programmes of the local congregation, deliberate efforts may be made to inculcate the values of the kingdom and to include all within the sphere of the congregation's influence as participants in living out those values. Perhaps the mistake we have made over the years is to withhold formal participation in the work of the congregation from those who are either not yet confirmed members or otherwise not the holders of office within the various segments of the congregation. This may well account for the lack of activity of many when they actually become members or office holders. They simply end up living what they have learnt.

SET THE STAGE FOR COMMITTED INVOLVEMENT

Being convinced that God calls the entire community of faith to be participants in fruit-bearing should challenge each congregations to be deliberate in their efforts to include all those who identify with them to play their roles in the matter of witness-bearing. Such efforts should be inter-generational. Our children and young people should be included, not merely in special projects and on special occasions, but all the programmes of the congregation should have a children and youth component. The same may be said with respect to those of the church community often given the label of adherents. By doing this, we not only provide opportunities for fruitful engagement of all in the witness of the local congregation, we also set the stage for their committed involvement beyond the congregation.

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

PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

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

A Call to Prayer

Every Wednesday

12 noon—1:00 pm

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

Philippians 4: 7 (NIV)

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

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

- ♦ Joy Williams who has suffered another loss in her family; her aunt shortly after her uncle.
- ♦ Rev. Donovan Myers and the success of his continued treatment.
- ♦ Families and communities broken by tragedy and violence.
- ♦ Students of Clarendon College and driver of the school bus who were involved in a motor vehicle accident this week.
- ♦ Members, leaders of the United Church and the wider communities in Cayman and Jamaica who have experienced bereavement
- ♦ Children in Jamaica and other parts of the world dealing with uncertainties in their education.
- ♦ Continued healing and help for Rev. Dr. Elsa Clarke and others dealing with health challenges
- ♦ Persons struggling with the impact of COVID 19 on personal, family, community and work levels.
- ♦ The people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



Prayer Points for India

Pray for the urgent and steady supply of essential medical equipment, especially oxygen cylinders and ventilators as thousands of people gasp for breath across India amidst the deadly second wave of the pandemic.

For you I am praying...

Pray for the Churches under deep distress of the many deaths of pastors and congregation members and the stress of lack of finances. Pray for the Churches to continue to respond to the needs of the people in spite of the challenges.

For you I am praying...

Pray for comfort for the families as bodies of victims of the pandemic line up in front of crematoriums, burial grounds and cemeteries.

For you I am praying...

Pray for the administrators and elected representatives in the government to consciously respond to the crisis with honesty and acceptance of the magnitude of the crisis.

For you I am praying...

Pray for sustenance of the unemployed, the daily wage workers, the migrant labourers and small businesses undergoing threats to survival due to the current lockdown and travel restrictions.

I am praying for you.

Prayer Points contributed by Rev. Julie Sim, Council for World Mission, Mission Secretary for East and South Asia Region

THEMES FOR HOUSE WORSHIP LITURGY

SUNDAY MAY 9

Mothers' Day

Theme

Remain in God's Love

Love makes the way possible for bearing fruit

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98;

St. John 15: 9- 17



Certificate in Community Development



MAY 6-JULY 29, 2021

Fee: \$30,000

Topics:-

Community Safety & Security

Building Resiliency & Wellness

Peace Building & Conflict Resolution

Sports & Culture

Planning For Community Based Enterprise

Project development and Management

& More !



For more information or inquires send us an email at foundation@iuc.edu.jm or Visit us at 47 Old Hope Road or call: (876)-319-4310/754-1921



Rev. Rohan Forrester



Rev. Dr. Leroy Walters



Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle

MAY 7

MAY 10

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

TO



**UCJCI LAY TRAINING
INSTITUTE**

Leading Small Groups



LAY LEADERS' TRAINING
Saturday May 8, 2021
9:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

**Join via
Zoom**

Interested persons may register through
UCJCI Regional Mission Council offices

Lecturers: Rev. Norman Francis and Mrs. Karen Francis

UCJCI VALUE S

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

Mission and Outreach:

Seeking always to respond to the hurts and needs of people, giving them hope; always acting justly and being advocates of justice

(James 2:15-16, Deuteronomy 16:18-20, Zechariah 7:8-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 4:17-19)

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Our Ministry
with Children
- Church (Sunday)
Schools**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)
Southern Regional Mission Council

North Eastern Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn

Western Regional Mission Council
Mrs. Mauleen Henry

SYNODICAL THEME:

“Rooted, Resilient: Responding in H.O.P.E. (Health - Opportunity - Peace - Evangelism)”