



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

June 9, 2021

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CANACOM

Preparing Churches for
a Hurricane

Women's Fellowship
Launches Video on Violence

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 23

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

UCJCI WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP



Caribbean and North America
Council for Mission
(CANACOM)

Improving our Service

UCJCI works in partnership as we participate in God's mission in this world. Human beings were created for community and there is much common cause and concern between organisations, churches, countries and communities. Pooled resources — people, ideas, finances and other materials — can accomplish more exponentially than unilateral action. Over the next few weeks Update will feature some of the partnerships in which UCJCI participates. In this issue, the focus is on CANACOM.



Young Adults in Mission (YAM) Workcamp in Jamaica. Delegates share in worship at Spalding United Church in 2009.

What is CANACOM?

The Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM) was established in 1986 and is a mission partnership of churches in the Caribbean and North America which practices a unique vision of God's mission, based on mutuality. The mission statement of CANACOM is *to bear common witness, to challenge and empower one another for creative involvement in mission*. There is a common understanding that mission begins at home. All are invited to begin in their Jerusalem, then to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

CANACOM is both **FACILITATOR** and **COLLABORATOR**.

CANACOM facilitates the mission of member churches in their own context as well as common initiatives within the partnership. As collaborator, they contribute to a common pool or 'roundtable' through which the resources are shared. All churches serve as donors and recipients, together determining how the common resources are to be identified and used. Our mission is demonstrated through a variety of programmes which are not limited to member churches since we also work with ecumenical bodies which are linked to our member churches. In addition, we are also dependent upon resources, partner with non-church organizations whose mission priorities are aligned with those of CANACOM.

Practical manifestations of the partnership relationship

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has been a member church of CANACOM since its inception and has supported the administrative systems throughout. For example, the UCJCI names some members of CANACOM's Finance and Administration Support Group (FASG). This close co-working has

included the attending of Council Meetings by delegates from the UCJCI and the participation of Young Adults in CANACOM's Young Adults in Mission Work Camps.

UCJCI has undertaken programmes and projects as part of its mission pursuits through grants from CANACOM. These include funds for the Drug Rehabilitation Programme (1991,1992); equipment for the recording studio (1992); Evangelism conference (2003 and 2005); a team visit to Haiti (2008), Child Sex Abuse programme (2010– 2012); outreach programme to teach computer and music skills (2011); Inaugural Chaplaincy Conference (2015); Mobile Oral Health Care service (2020); and support for The Etta Malcolm Parent Place and Resource Centre, Lucea, Hanover (2021)



UCJCI, CANACOM, JCC, WCC periodic review meeting. Standing is Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Education in Mission Secretary.

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The Roundtable:
 CANACOM Council Meeting and Mission Consultation in Suriname in 2016.
Below: Some of the participants at Council Meeting and Mission Consultation.

Growing Partnership

CANACOM partnerships have grown. A new and exciting collaboration is also being developed among the UCJCI, CANACOM and the Jamaica Council of Churches. This is an advocacy programme in which we are promoting the rights of children. This work began in 2019 and blossomed in 2021 with the Statement on Children’s Rights being sent to the Universal Periodic Review in Switzerland. As a follow-up, we have just completed the filming of a documentary on the subject.



CANACOM established archives guided by expert archivist, John Aarons pictured here. Jennifer Martin is in the background.



Young Adults in Mission (YAM) Workcamp in Jamaica. Young adults painted at Mount Olivet Boys’ Home.

Current Mission Priorities

Jennifer Martin is the Education in Mission Secretary for CANACOM. She serves UCJCI on committees and task forces of the church. Miss Lesline Laing serves as Administrative Assistant. Rev. Carlington Keen, Minister of Hellshire United Church, is the current Chairman of CANACOM.

CANACOM provides grants in keeping with its Mission Priorities. These are the current priorities:

- Church Growth and Renewal
- Gender and Violence
- Poverty and Inequality
- Human Trafficking

(Cont’d on p. 8)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHES VIDEO AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

'One step in the quest to end violence'



The launch of the United Church Women's Fellowship video against gender violence was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. using the Zoom platform. The launch was hosted by President-General, Pauline Bryan. The General Secretary brought greetings, as well as Mrs. Jennifer Martin, Chair of North Eastern Regional Mission Council (NERMC), and who is also featured in the video presenting some statistics on violence and abuse in Jamaica. We also heard from the Executive Producer of the video and conceptualizer Rev. Tara Tyme.

Our special guest speaker was Mrs. Linnette Vassell, advocate for gender justice, who challenged us to recognize that the video was but one step in our quest for the end of gender violence.

The video features many voices, young and old, male and female, as we make a statement about what we do not consider to be acceptable behaviour, offer troubling statistics from both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on abuse and violence, and affirm that we are all created in God's image. The Moderator offers us some practical steps that can be taken to eradicate this monster of crime and violence, and the video ends with an appeal to all to stand up, speak out, as our children's and our lives depend on it.

The Women's Fellowship will continue to make our voices heard as we indeed seek to play our part in bringing an end to violence in all forms.

Pauline Bryan
President-General
UCJCI Women's Fellowship



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

Social Services - Hotline Numbers

**CHILD PROTECTION
AND FAMILY
SERVICES AGENCY
(CPFSA)**

(876) 878-2882

**SAFE SPOT
(for Children)**

**Whatsapp:
876-439-5199**

**WOMAN INC
CRISIS CENTRE**

**(876) 929-2997
Kingston - 24
Hours**

**(876) 952-9533
St. James**

NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

**Female callers:
(876) 553-0372**

**Male callers:
(876) 553-0387**

**1-888-PROTECT
1-888-777-8328**

**VICTIM SERVICES
DIVISION**

**(876) 946-0663
OR
(876) 946-9287**

**Toll Free:
(888)-587-8423**

CHOOSE LIFE

**(Suicide
Prevention)**

(876) 920-7924

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

**(888) NEW-LIFE
(888) 639-5433**

Toll-free, 24-hour assistance

**RISE Life
Management
Services
(Substance Abuse)**

**(876) 967-3778
(888) 991-4146**

BEYOND THE PULPIT

The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict—PART 2



Professor Roderick Hewitt offers a perspective on this troubling conflict which reflects an intersection of politics and faith. This is the second part of this opinion feature.

Unjust and unethical action of the United Nations

However, the fundamental shift happened after World War II with changes in the geo-political landscape of the region. The mass movement of people who survived the European holocaust migrated to the region. This was further complicated by Syria's claim that the nations of Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine were integral parts of its national sovereignty and was against any part becoming independent. The action of the European and American nations through the United Nations to create a homeland for the Jewish People resulted in an unjust division of the land in which the minority got the majority of the land and the majority became refugees in their own land. After the end of the British Palestine mandate in 1948, the Jordanian monarchial regime indirectly supported the formation of Israel as a buttress against the competing independent Palestinian State. Historically, none of the three – Jordan, Egypt and Syria - supported the creation of an independent Palestinian State.

Sibling Rivalry exacerbated the problem

The historic competition and antagonism of these Arab nations against each other's interests also contribute to the current Israeli Palestinian problem. On one hand they need Israel as an enemy in order to demonstrate to their people that they are giving support to the Palestinian cause, but on the other hand, they have demonstrated very little pro-active tangible support to facilitate the creation of an independent and strong Palestinian nation. Therefore, the Palestinian problem is not only an Israeli problem, but also an Arab problem. The various wars that have been fought in the region since 1948 have caused the Palestinian situation to move from bad to worse.

Support for Israel based upon questionable Biblical interpretation

To understand why many Evangelical Christians in Jamaica give such uncritical support to the Jewish State of Israel, one must attempt to identify and then deconstruct the myths that have been intentionally nurtured over decades. This religious

addiction to advance the cause and agenda of Israel has resulted in political enslavement. Each time a conflict erupts between Israel and the Palestinians, the church takes side with Israel. Sadly, it does so, not on sound data that is presented, but emotional, non-critical attachment and appeasement to the political agenda of conservative and fundamentalist American Evangelical Christians and the Zionist Christian alliance with Israel. These groups use the Bible in an ideological way to fit their agenda that Israel must not give up one inch of the covenant land that God promised and gave to Abraham and his descendants that have been captured or occupied.

Blind addiction to a false and unjust ideology

It was the ancestors of many of these white Southern conservative Christians that used scriptures to support the enslavement of Africans and indigenous Indians. Therefore it is paradoxical that Jamaicans, whose ancestors have also suffered from European misuse of the bible to support the evil system of slavery, have now joined forces with conservatives and fundamentalist evangelicals with their flawed theology to support the enslavement, imprisonment and oppression of Palestinians. Such Christians are addicted to supporting Israel for any reason because they believe that in doing so they are pleasing God and are storing up blessings for themselves.

Contradiction within Rastafari

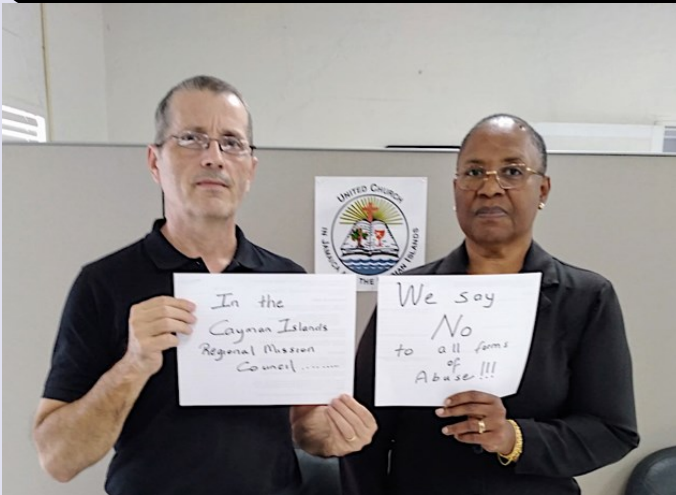
What is also of interest within the Jamaican context is that Rastafari hermeneutics (interpretation of scriptures) that is built on a strong anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and liberative ideology seems to be embedded in an ideological support of Israel because of its uncritical use of the scriptures. Rastafari use of selective Old Testament texts has further compounded their situation. Their stated commitment to putting up resistance should have aligned them with the resistance of the Palestinian people against colonialist occupation of their land. But I am not aware of any of the songs of Rastafari critiquing the Israeli occupation policy as "Babylon" that Jah will overthrow. This issue must be addressed by Rastafari or else they stand accused of being a movement that is myopic and in support of injustice.

NEXT ISSUE: Fullness of Life for All.



Professor Roderick Hewitt is President of the International University of the Caribbean and a Minister in the UCJCI.

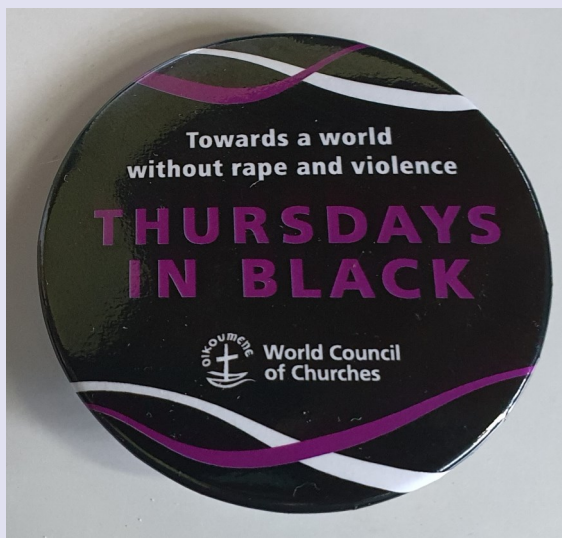
**Remember to wear black on Thursday.
Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.**



Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council Staff— Rev. Otto Menko, Programme Programme Secretary/Communication Officer and Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield Regional Deputy General Secretary signal their stance against abuse.



DAILY DOSE
The Lord watches over the Sojourners;
He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
#ActforEqual
#UCYPFDailyDose
Week 18 - Thursday June 3, 2021

 The background of this section is a black and white photograph showing the silhouette of an adult standing and holding the hand of a smaller child who is sitting on the ground. The scene is set against a light, hazy background.


(Cont'd from p.3 UCJCI Works in Partnership)



Young adults Workcamp in Cuba 2015.



Young adults Workcamp in Jamaica in 2009. A section of the grounds at Mount Olivet Boys' Home being cleared. .

THE MEMBER CHURCHES OF CANACOM

The Registered Membership of CANACOM:

Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC)
 Church of Scotland in Trinidad (COST)
 Presbyterian Church (USA) (PCUSA)
 United Church of Canada (UCC)
 Guyana Congregational Union (GCU)
 Presbyterian Church of Guyana (PCOG)
 Guyana Presbyterian Church (GPC)
 Presbyterian Church in Grenada (PCIG)
 Verignide Protestante Geemente Curacao (VPG)
 Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana (IED)
 Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada en Cuba (IPRC)
 Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT)
 United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI)
 Reformed Church of Suriname (RCS)



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS 2021



Guidelines for Congregations and Councils

Jamaica and Cayman are currently in the hurricane season. The CIRMC produced guidelines to aid preparedness, the details will be shared in Update in the coming weeks.

THEOLOGICAL REASON

Crises come in several forms. We cannot protect ourselves from all of these, and here, our faith that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ, must play an overriding role. It is important to remember also that personal crises (accidents, death, life-threatening disease, abandonment, loss of home by fire, etc.) can affect an individual or a family as much as a national disaster and the persons so affected need the love, care and concern of the Church as much as when national disasters strike.

Secondly, crises take two basic forms: those that are preceded by some kind of warning and those that are unpredictable. The most likely incidences of the former will be hurricanes. These types of crises can be planned for and, *normally*, additional, specific preparations made once a warning is given. For the unpredictable, some mitigation can, and should, be put in place, e.g. fire and health care insurance, fire alarms and extinguishers. (The Church should strongly encourage members to put in place adequate insurance protection so as not to be dependent on, or a burden to, others and the Government.

It may be advisable for the Church to find creative ways to help persons secure such protection, rather than rely on helping them find the larger resources that will be needed in the case of severe damage to buildings or major medical expenses while un- or under-insured.) A basic plan can be prepared for some of them – e.g. fire escape routes and routines that will help to alleviate fear. In the case of national or global pandemics, we should ensure we closely follow procedures announced by the national medical authorities. *As Christians, we have heightened obligations to offer help, sensibly, in all cases.*

**PRAYING TOGETHER AND FOR EACH OTHER IS
ESSENTIAL DURING A CRISIS.**

Resources and Databank

Congregations should structure themselves to be able to respond rapidly and lovingly in the case of personal crises, without the Minister/Lay Pastor being the only one responding. Certain personal crises will dictate a particular sensitivity in relating to those affected. A friendly voice of another member or relative could be vital in getting someone to start talking with the Minister/Lay Pastor or another counsellor. The ability to respond will include the establishment of a data bank to ensure that members and adherents can be referred quickly to the right agency or person able to help in the particular need. This will include:

- ◆ Who is available for counselling, in addition to the Minister? Is there anyone on the staff or amongst the membership appropriately trained and approved by the Minister for this purpose?
- ◆ Counselling Centres including professional counsellors in the public and private sectors
- ◆ Contact details for local children and family services
- ◆ Crisis centres
- ◆ Persons for basic financial advice and referrals to the right company/agency
- ◆ Members who can lend a caring ear, some who may have been trained in grief ministry or grief counselling, who can help with insurance claims/explanations, etc.

Either type of crisis can affect all our members and adherents. However, there are some individuals for whom the Congregation can and should establish special structures to ensure a level of care on an ongoing basis – e.g. the elderly and others living alone – and in the event of national emergency, such as a hurricane watch/warning.

NEXT ISSUE: General Care and Oversight.

(The full document is available from the Office of the General Secretary)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LINCOLN KIRK UNITED CHURCH



June 20

FAMILY SUNDAY

Virtual Speaker from our Sister Church in Winnipeg Canada; Pastor Randy from The People's Full Gospel Church

July 31

"TRUE PRAISE"

A worship experience by the Lincoln Kirk United Church's Performing Arts Ministry

GIRLS BRIGADE OFFICER COMMISSIONED AT WILLIAM POUCHIE MEMORIAL CHURCH



During the Youth Sunday Service held on May 30, 2021, at the William Pouchie Memorial Church, North Side, Ms. Sarena Whittaker was commissioned as Girls' Brigade Officer. She was surrounded by the love and support of fellow GB officers, leaders of the National GB Council and girls of all ages.

BAPTISM AT PENTECOST— SAVANNAH UNITED



On Sunday May 23, 2021 (Pentecost Sunday), Rev. Euthman Wray baptized three teens and one pre-teen at Spotts Beach. All four are from the Savannah United Church Sunday School and Youth Ministry

SAVANNAH YOUTH DISCIPLES



On Saturday May 8, 2021 the Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Group took grocery baskets to the Savannah Community for the elderly. The teens were blessed with the opportunity of praying and sharing the love of Christ through giving.

We are
IUC



International
University
of the
Caribbean

- ASSOCIATE DEGREE: GERIATRIC CARE
- ASSOCIATE DEGREE: RESTAURANT OPERATIONS
- B.SC. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- B.SC. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (WITH PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT)
- B.SC. PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- B.SC. TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
- B.A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- B.A. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING
- B.ED. PRIMARY EDUCATION
- B.A. PSYCHOLOGY
- B.A. GENERAL STUDIES
- MSc COUNSELLING & CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGY
- MA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- MBA LOGISTICS & PORT MANAGEMENT

**APPLY FOR
2021**



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RIGHT THROUGH THE YEAR



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TOWER ISLE: 876.341.0734

MONTEGO BAY: 876.940.0382 / 876.971.8401



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA
AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

VBS 2021

Coming this Summer

Theme: **Riding in Hope**

Bible Study & Activities for Ages 4-6, 7-9,
& 10-12



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July 26-30



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**LAY TRAINING
INSTITUTE**

Training for Lay Leaders in CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Learn about the Structure and
Constitution of UCJCI; Data Analysis
and Handling Finances

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2021

 **VIA ZOOM**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

**Persons interested in this
training topic should register
with their Regional Mission
Council**

LECTURER

Rev. Norbert Stephens
General Secretary, UCJCI



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 *

- Men and women in Cayman and Jamaica who have faced or are facing sexual harassment
- Safety for summer activities for children, particularly at beaches and rivers
- Decision-making in the home, board room, parliament, churches which impact lives.
- Increased Evangelism efforts to share the good news
- Israeli Palestinian conflict and conflicts around the world
- Sri Lanka which experienced recent devastating floods.

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

This coming Sunday...

June 13, 2021



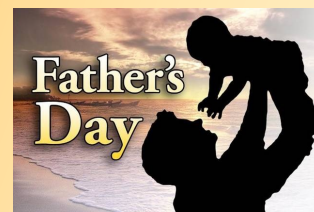
**Growth that
you can't see...**

Whether we are able to see growth or not, be assured God is at work.

1 Samuel 15: 34- 16:13; Psalm 20;
St. Mark 4: 26-34

Next week...

**June 20, 2021
Fathers' Day**



**Peace in the midst of the
storm**

Not all storms are meant for devastation, they clear our pathway.

1 Samuel 17: 1-23, 32-49;
Psalm 9: 9- 20; St. Mark 4: 35- 41

UCJCI VALUE S

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

Relationship with God

so we may know God and relate to
God as a person, rather than an
impersonal force, knowing Jesus
to be Lord of our lives, so we may
grow in grace and in the power of
the Holy Spirit

(Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 3:16-17,
Romans 8:1-17)

**IN THE COMING
ISSUE...**

**Celebrating our
Partnerships
COUNCIL FOR
WORLD
MISSION**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Tel: 876 926-8734

E-mail: synod@ucjci.com ♦ Website: www.ucjci.com

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Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

Cayman Regional Mission Council
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield

Southern Regional Mission Council
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)

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)”