



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

June 16, 2021

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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION

Pell River United Church
Active in Community

Points for Prayer

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 24

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

UCJCI WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITHIN COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION



a partnership
of churches
in mission



Participants from UCJCI, Miss Khdrea Jones (*first from left*) and Miss Suelan Fung (*third from left*) collaborate with another member church participant from the Guyana Congregational Union in CWM Caribbean's 2019 Youth Initiative held at the Shirley Retreat Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica.

may be evidenced through bold faith and action working towards life-flourishing economy, education, evangelism and creation. UCJCI has played its part alongside other member churches. UCJCI members have participated in the leadership and governance of CWM as staff and Board members. Members of UCJCI have participated in CWM programmes and initiatives including Training in Mission and other youth programmes; consultations, conferences and mission experiences for men and women, ordained and lay persons which promote study, witness and provide stimulation for discerning emerging mission issues and developing appropriate responses through collaboration and training. UCJCI has also hosted events and provided the context of learning for programmes such as A New Face, Young Women Enabling Transformation and Training in Mission.

The Council for World Mission is a partnership of Christian churches with thirty-two members across the world representing some 21 million Christians in 40 countries. Together, these members commit to sharing their resources of money, people, skills and insights globally to carry out God's mission in local spaces. The nexus of partnership sharing is the mission of God. The aspirations of this family of churches is captured in the vision statement, "Life-flourishing communities, living out God's promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth."

The history of CWM is combined in the endeavours of the London Missionary Society, the Commonwealth Missionary Society and the (English) Presbyterian Board of Mission which were incorporated into CWM in 1977.

CWM, as an organization, is driven to achieve the 'not yet' of a world where God's creation is sustained and this is seen in life-flourishing communities. This partnership of churches in mission understands its purpose as 'to further the work of Christian mission throughout the world'.

Throughout the years CWM member churches have been encouraged to discern the signs of the times in the global environment and read their contexts in order to be alert to needs and to respond creatively appropriately seeking partnership with others who share the vision of fullness of life. Fullness of life

'Life-flourishing Communities, living out God's promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth.'



Participants from the UCJCI engaging in group work at CWM Caribbean's 2014 Training of Trainers Workshop held in Jamaica.

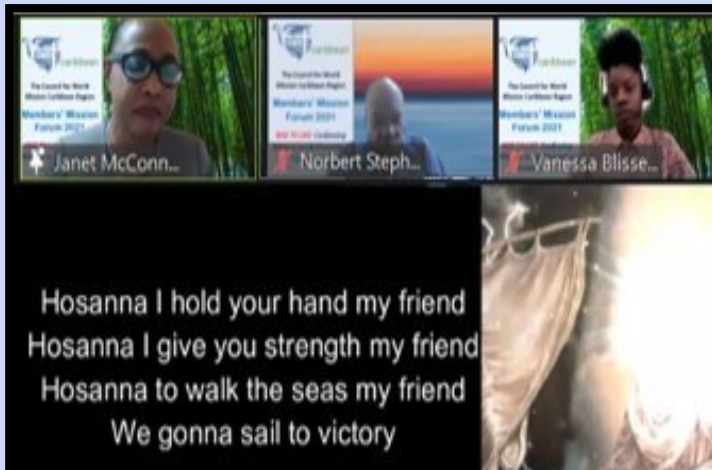
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There are six CWM regions and UCJCI and Guyana Congregational Union are members of CWM Caribbean.

The region's office is located in Jamaica in the Synod Administrative Centre. The region is staffed by a Mission Secretary for Europe and the Caribbean - Rev. Dr. Michael Jaggesar and Programme Associate - Mrs. Vickeisha King Burke.

Among the programmes and events organized by CWM Caribbean is the Member Mission Forum (MMF) held May 18 and 19, 2021.



The UCJCI MMF Delegation: Janet McConnell, Norbert Stephens and VanessaBlissett during their closing worship presentation

The MMF is intended to be a space where member church delegates affirm, peer assess, discern, and plan their engagements in mission. It is resourced and facilitated by CWM's regional staff for the member churches to be informed, energised, and empowered to act. The MMF allows member churches to HEAR; H – Hear from each other in regions, across regions and ecumenically; E – Evaluate how they have been engaging in mission and peer-assess how it may be done differently to advance the church's vision; A – Act and mobilise teams towards mission development; and R - Reflect together on matters that deal with God's mission in the light of social, economic, political issues.

“Breathe life into dead and dying situations”, that was the resounding call at the Members' Mission Forum 2021 which was held under the theme, 'Rise to Life: Confessing witness to life flourishing communities.' The programme was enriched through worship sessions, theme reflection, responsive context reading, creative input from artist, musicians and poets, and virtual exposure visits.

A PARTNERSHIP WORTH CELEBRATING

- Rev. Norbert Stephens

We celebrate and affirm that the UCJCI's membership within the CWM family continues to significantly reflect CWM's mandate of sharing resources of people, ideas and money.

Sharing Resources

The UCJCI's strategic direction over the last two decades has seen the implementation of major strategic programmes, including the current **Renewal and Transformation** agenda, funded largely through CWM's **Mission Support Programmes (MSP)**. These have included, among others, training and development, resource materials and children and youth ministries.

The training and development of personnel, the support for a mission enabler and the procurement of Information Technology resources are but a few of the ways we have benefitted from CWM's **Member Church Initiative (MCI)**.

A number of our ministers and administrative staff have been supported in their academic pursuits through scholarships granted through CWM's **Academic Accompaniment programmes**.

Our young people, seminarians, ministers, pastors and members have been offered exposure and vocational development through a raft of programmes, including, **Training for Mission; Young Women Enabling Transformation, Face to Face; A New Face and Face the Facts**.

Sharing Ideas

We celebrate the richness of our participation in, and contributions to, the sharing of ideas. These have been manifested through a number of local and global consultations around the issues of children, women, men, the environment, gender justice, poverty alleviation and slavery and reparation.

Sharing People

Perhaps the pinnacle of our celebrations continues to be the sharing of people through the **Partners in Mission**

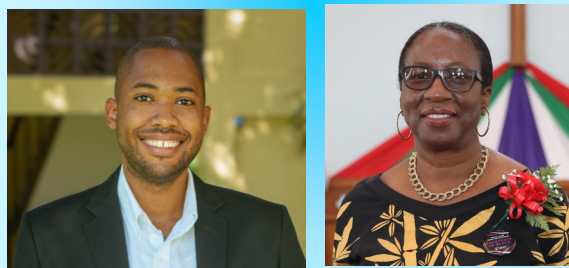
Programme (PIM) both as a sending and a receiving church. The measure of the positive impact upon our ministry and mission as a church in both nations through those who have shared in our ministries and the contributions of some of our most gifted people to other member churches within the CWM family cannot be quantified.

We celebrate the gift of solid and effective leadership offered by UCJCI members to the governance and administration of CWM. This has been and continues to be evidenced, in our presence in the secretariat, the regional offices, the Board of Governors, the various strategic, programmatic, evaluation, and events planning committees.

There is little doubt that our partnership with CWM is one worthy of celebration as together we continue to pursue the vision of **“Life-flourishing Communities, living out God’s promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth.”**

DIRECTORS OF CWM BOARD FROM THE CARIBBEAN REGION

CWM is governed by a Board of Directors. The Directors are responsible for approving the policy direction of the CWM, and to ensure that the CWM is being run efficiently by its management team, and in accordance with the relevant laws. The Board is comprised of members from all the CWM regions, is gender balanced and also has two youth directors.



Mr. Markel Virgo (left) and Mrs. Rose Wedderburn are CWM Directors from the Caribbean region.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



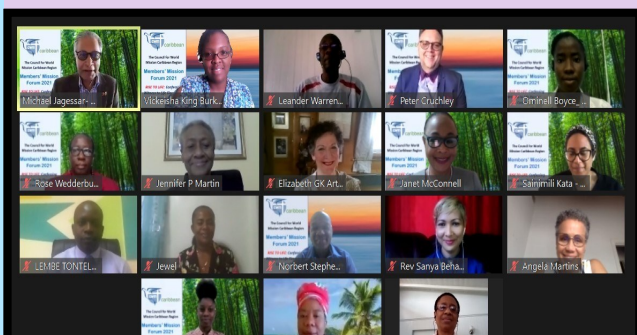
Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan, a minister of UCJCI, demits office as General Secretary of Council for World Mission after two, five-year terms of service.



Rev Dr Jooseop Keum was appointed as the next General Secretary of Council for World Mission (CWM). Rev Dr Keum will succeed Rev Dr Collin Cowan and assume office on 1st July 2021.



Participant from the UCJCI, Ms. Alisa Magnus (right) delivers a group reflection alongside other member church participants in CWM's Young Women Enabling Transformation (YWET) Programme held in 2019 in the Caribbean Region.



Participants in CWM Caribbean Members Mission Forum in May 2021.

CWM PARTNERS IN MISSION WORK ALONGSIDE UCJCI

REV. JANE KALUBA—United Church in Zambia

My name is Jane Chingandu Kaluba and I came to Jamaica with my niece, Suwlanji Mwansa in August 2017 to work and share the good news of Jesus Christ with UCJCI in Jamaica in partnership with Council for World Mission.

God takes his people to different places across boundaries and across cultures reminding them that Jesus is a boundary breaker. I came to this place to be a truth teller as someone has said, "Genuine hope is not blind optimism, it is hope with open eyes which sees the suffering and yet believes in the future." It is now close to four years in Jamaica and it has been a time for pastoral work and community outreach. The community of faith, namely the Immanuel/Boscobel charge, has enabled the members and I to grow together in our spiritual lives as space and support were given for the gifts of God to be exercised as we allowed Jesus to lead the church. We have shared in the struggles, celebrations and sorrows as a community especially in the time of COVID 19. Our care for each other as we share the bible studies on virtual space

has made us realise that things will never go back to the old way of doing ministry. This has made the church wake up reminding us, as John Wesley said, 'the world is my Parish' that the building is not the church. The church is in the hearts of people and Jesus leads the church and the community of faith has to follow Jesus to reach the hearts of people. We have also learnt that we need each other more than ever with relationships bound in love.

Being a Partner in the worldwide Mission of God is something that I have come to treasure because our lives have been exposed to different approaches to ministry in different contexts. God has taught me things I would have taken for granted in my own country and the community of faith has come to appreciate that God can call and use anyone no matter where they come from. I have learnt that the gospel is the same yesterday today and forever, only contexts and situations change. I have learnt that the gospel does not revolve around one group of people, but that there are different applications and contexts for applying the gospel. As one man of God said, "Do not stop following the Spirit; do not fuss about the numbers seated in the pews. Talk about people that are being touched by the gospel in the virtual space and in your congregation." We will keep on walking together with UCJCI and CWM and testifying about people that are being

touched and transformed by the gospel. To God be the glory!!! Amen!!!



Rev. Jane Kaluba and niece Suwlanji Mwansa



Community outreach among young men who play football at the community play ground.



Next Issue: *One Marriage, Two Ministries*—Lembe Sivile and Cynthia Mwita share their PIM Journey

BEYOND THE PULPIT

The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict—PART 3



Professor Roderick Hewitt concludes his presentation on this troubling conflict which reflects an intersection of politics and faith.

Fullness of Life for all

This article argues that the position taken by many Jamaican Christians and church leaders that give uncritical support to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians is untenable and against the gospel of Jesus that offers "fullness of life for all". If Israel does not regard or respect the Palestinians as human beings whose lands they occupy, as created in God's image just like the Jews and other people of the world, then neither will their human rights be respected by others whom they oppress. The full force of the Israeli government and its media allies has engaged in a systemic policy to dehumanize and demonise the Palestinians in order to legitimize the occupation of their lands.

The political, economic and military support for Israel in their historic oppression of Palestinians and the current unbalanced and violent assault on Gaza that has killed over 1,900 people, most of whom are civilians, is an untenable and morally repugnant situation. Church leaders must therefore be willing to ask uncomfortable questions about what is going on in Palestine and to use the lens of the God of life, justice, peace and love that is revealed in the ministry and mission of Jesus to take a stand. This should not be determined by the political agenda of powerful religious conservative and fundamentalist lobby groups that influence the USA policy towards Israel.

The land of Palestine was never unoccupied

These fundamentalist evangelical Christians have promoted the myth that the land of Palestine was unoccupied when the Zionists occupied it in 1948. This is so far from the truth. Palestine has remained consistently occupied by Palestinian Christians and Muslims and other indigenous Arabs and Jewish communities from the time of the Romans through to the end of the Ottoman Empire when the British took control of the area. Therefore any solution of the situation must be a win-win for both Jews and Palestinians.

We must not be tricked into accepting that Israel is fighting for its survival from hostile enemies, as it loves to claim. Neither Hamas nor any other State in the Middle East has the necessary military resource capacity to defeat Israel, which has the fourth largest army in the world that is outfitted by the USA and Europe. It is Israel's policy towards the Palestinians that

has created Hamas, whose despicable acts of kidnapping Israeli civilians and firing missiles on their cities are evil actions born out of desperation and hopelessness. The equation must be changed and it can only come from groups that can influence Israeli-American policy.

When one considers the economic cost of the war in Gaza one can see the inhumanity that has pushed the already battered and besieged economy many years into the doldrums. When one compares the Palestinian condition with Israel getting over \$2billion in aid from the USA each year, it becomes clear that there exist little incentives for Israel to make peace with Palestine. The actions of Israel with the Palestinians suggest that they are using apartheid policies that were perfected in South Africa to construct separate development for the Palestinians that they demonize and make second class humans as they seize their lands.

What can we do?

The Jamaica Government and people that included many conservative evangelical Church leaders took a stand against South African apartheid policies that belittled the human dignity of Africans. A similar case exists with the Palestinian people that demand all Jamaican people of goodwill to take a stand. Therefore, the only peaceful form of resistance open to Jamaican Christians that value peace with justice for the Israeli and Palestinian people would be to lobby for boycott of companies that support Israeli government military polices and machinery, divestment of all forms of Jamaican trade with Israel and to network with other groups around the world that are advocating equal rights and justice for both Palestinians and Israelis.

The only just way forward is a two state solution where each nation lives in mutual respect for each other. We need to march and protest and make our voices heard. We must educate our people, especially church leaders who misuse scripture to give uncritical support to Israel. They may be sincere in their belief, but they are sincerely wrong. The God of Israel is also the God of the Palestinians. This God of life, seen in the life and work of Jesus Christ, has no favourites, but will consistently defend victims who are oppressed by the powerful of this world (John 10:10).



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

Super Summer in the Spirit!

Over the coming weeks, UCJCI Update will feature plans for activities for youth and children for Summer 2021! So watch this space for details!

**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**

SEE YOU SOON July 26-30

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

PELL RIVER UNITED CHURCH IS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

Pell River United Church in the Riverside charge of the Western Region Mission Council, is in the spotlight in this issue of Update. The congregation has been active in mission engagement in community.

HELPING THE SICK



On May 21, 2021, Pastor Anthony Barrett JP, assigned to the Pell River United Church in the Riverside Charge (left) presents a donation of sheets from the Men's Fellowship of the Pell United Church to Matron McGregor Brown from the Noel Holmes Hospital in Lucea, Hanover.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY—ELDERLY AND FAMILIES

More than 20 persons in the community were fed on May 17, 2021 by the Pell River United Church Men's Fellowship. The beneficiaries were from Friendship, Caudwell and Pell River districts.



SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN



Pastor Anthony Barrett JP (above standing) held a motivational session for the boys of the Pell River Primary School, which included reading to them. These boys have not been performing at their grade level. The Principal of the school, Ms. Sherene Clarke, has been organizing a special class for them each Thursday.



Pastor Barrett donated 50 feet of fencing for the school garden. He is seen here presenting to the Principal, Ms. Sherene Clarke.



Children from the Pell River United Church School participated in a Child month service. One child received J\$10,000 to purchase Grade 6 books. Another received a mobile phone. School supplies and COVID 19 prevention necessities were also presented. Above right, Rev. Trevor Hylton, Minister of the Riverside charge makes a presentation. Above left, a few of the beneficiaries of the gifts.



Preparing for a Hurricane



Guidelines for Congregations and Councils

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

GENERAL CARE AND OVERSIGHT

Therefore, on an ongoing basis, Congregations should implement a structure and arrangements to ensure attention to the following:

The **full list of all Members and Adherents** is reviewed and a 'needs assessment' completed for each person. Where special needs, such as those listed below, are identified, then arrangements, as follows, should be made and implemented. (This procedure will require regular, planned updating.)

1. **Persons living alone are checked on daily by someone** – where there are family members or neighbours who do this faithfully, there may be no need for the Church membership to do so, but simply to let the individual and the relative/neighbour know that we are available to help and who to contact. Depending on the circumstances, the question may also need to be asked whether the person should continue living alone.
2. Special arrangements for similar oversight may also be needed where more than one **elderly person live together**, and to ensure proper taking of medication, meals, etc.

3. Especially when there are no close, younger relatives involved, the Congregation will want to ensure that the living quarters of such persons are properly outfitted with sanitary and safety equipment, etc.

4. Such 'alone' persons should also be visited more regularly, on a planned basis, by the Congregation, as well as the carefully planned contact by the Minister and members in the spirit of friendship and love providing COVID 19 protocols can be observed.


5. **Persons with young children** also need to be given special consideration in our planned ministries of care and support. The number of children may be a factor, or the income level of the parent(s), the health considerations, and whether there are two parents or only one, and the level of 'grandparent' and other family support.

6. Depending on the circumstances of the household (e.g. age and income level), the Church should be alert to fire hazards and, where possible, discuss safety equipment such as fire/smoke detector alarms and fire extinguishers, and check that the individuals know how to use them.

Consideration must also be given to the situation of non-nationals living in Jamaica – do they have any family or a friends-network already established?

NEXT ISSUE: PREPAREDNESS, CAPABILITIES AND RESPONSE
(The full document is available from the Office of the General Secretary)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REV. DR. GORDON EVANS
June 22

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ASSOCIATE DEGREE: RESTAURANT OPERATIONS
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B.Sc. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (WITH PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT)
B.Sc. PROGRAMME AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT
B.Sc. TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
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B.A. PSYCHOLOGY
B.A. GENERAL STUDIES
MSc COUNSELLING & CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGY
MA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MBA LOGISTICS & PORT MANAGEMENT

ACCREDITED & REGISTERED & READY

APPLY FOR 2021

SHORT COURSES AVAILABLE RIGHT THROUGH THE YEAR



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TOWER ISLE: 876.341.0734
MONTEGO BAY: 876.940.0382 / 876.971.8401

POSITION AVAILABLE—Manager Garden Operations



The position holder, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer provides astute leadership and management over the general operations of The Gardens, in accordance with policies, brand standards, best practices and the law.

Applicants are requested to email their resume with a covering letter identifying strengths relative to the requirements no later than July 15, 2021 to: humanresource@ucmeja.com



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES



Fathers Incorporated turns 30 with a special Father's Day event
in association with The Faculty of Social Sciences
entitled

daddy matters

JUNE 19, 2021 | 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us on:  FSSUWIMONA

Master of Ceremony
Owen Blacka Ellis



Master of Ceremony
Dr Michael Abrahams

AGENDA OF PRESENTATIONS

How Fathers Use Their Time
Dr Heather Ricketts

Being a Good Father and Partner Dynamics
Prof Patricia Anderson

Violence in Jamaica: The Father Absence Factor
Roxroy McLean

Mentoring Boys: The Back2Life Experience
Attorney Lorna Phillips

The Importance of Fathers to Girls
Prof Christopher Charles

Below the Radar: Boys who have sex before age 16
Dr Julian Devonish

Fathers Coping with COVID-19
Dr Orville Beckford

Coping Strategies and Resilience of Battered Men
Randy Davidson

Managing Money: Having Dollars and Sense
Kadene McPherson-Cooke

Jackets, Child-shifting and the Family Court
Dr Herbert Gayle

Managing Emotions and Relationships
Dr Rosemarie Johnson

Deciding between Patriarchy and Partnership
Pastor Courtney Morrison

Sexual Compatibility: Microwave Men and
Refrigerator Women
Dr Karen Carpenter

Prostate Cancer: Facts and Fiction
Dr Clifton Reid

Mental Health and Young Men in Jamaica
Dr Geoffrey Walcott

daddy matters

JUNE 19, 2021
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM



FSSUWIMONA



Come for the perspective, stay for the **PRIZES** and **SURPRISES!**

Thanks to our sponsors: Juici Beef Limited, Pages in the Garden, Hope Gardens & Lobster Bowl Restaurant, Rio Bueno.

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

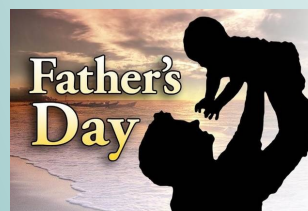
Remember to wear black on Thursday.

Take a Stand! Work for a world without violence.

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

This coming Sunday...

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

Next Week

June 27, 2021



Times of Healing

Healing offers opportunity for Restoration.

2 Samuel 1: 1, 17- 27; Psalm 130;

St. Mark 5: 21-43

UCJCI VALUE S

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

The Bible:

The preaching, teaching,
studying, and obeying of
God's Word, as the
supreme rule of faith and
life

(2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 4:1-11,
Ephesians 6:10-17)

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

**Celebrating our
Partnerships
World
Communion of
Reformed
Churches**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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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)”