



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

June 30, 2021

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 26

UCJCI 42<sup>nd</sup> SYNOD THEME 2021 – Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE (Health, Opportunity, Peace, Evangelism)



## A Call to Peace

By the Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator

### Please read Genesis 1-2, Amos 5, Ephesians 4:1-3

Our church, the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, in response to all that has been going on in our societies of Cayman, Jamaica and the global community, on account of the impact of COVID 19 and other challenges, has determined to focus on the Theme, “Rooted! Resilient! Responding in HOPE - HOPE being an acronym for Health, Opportunity, Peace and Evangelism. Each quarter we have been focusing on one dimension of the Theme. We have looked at Health, Opportunity, and for this quarter, our focus is on “Peace and Peace-building.”

Societies all over, and to varying levels, are wrestling with the need for peace. My sisters and brothers, you may consider what areas or what situations in your homes; your Districts, the Cayman society as a whole where peace is under threat, or where tension and conflicts abound.

Whenever I consider the subject of Peace, I often go back to the Creation narrative in Genesis Chapters 1 & 2. There we see painted for us a picture of harmony, of balance, of equilibrium - peace between the various elements of creation; with God at the center of creation; with God as the cause of creation, and creation for God’s glorification. In that narrative, human beings are said to be created in the Image and likeness of God - therefore special and unique.

But what do we see since creation and over the centuries? Human beings setting up all kinds of systems of stratification or groupings; setting people apart from each other on the basis of all kinds of systems of segregation and disharmony - gender, religion, race, colour, politics, economics, education and you name it. We have set God’s beautiful creation against itself, causing tension, hostility, violence, abuse, victims; those with power and those who are powerless. Some human beings have been treated with disrespect, disregard because others failed to see God’s Image in them. It is also the case, when we fail to affirm the Image of God in ourselves, we behave in ways that deface that Image or disregard that Image in us.

In this broken world with the varying manifestations in societies across the world, including Cayman, God has a mission of peace; a mission of healing and reconciliation. The people of

God; the church; every Christian has a responsibility in this mission enterprise of peace and peace-building. Over the weeks ahead, we will consider afresh God’s mission call and the need for us to respond. Where peace is lacking, God has a vested interest, and so must God’s servants.

Where justice is absent, peace is almost impossible. Just like the Prophet Amos in Chapter 5 beckons for justice, it is of utmost importance that we re-imagine what justice would look like in our society. If we want peaceful societies, we must pay attention to justice issues in our midst; we must pay attention to the weak and vulnerable; those who are at risk; those who are less likely to be considered or remembered. Some societies that have ignored these persons are now paying the price of violence, bloodshed, unproductivity and instability.

Peace-building is hard work. Peace-building is risky work. Peace-building requires sacrifice, but for the Christian who desires to be a faithful servant of Christ, there is no place for retreat; there is no avoidance; the only option is engagement; it is to confront evil in the name and power of the God who has called and sent us. History has recorded many who have paid the price, at times the ultimate price - their lives, for their incessant, relentless pursuit of peace. Some of us today are riding on the shoulders of those who have paid such a price.

The reflections over this period will challenge us to introspect; to look at our own lives; our own attitudes; our own behaviors - how we may be contributing to the lack of peace in our spheres of operation - our homes; our communities; our places of work and worship; our place of study; our places of relaxation and recreation. Paul, writing to the believers in Ephesus in Ephesians Chapter 4:1-3 said,

*“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*

As we engage God’s word over this period, may we be moved and convicted by God’s spirit; may it result in confession and repentance, and may we all together advocate for peace so we can see and experience flourishing lives; flourishing communities and societies, and indeed a flourishing world, reflecting the mind, will and purpose of God.

*...see and experience flourishing lives;  
flourishing communities and societies, and indeed  
a flourishing world...*

## IN OTHER NEWS

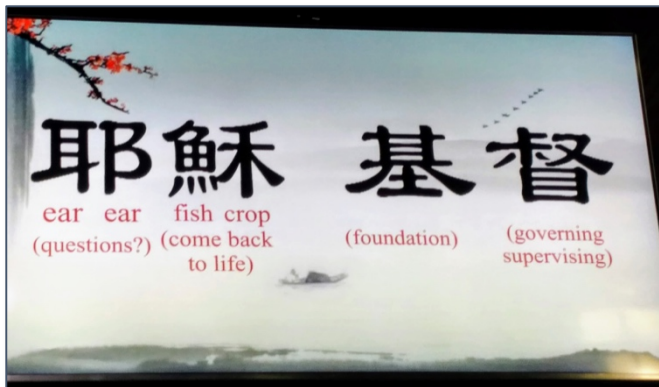


*Some of the children with flags representing their countries*

The first ever **International Night** organized by the Elmslie Memorial United Church Youth Ministry held on Friday, June 25, 2021 was a huge success. Persons from close to twenty different nations call this congregation their home and on this special evening some had the opportunity to showcase their talents, dresses, music and mouth-watering cousins to the delight of those gathered. By all indications, members of the Church and the community are expecting this festivity to become an annually recurring event from now on.



*The program included special presentations in the sanctuary*



*Jesus Christ in Mandarin*



*To everyone's surprise and delight Master of Ceremonies, Elmslie's Youth Minister Mr. Roy McGregor appeared in traditional Scottish attire.*



*National flags of countries on display representing the diverse membership of Elmslie UC.*

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The **Girls' Brigade Award Ceremony** for the West Bay Company was held on Monday, June 28, 2021, at the John Gray Memorial UC Hall.



*Explorers and Juniors performing at the Awards Ceremony*



Hannah Jackson, an explorer in the WB GB Company receives her Year 1 Badge from National Chaplain and Acting WB Chaplain Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield for completing her four subject areas.



The Explorers with their leaders and the National Chaplain  
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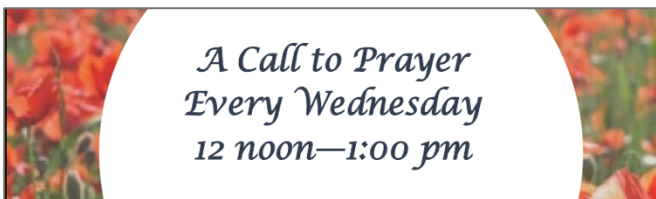
## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 03. (Saturday)  
'Darkness to Light' Training – 9:00am - Council office

July 04. (Sunday) 6th Sunday of Pentecost

July 05. (Monday) **Public Holiday**  
**CONSTITUTION DAY**

July 07. (Wednesday)  
**Council's Finance & Property Committee Meeting –**  
6:30pm – via Zoom



**It is that time of year again,  
when Gun Bay United Church will have its  
annual dinner sale!  
Where? Adjacent to the Church.  
Bring your friends and enjoy the fellowship  
and food!**

**July 5, 2021 at 11:00 am**

**CHILDREN'S CAMP JULY 18-23 8AM - 6PM**  
**TEENS' CAMP JULY 25-30 8AM - 6PM**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

# SUMMER DAY CAMP

**THEME: ROOT, SHOOT, FRUIT**

**CI\$100**  
**FUN FIELD TRIPS FELLOWSHIP FOOD**

**VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER**  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021**  
**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE**

on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am

**July 04, 2021**  
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott (Moderator)

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