



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

June 23, 2021

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World Communion
of Reformed Churches
FOSTERING
JUSTICE

Brownsville Students
Take Top Literary Prizes

COVID Protocols for Churches

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 25

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

UCJCI WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP



Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield (2nd left) at the Berliner Dome (cathedral in Berlin) was part of the group leading worship with WCRC in 2017. Rev. Noble Bloomfield delivered the sermon in a nationally televised service.

Theology, justice, church unity and mission are the primary concerns of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) of which UCJCI is a part.

Some 100 million Christians in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting and Waldensian churches in over 105 countries of the world, believe that Christian faith is responding to God's call to meet spiritual needs and foster justice for all in the transformation of the world through the love of Jesus Christ.

Stating in its vision statement that, The World Communion of Reformed Churches is called to communion and is committed to justice, WCRC works through two strategic trajectories: - Strengthening and deepening the *Koinonia*; and Growing and expanding its work for a greater global impact.. The interlocking concerns—Communion, Justice, Theology, Mission, Ecumenical Engagement and Interreligious Cooperation— are addressed through leadership development, resourcing mission initiatives and offering ,opportunities for study, reflection and dialogue on matters of interest to Reformed church leaders and lay people, including youth.

The Global Institute of Theology (GIT), a programme of WCRC, offers a unique opportunity for a community of students from around the world to live together, learn and do theology in a fully inter-contextual and ecumenical way, connecting theology from the local to the regional and world levels. Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt has taught at GIT.

WCRC works towards its vision through regional communions including CANAAC (Caribbean and North America Area

Council). Convenor of CANAAC is Miss Angela Martins one of the two UCJCI representatives to WCRC at this time.

UCJCI has, and continues to be a significant player in both the regional and global expressions of the work of the WCRC. Stewards are recruited to assist with and participate in the annual meeting of the executive committee. Miss Abigail Scarlet of UCJCI has served as a steward at WCRC.

Many pastors and lay persons of UCJCI have contributed to the weekly reflections of CANAAC online since in March of last year and others have contributed in numerous ways over the years. In the last 10 years UCJCI has been prominently engaged across WCRC and regionally in CANAAC .

The World Communion of Reformed Churches, with all the partners God provides, serves its member churches and also works for the transformation of the whole world, which is so loved by God but still trapped by multiple injustices and death, having fallen among thieves (John 10:10).



The Caribbean has a place at the table in the Executive Committee meeting in Kappel Switzerland in 2019.

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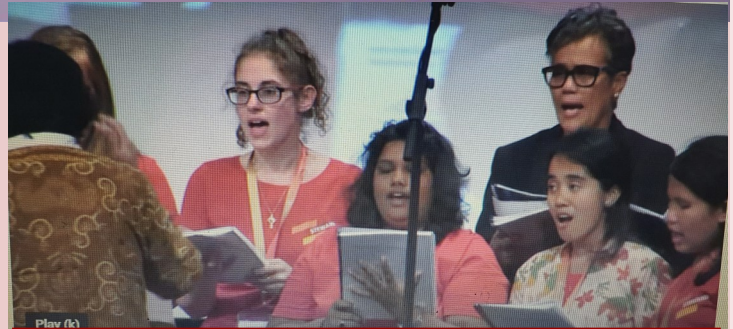


THE CARIBBEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN AREA COUNCIL

CANAAC is the regional expression of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in the region of the Caribbean, USA, and Canada

Prior to WCRC, its antecedent was WARC (World Alliance of Reformed Churches), notably, Rev. Sam Smellie and Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan were both very active in that space.

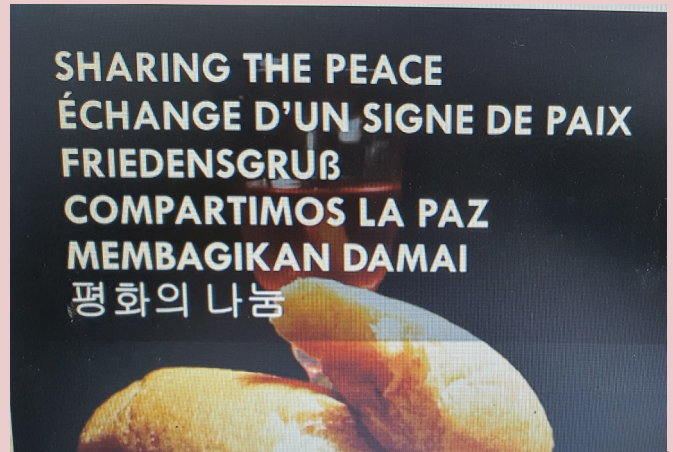
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble -Bloomfield was present at the General Council where WCRC was birthed and has been a very active UCJCI member, formerly as Executive Vice President of WCRC, and now serving as Chair of the Search Committee for the new General Secretary and also as a member of the Editorial Board of the Reformed World publication.



Miss Angela Martins has served as Chair of CANNAC since 2018. Prior to this, Rev. Tara Tyme served as Deputy Chair of CANAAC.



Rev Dwight Kelly part of the Worship Planning Committee participating in Worship in Leipzig Germany, where the World Communion of Reformed Churches held its 26th General Council from June 29 to July 7, 2017 under the theme "Living God, renew and transform us"



Peace-building is high on the agenda for WCRC.



Members of the Jamaican delegation at WCRC met up with General Secretary, Council for World Mission, Rev. Dr. Collin Cowan (4th left) and presenter Rev. Dr. Roderick Hewitt (first left).

CANAAC region has very large and very wealthy North American churches sitting amidst much smaller churches here in the Caribbean with very limited resources. Expression of voice across the region is uneven and this in itself creates some dissonance. The issue of racism is an area addressed by CANAAC. Each CANAAC country struggles with its unique issues, histories, and forms in which racism manifests. Efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance have been discussed. The call to action is for member churches to be voices of courage in confronting and dismantling theologies, practices, and narratives that allow racism to go unaddressed

One Marriage, Two Ministries

Lembe Sivile and Cynthia Mwita Share Their Partner In Mission Journey



Warm greetings from Lembe Tontela Sivile an ordained Minister of the Word, Sacraments and Pastoral care in the United Church of Zambia. Currently serving with the Council for World Mission as the Partner in Mission to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. This is a mission opportunity which my family and I have received with a deep sense of gratitude and humility. The journey which began in September 2017, has afforded us latitude to experience God's love and faithfulness through those among whom we have served.

After almost four years of service in the Jamaican context, it is more than clear that our coming to this part of God's vineyard is ordained by him. This is evidenced by the level of warmth, acceptance and the sense of belonging which we have enjoyed from our brothers and sisters here. A lot of friendships have been built along the way, making us already feeling like being home. The respect and sense of attachment which the average Jamaican has for the continent of Africa, has had a significant impact in helping us to connect not just with the Church, but more so with the communities and spaces we have been given chance to exercise ministry.

The journey started with our stop over at the Webster Memorial United Church for a period of four months. The experience set an extraordinary and firm foundation to our settlement process. I would like to use this medium to express sincere appreciation to the leadership and general membership of the Webster family. The fond memories and connections which we enjoy to this present day will always find a special place in our hearts. Moving with a young family in a totally strange place can be very overwhelming; the Webster family helped in substantial ways to alleviate this load.

I have gained an added skill of growing the best yams on the island, if not the whole world.

Since January 2018, we have been privileged to serve with and among people in the incredible, exceptional and phenomenal Lowe River Charge of the United Churches. The Charge comprises of the Lowe River Congregation which is located in the cool hills of the southern part of the parish of Trelawny, Cascade and Tooting Congregations which sit in warm and elegant parish of St Ann. What an amazing gift these people have been!!! What is even more fascinating about the context is the latitude I have been accorded to serve as a community Pastor. Having this extended Pastorate makes the whole mission concept of touching lives and helping



Cynthia Mwita

I bring warm greetings from my heart to yours. I am a lay pastor from The United Church of Zambia, serving here with the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands as a Partner in Mission facilitated by Council for World Mission.

I am currently based in Trelawny in the Southern Regional Mission Council, serving as an assistant pastor in the Lowe River Charge where my husband Rev. Lembe T. Sivile is a Minister. As a full time lay pastor, my role is to provide pastoral care, preaching, conducting funerals and administration of the sacraments of communion. I also serve as a resource person to the different auxiliaries of the congregation. I am glad to mention that I had a privilege of participating in the lay pastors training which was conducted in 2019 in the SRMC. This helped me to have a better understanding of the context and culture of the people in my community.

Working as a Partner in Mission has been a humbling experience for me and is of great importance to my faith. It is a privilege to serve as a partner and to be a part of God's work in the world.

In my early Christian life, and during my Diaconal training at the United Church of Zambia Theological College, it never crossed my mind that one day I will leave my country, a place I call home, to serve God in a faraway country. However, being a Partner in Mission and part of a wider community of believers who are called to do ministry across boundaries and beyond borders, is so fulfilling.

My family and I have been in Jamaica since August, 2017. The beginning was quite challenging, but the journey has been interesting thus far, and we continue to crave your prayers as we together strive to remain Rooted, Resilient and Responding in Hope.

I believe that we all have been called, though in various mission fields, but serving the same purpose and that is to fulfill God's mission here on earth. I find encouragement in the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 3: 8-9 NIV, and I quote;

"The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

The good aspect of it is that God is in it with us and we are never alone.

I am passionate about ministry to the children and find it so satisfying working with the young people. I therefore implore each one of us to support and protect our children against any form of abuse and violence.

I was confirmed as a full time lay pastor and assigned to the Lowe River Charge in the month of May 2020. I therefore, extend my sincere gratitude to the leadership of this Church and the wider community of UCJCI for their support and care extended to me and my family.

I also thank the Council for World Mission for engaging me as a Partner in Mission more so at a time such as this.

May the good Lord who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, bless and keep us in perfect peace.

Thanks again for the opportunity to share.

Cynthia Mwita Sivile (Pastor).

them to experience the gifts of grace given to all by God a reality.

Our prayers go to all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure that my family and I receive more than the support we deserved. How can I forget those who have helped me to gain an added skill of growing the best yams on the island if not the whole world.

Since Joining the Southern Regional mission Council, I have had the honour of serving on the executive as Evangelism Vice chair, since September 2020 I have been serving on the Ministerial formation team as mission resource person to the UCJCI interns program, since the end of the 42nd Synod I have been serving as a member of the Synod strategic planning committee and since September 2020 I have been serving as Mission resource person to the Guyana Congregational Union with focus on helping them to build a mission oriented Church.

Special appreciation is extended to both the Council and Synod leadership for their diligent accompaniment over the years. Christian greetings are well extended to all my brothers and sisters of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. We crave the prayers of the whole Church as we continue to serve with and among you.



With Love,

Rev Lembe Tontela Sivile

June 25



REV. DR. HENROY SAMUELS

Happy Birthday

REV. ANTHONY CHUNG



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!



 **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

**FUN
FIELD TRIPS
FELLOWSHIP
FOOD**

CI\$100

VENUE: PROSPECT YOUTH CENTER

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 2021

**REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM YOUTH
LEADERS, CHURCH OFFICE AND ONLINE**

CHILDREN FROM BROWNSVILLE CHARGE SHINE IN THE PANDEMIC

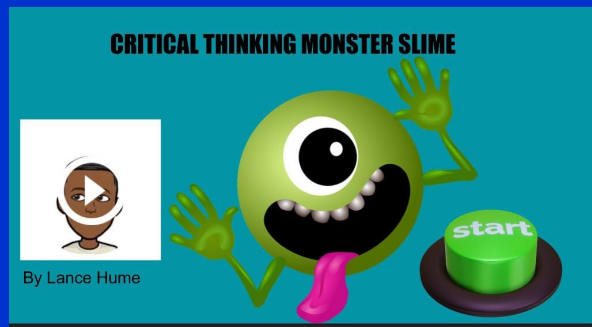
Brownsville Charge of United Churches is celebrating. Recently two children of the Brownsville Primary School have made them proud— Sandrena Bigby and Lance Hume.

They excelled in an annual competition staged by the Ministry of Education which was held virtually this year on May 13. Sandrena and Lance entered the competition for Region 4 (schools in the parishes of Westmoreland, Hanover, St. James, Trelawny and of St. Ann.

Lay Pastor Escar Wynter of Carlisle Memorial, a congregation in the Brownsville charge, reports that students from different classes participated and these two youngsters were top awardees.



Sandrena Bigby, grade 5 student was awarded 2nd place for her book entry in the Region 4 Literacy Fair.



Lance Hume, grade 6 student, placed 3rd for his game entry in the Region 4 Literacy Fair. His creative work is an online game.



YOUTH NEWS FROM CAYMAN

On Saturday, May 22, 2021, the Savannah United Church Youth Discipleship Group had an enriched time of fellowship and reflection with Mrs. Angela Martins (Former Chairman of Council) at her lovely home. Ms. Martins led the group in a meaningful discussion about our mission and purpose as youths, which left us all thinking about our mission and commitment to serve as children of God. - Contributed by Camille Watt, Youth Minister



On Sunday, June 6, 2021, the Cayman Islands Girls' Brigade gathered at the Savannah United Church for their annual Girls' Brigade International Day of Prayer Service, focusing on the theme: 'Fruitful and Overflowing: Be Faithful'. GB National Chaplain Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield reflecting on the passage of Matthew 25:31-40 brought home and alive the message of "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

The Companies also showcased their talents through special items and arts and crafts displays. The event was followed by a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.

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

PREPAREDNESS, CAPABILITIES AND RESPONSE

Congregations must be ready to give guidance, oversight and assistance when a national emergency is declared. In all cases, this will mean ensuring that guidance and direction given by the appropriate governmental agencies are followed.

In the case of hurricanes, most steps can and should be ready in advance and reviewed before **1st June** annually. These must include the following:

A Each Congregation should have in place a Disaster Preparedness and Business Continuity Plan, that covers the functioning of the church itself, protection of the buildings – including the manse, etc. – the essential records, and the ability to resume the work of the church if the primary location – office and/or sanctuary – should be destroyed. These arrangements must include adequate distribution of the list of members and adherents, to ensure that there should be copies of these available immediately after the event to ensure that all are checked on (see B below). Councils may have plans which may be used by congregations. Please consult with your Regional Mission Councils.

B. A Plan of Action covering the Congregation’s Minister, Members and Adherents.

This should have categorised the individuals, to enable us to give priority to those who may need our help the most:

- Age/infirmity
- Single parents with minor children



The aftermath of Hurricane Ivan in Jamaica. Photo by recmod.com

- Extended family not available
- Persons for whom there is no available transportation
- Persons whose homes may not be able to withstand the hurricane or may not have available resources to make the house storm-ready
- Persons who may not be able to obtain (and keep secure) hurricane kit supplies, including water.

After identifying the persons under B above who appear to warrant special concern, the Congregation must then seek to sensitively confirm the situation with those persons and establish individual plans of action for each person likely to need special assistance in the event a hurricane watch or warning is issued.

These plans will include, as applicable:

- Those who will need help to secure their homes, and whether or not they will be able to pay for this to be done (i.e. whether they only need a member to organise the work for them, or whether they will need the work done by volunteers).
- Lists of volunteers for shuttering houses, transporting evacuees, putting in food and medical supplies, etc.
- List of agencies and groups who are providing emergency services, rebuilding, road clearing, etc., known builders who can be called on to begin making repairs to church properties and properties of members, giving priority to needed living conditions.
- The persons who will be responsible for establishing the list of Members/Adherents who, after the event, are determined as needing specified help and ensuring they receive it.

The Congregation will also want to ensure that all Members/Adherents know that they should establish and keep under review a personal plan for themselves and their families.

NB. Please seek to obtain a Hurricane Survival Kit which contains detailed information on what preparations and precautions each of us should undertake and helpful numbers. Please keep handy and follow the advice indicated.

The Congregation should endeavour to implement arrangements to stockpile food, sanitary supplies, wipes, water, etc., to make available to persons in need after the storm if persons have lost their supplies, shops are unable to reopen, etc. Care must be taken in choosing where to keep this stockpile. Volunteers should be ready to make assessments and help distribute such supplies (and the list of these volunteers maintained by the Minister and delegated Elders).

Members and adherents are also encouraged, depending on their personal circumstances, to volunteer to assist in the community as far as possible, as Shelter Wardens/Assistants, aid distributors, clean-up crews, rebuilding groups, etc. Often the extent of the work required to be done, which would include that needed by our members and adherents, is of such magnitude and requires such equipment and skills that Members/Adherents may not have these in sufficient supply, and working with Government and other relief agencies, other Church and community groups may be the most effective way of bringing help to our members and wider community.

The Synod has also requested each Congregation to create and build up a fund from which disaster recovery assistance can be quickly provided, both locally and internationally. After a badly damaging hurricane, the Congregation should endeavour to financially assist those Members/ Adherents (and others in the community) who have suffered major losses, especially those who are underinsured or those who have restricted incomes, etc.

As soon as possible after the emergency has been lifted, Members/Adherents should begin checking on each other as the situation dictates – i.e. travel may be the only form of communicating and that may be restricted. And as soon as possible again, the Minister and Elders should begin meeting to ensure coordination of the verification of the safety and situation of each Member/Adherent. Therefore, other members who have made contact with persons in the congregation should try to report to the Minister/ Elder the situations that they have verified, to expedite the process. The agreed procedure should then be followed for listing the help needed by each Member/Adherent and how this will be provided, who is taking responsibility for whom, etc.



Bodden Town in Grand Cayman after Hurricane Ivan September 2004

Next issue: PERSONAL/FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS

We are
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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**

**ACCREDITED
REGISTERED
&
READY**

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RIGHT THROUGH THE YEAR



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An Initiative of

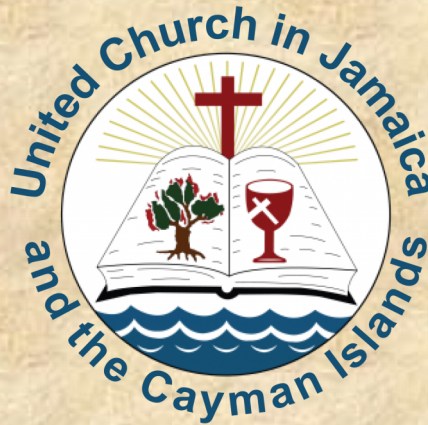




for every child

Operated by





UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR JAMAICA

The Government of Jamaica, on June 22, 2021, announced a number of provisions under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These provisions **EXCEPT FOR CHURCH SERVICES** are for the period **July 1 to August 10, 2021**.

We wish to share with you the ones which will affect congregational life :

1. **Small Events** (apart from worship) are allowed with no more than **100 persons**.
2. **Curfew on Sundays** – begins at 6 p.m.
3. **Church services** – (effective **June 24, 2021**) the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary will be **70% of the maximum capacity of the designated area for worship**. This is to be calculated at **1 person per 40 square feet**. (This number should be the one you used for your sanctuary prior to the last set of restrictions.)
4. **Funerals** – will be allowed with a maximum of **30 persons within the venue**.
5. **Burials** will be allowed for 30 minutes on weekdays from **9 am to 5 pm** with a **maximum of 30 persons** at the graveside.
6. **Stay at home** – **persons 60 years** and over. Fully vaccinated persons are exempt.

Please note that the wearing of masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are still required for public spaces and gatherings.

We invite you to comply with these provisions.

Rev. Norbert Stephens
General Secretary, UCJCI



Lay Leaders Certificate Course Module 1

TRAINING TOPIC:

PLANNING AND LEADING BIBLE STUDIES

**SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2021
- 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

Persons interested in joining in the training for that topic are invited to register with their Regional Mission Council.

**Lecturer:
Rev. Paul Pinto**

**POSITION AVAILABLE
Manager Garden
Operations**



Meadowrest Memorial Gardens (The Gardens) is located in Whittaker Mountain off the St. John's Road in St. Catherine. The Gardens has been developed on 55 acres of rolling countryside and magnificent views which serve as a perfect final resting place.

Job Summary:

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.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

Bachelor's Degree in Operations Management or a related field;
5 years leadership and management experience;
2 years experience in Cemetery Operations or in a similar capacity.

*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 United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Evangelism Ministry**

Presents

"The Evening of Comfort"

Come and enjoy hymns of HOPE and RESILIENCE as we reflect on the Comforting power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Date: Sunday June 27, 2021 Time: 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Join our UCJCI Youtube Channel

**Remember to wear
black on
Thursday.**

**Take a Stand! Work
for a world without
violence.**

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

LET US BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

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

- Safe experiences during the 2021 hurricane season
- The mental health of the people of our nations
- Continuing challenges of COVID 19 including the politics and economics of access to health care
- Wisdom and good judgement in relation to preserving health following the changes in the Disaster Risk Management regulations in Jamaica.
- The Worship, Witness and Work of UCJCI in Cayman, Jamaica and through our international partnerships.
- Safety for summer activities for children, particularly at beaches and rivers.
- New and deepened commitments to Christ through evangelism and discipleship efforts among children and youth this summer.

LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

This coming Sunday...

June 27, 2021



Times of Healing

Healing offers opportunity for Restoration.

2 Samuel 1: 1, 17- 27; Psalm 130;
St. Mark 5: 21-43

JULY SUB-THEME: MESSENGERS OF PEACE

Next week...

July 4, 2021



Messengers of Peace: Confident of Our Call In A Rebellious World

Ezekiel 2:1-10; Psalm 123;
2 Cor. 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

UCJCI VALUE S

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

Spiritual Disciplines

(Prayer, Fasting, Worship, etc.):

Personally and corporately communing
with the Triune God – Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, attributing honour and
seeking after God’s heart, to be empow-
ered for ministry

(Psalm 95:1-6, Matthew 6:5-18)

**IN A COMING
ISSUE...**

**Celebrating our
Partnerships
World
Council of
Churches**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian

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Moderator

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)”