

July 28, 2021



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Summer in the Spirit - Vacation Bible School

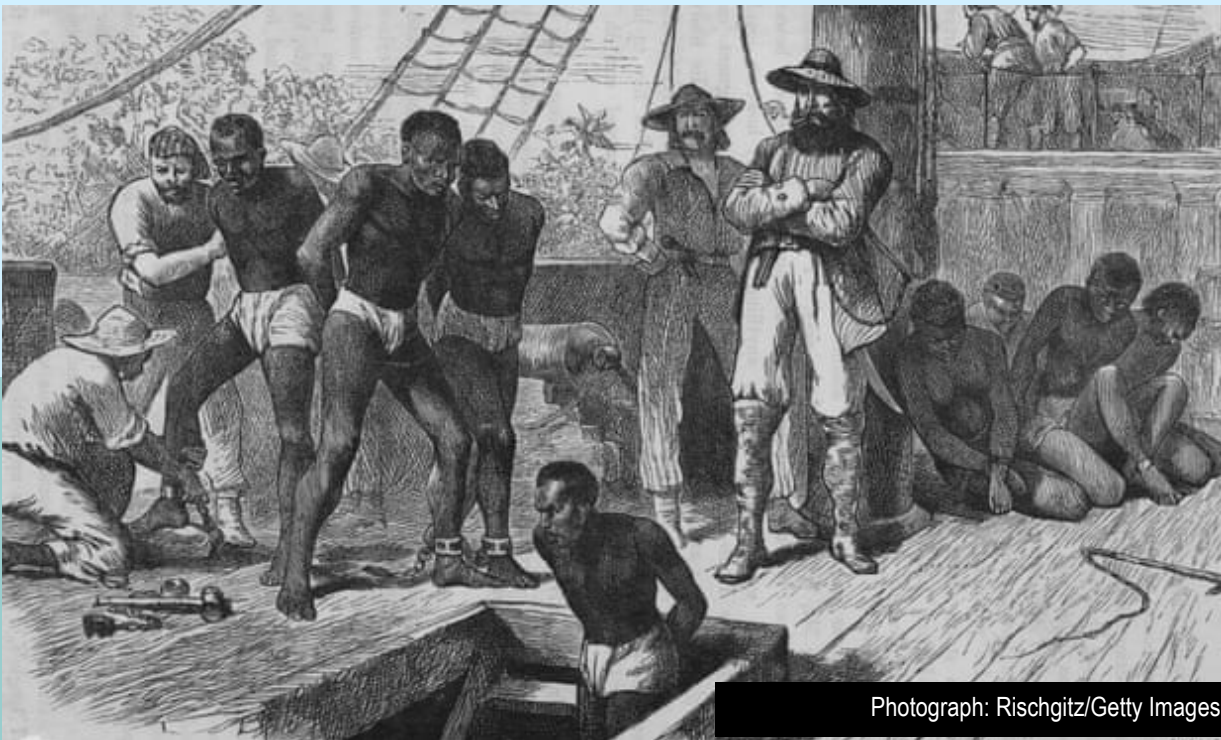
Demystifying UCJCI
Constitution... **Coming Soon**

Support our University

Updated COVID Protocols
in Jamaica

VOLUME 7
ISSUE 29

A CASE FOR REPARATIONS



Photograph: Rischgitz/Getty Images

Calls for reparation, or the making of amends for wrongs done to Caribbean Peoples especially of African descent but also to include other groups are being made around the world.

The voice of the Caribbean is present in these discussions. Recent statements by the United Kingdom High Commissioner to Jamaica, Asif Ahmad, have also heightened the need for more awareness and action among members of the Christian community to counter a narrative that reflects the perspective of the powerful.

Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans, Chairman, UCJCI Reparations Task Force, reinforces the role of our church in this discourse and action.

“We may never know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus on that fateful day He visited him at his home. What we know is that the encounter changed Zacchaeus’s life for all time. Zacchaeus voluntarily chose to take action towards restitution of an honest, generous relationship with his community.

Jesus said “Today salvation has come to this house” Luke 19 vs. 9. You and I and all the Church should live for the drawing near of the Kingdom of God into our experience.

Reparation for the grievous injustice perpetrated on generations of African people is a part of the process of reconciliation of human kind and the Church is invested in the ministry of reconciliation in the world.”

One of the ways in which UCJCI is making its contribution to the demands for reparations is through the work of the **reparations task force**. These efforts have the following aims:

- To raise awareness on matters related to reparations within and widely beyond the walls of the UCJCI.
- To fulfil a Resolution of the 42nd Synod of the UCJCI which seeks to focus on the Caribbean call for Reparations.

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- To engage the participants in events which offer the opportunity to reflect upon the effects of our colonial past upon the present life experiences of our country region.
- To provide useful tools to strengthen our knowledge base on reparations and analytical tools.

The daily activities do not represent a simple harking back on the past but instead provides lens through which we may interrogate our past, present and future. Our journey of nation building is ongoing.

What are the aspirations for this awareness building?
That through the Bible Studies, Conversations, Sermons and Lecture persons would take away and Biblical per-

spective on freedom and reparation. Further persons would grow in an appreciation of the journey, psychological and spiritual and physical which has been undertaken by our ancestors and elders; the present journey on which were present by trekking. Above all we hope to promote an intergenerational movement of working, walking, talking together as we build a solid future.

AN INVITATION

Join us in this week of study, exploration and introspection into the legacy of slavery and let's together hear what Jesus says. As we hear and respond in obedience, the Kingdom of God breaks through into our life experience.



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Reparation Task Force
presents

“EMANCIPENDENCE STILL COMIN...”



A WEEK OF AWARENESS AND REFLECTION THROUGH



- ✦ Bible Studies
- ✦ Dramatic pieces
- ✦ Lecture
- ✦ Sermons
- ✦ Conversation for the family

SUN, AUGUST 1 - SAT. AUGUST 7, 2021
@6P.M. VIA





SUPPORT IUC

Professor Roderick Hewitt, President of the International University of the Caribbean (IUC), makes an appeal to the UCJCI family for support for the institution which is owned and operated by UCJCI.

1. Please advertise the courses that we are offering regularly, at worship services, on your website and during online service.
2. We are encouraging your local church to recruit at least one student for the next semester that begins in September 2021.
3. Please include IUC in your missionary contribution by sponsoring at least one student for the 2021/2022 academic year. We welcome and appreciate whatever contribution that you can offer.

I am pleased to inform you of an interesting new development at IUC with the development of the IUC Peace Institute. We will soon begin a major advertisement blitz on national TV, Radio and through social media that will lead up to the official launch of the Institute in September 2021. Through this development, IUC will give renewed emphasis to its founding Motto: "Seek Peace, Pursue Excellence".



International University of the Caribbean
Seek Peace; Pursue Excellence

2021
ADMISSION

Full & Part Scholarships Available

Now accepting application for Sixth Form Pathway Programme
Commencing September 2021

Courses:

1. Associate Degree in Business Administration (with specialization in PPM)
2. Associate Degree in Psychology

Duration: 2 Years

Entry Requirements:

5 CXC/CSEC including Mathematics & English Language or City & Guilds Level 3

Cost: \$150,000.00 per year

Please Whatsapp for further details.

 International University of the Caribbean
47 Old Hope Road
Kingston 5

876-318-4030
or email: foundation@iuc.edu.jm

For more information use the following contacts:

WhatsApp
876 318 4030

Email
Foundation
@iuc.edu.jm



UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

The Government of Jamaica, yesterday July 26, 2021, announced a number of amended provisions under the Disaster Risk Management Act. These provisions are for the period **July 27 to August 10, 2021**.

We wish to share with you the ones which will affect congregational life from **July 27, 2021**:

- ◆ **Small Events** (apart from worship) are allowed with no more than **100 persons** in total or a **maximum capacity of 50% of the usable square footage**, whichever is lower. Please note that these events require approval from the relevant authorities in your parish.
- ◆ **Curfew on Sundays** – begins at 3 p.m.
- ◆ **Church services** – the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary will be **50% 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 half of what you used for your sanctuary prior to the last set of restrictions.)

Existing provisions remain in place as under:

- ◆ **Funerals** – will be allowed with a maximum of 30 persons within the venue.
- ◆ **Burials** will be allowed for 30 minutes on weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm with a maximum of 30 persons at the graveside.
- ◆ **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.

COMING SOON...

Constitution Corner

Would you like to know more about the UCJCI Constitution and how it impacts you? Look out for

Constitution Corner

every last Wednesday of the month in the UCJCI UPDATE.

Learn more about key provisions of the UCJCI Constitution and the work of the Constitution and Doctrine Committee in interpreting, applying and giving life to the Constitution!

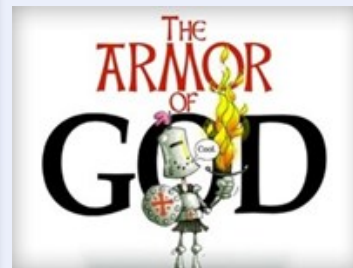
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



MONDAY AUGUST 2, 2021

REV. HARRY
BODDEN

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT EAST END - GUN BAY CHARGE



The East End and Gun Bay Charge held its Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 14-16, from 8:30–12:30 pm under the theme “The Armor of God.” On the first day, the children were divided into two teams named Nights of Canterbury and Nights of King Arthur, which were led by Jazial Martinez and Kelisha Sopeton, members of the East End Youth Fellowship group.



Daily activities included worship, Bible lesson, crafts, and games. The Bible lessons focused on the stories of The Hebrew Boy, David and Goliath, and Paul and Silas. The preparation for VBS was aided by the Savannah United Church that consisted of the Youth Worker Ms. Camille Watt, Mrs. Margaret Garcia and Ms. Annette Murphy. Over the three days, there were 16 children - 9 girls and 7 boys and over thirteen volunteers from the Charge and community. At the end of VBS every child left with a gift package.





...AND OVER AT SAVANNAH UNITED



A total of 63 children ages ranging from 3 to 13yrs old attended five evenings of Vacation Bible School at the Savannah United Church from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Sanctuary, Hall, Boardroom, and Sunday School Classrooms were all decorated to reflect the theme Knights of the North Castle.



Each evening started with registration in the Church Hall, then children were escorted to the Assembly area by Teen Leaders assigned as guides to each class. There were five classes in total: Kindergarten (8 children), Lower Elementary (10 children), Upper Elementary 1 (13 children), Upper Elementary 2 (17 children), and Middle School (15 children). Mrs. Kimia

Hemmings, Artistic Director, engaged the children in action songs reflecting the lesson for each day and an interactive puppet show with Sparky the Dragon played by Shantel Purnwasy. The lessons were then introduced with a video presentation and students were sent to their activity areas.

There were four main activity centers: Art & Science, Bible Story, Recreation, and Snack Art. To facilitate the large groups, the classes were scheduled to rotate every 30minutes to experience all the centers each day. Thirty- Two (32) adult volunteers and Nine (9) teen volunteers attended the VBS, but teachers were assigned once or twice for the week. Teens functioned as timekeepers and guides for the children when transitioning to activity groups.

The Bible lessons were centered on Bible Stories that demonstrated characteristics of Truth, Justice, Faith, Peace, and Salvation. The Three Hebrew Boys (Truth), David and Goliath (Justice), Jesus Walking on Water (Faith), Mary's Journey to Bethlehem (Peace), and Paul and Silas in Prison (Salvation). In addition to the stories, children were encouraged to be strong in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10) and to put on the whole Armour of God as we stand boldly for Christ. The children enjoyed the set, lively songs, puppet show, art sessions, bible lesson activities, and the creative snacks that reflected the theme and lessons for each day. On the last day, all the volunteers were presented with tokens of appreciation, a certificate and were celebrated with a themed cake.



Super Summer in the Spirit!

Vacation Bible School

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

VBS 2021

Theme: *Riding in Hope*

JULY 26-30
10 AM-11:15 AM

VIRTUAL REGISTRATION

RIDE WITH US!

The poster features a central illustration of a yellow school bus with children inside, a child on a bicycle, a child in a wheelchair, and a rainbow with children sliding down it. The background is blue with white clouds, a white dove, and butterflies. The logo of The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands is in the top left corner.

What plans do you have for your children and youth this summer? How about our UCJCI age-appropriate activities? Contact the Programme Secretary in your Regional Mission Council for more information.

Super Summer in the Spirit!

Camp Ministry



**The United Church in Jamaica and
the Cayman Islands**

Camp Ministry Presents

***Children's & Junior
Summer Bounce***

BOUNCE UP INNA GOD'S HOPE



AND



**August 8-13, 2021
@3p.m. -5:30 p.m.**



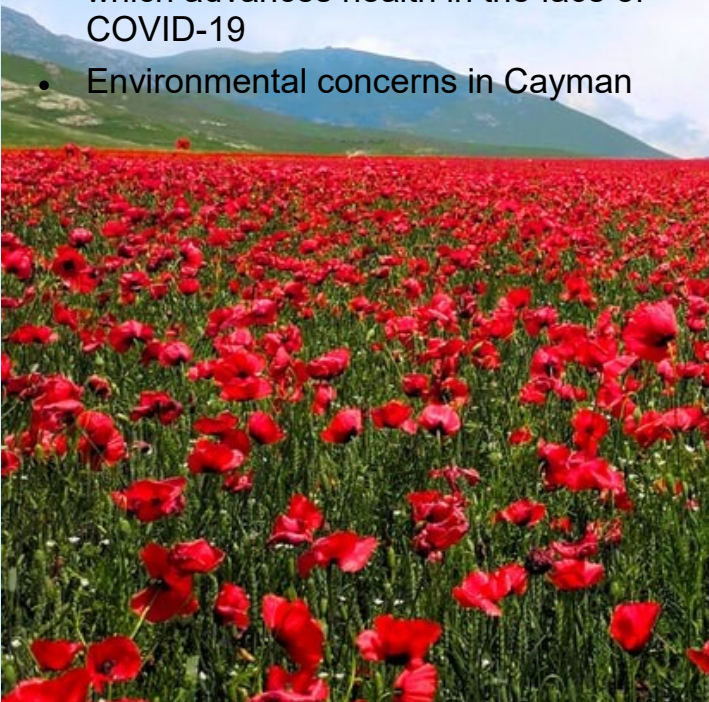
PRAY ♦ PRAY ♦ PRAY

**UCJCI responds to the
COVID-19
pandemic and other local,
regional and global
challenges as a community
of faith**

Let us Pray Together

**Every Wednesday
12 noon—1:00 pm**

- Families keeping safe during the summer
- Rev. Dr. Norman Francis who has been hospitalized
- Mrs. Karen Francis who is recovering from illness
- Camps and virtual encounters planned for children and youth this summer
- Wisdom and disciplined behaviour which advances health in the face of COVID-19
- Environmental concerns in Cayman



LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

This coming Sunday...

August 1, 2021



INTROSPECTION: AN IMPORTANT DISPOSITION FOR PEACE-BUILDING

2 Samuel 11: 26-12:13

Psalm 51: 1-12

Ephesians 4: 1-12

Next week...



August 8 2021

MUTUAL RESPECT: A FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE IN PEACE-BUILDING

2 Samuel 18:5-9; 31-33

Psalm 34: 1-8

St. John 6: 35; 41-51



The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI)
LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE
Lay Leaders Certificate Course – Module 1

Topic: *Effective Caregiving*

Exploring approaches to offering care to others as a critical component of Christian ministry.



SATURDAY
JULY 31, 2021
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

VIA  **zoom**

Lecturer:
REV. CARLENE WALFORD

Are you interested in joining the training for this topic?
PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH YOUR REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL.

UCJCI VALUE S

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

Stewardship:

By tithing, and with the generosity of thankfulness, the commitment of gifts and resources (time, talents, and money) to advance The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands 12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 God's kingdom in the world; the proper care and optimal use of the resources provided for God's work; and the care of God's creation (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Matthew 23:23)

IN THE COMING ISSUE...

UCJCI Enlarged Territory – Ministry in Virtual Spaces

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Congregational, Disciples of Christ ,Presbyterian

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10

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

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)”