

August 18, 2021



# PHOENIX RISING

## The International University of the Caribbean

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Appeal to Help Haiti

Back to Church Sunday

Sign Up for E-DARE

VOLUME 7  
ISSUE 31

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

# Phoenix Rising!

## The International University of the Caribbean



**“IUC faced the clear and present danger of not being viable as far as its debts were in relation to its income.”**

These were the words of Professor Roderick Hewitt, President of the International University of the Caribbean (IUC) in a recent interview.

However, the image of the legendary phoenix of Greek and Egyptian mythology, which symbolizes renewal and resurrection, came to mind as he described the current endeavours of the institution which is owned and operated by UCJCI. President and Board have been mandated to address the realities facing the institution and have taken a multi-pronged approach to tackle the challenges faced noting that success would not come by ‘waving a magic wand’. A significant injection of funds would be necessary to address the historic debts. Instead eight strategies have been undertaken. They are as follows:

### DEBT FORGIVENESS

Negotiate with creditors to reduce the level of debt.

### RECALIBRATE NICHE

Recalibrate offerings to the academic marketplace in a number of ways. The goal is to identify the courses that people want tertiary institutions to address. This will involve reviewing the curriculum. A part of this approach will be re-engaging with the church (see information on page 4) The IUC leadership will speak with schools (UCJCI schools and others) to target students not quite ready for a degree programme to offer them a level of study which will prepare them for degree level study. They will also engage professionals seeking to upgrade themselves who struggle with costs to see how to negotiate making study accessible in a mutually beneficial way.

### RETURN TO FOUNDING MISSION

This strategy involves finding a niche which allows the university to be true to its founding mission. The founding mission is to ‘Seek peace and Pursue Excellence’. According to the



President, “IUC has sought to pursue academic excellence. The focus will be to more intentionally pursue the first part of the motto, ‘Seek Peace’, and this will involve developing the curriculum and planning through networking with national stakeholders.” Targeting peace-building and violence prevention, IUC will train workers in non-governmental organizations and other areas to be facilitators of peace building in communities. Through the university, people who have already been working in peace building whose work is of a high quality may be accorded academic recognition.

### RATIONALIZE STAFFING

It is important to operate with a staff component which is lean and suited for the tasks. “We will say goodbye to some persons and welcome new staff focusing on competence for the current marketplace.”

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### RATIONALISE ASSETS

IUC will look at its current assets and seek to answer the question, how do we make the best use of assets. The high cost of rent in relation to student numbers will be studied e.g. Santa Cruz is one campus which is uneconomical. So students have been brought into another campus. Similarly Snow Hill has been closed. Even viable campuses will be scrutinized. Savanna-lamar is one such. The President noted, "With work having gone online it is not the best use of resources to continue to pay rent for that space, so a smaller space will be investigated."

### COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY TO RAISE FUNDS

The goal is to seek third stream funding outside the local context. Professor Hewitt said, "Some earlier plans have had to be placed



on hold with the impact of COVID 19, however we are having discussions with the University of Kwazulu Natal in South Africa to

offer some PhD programmes. So this strategy involves collaborating in hosting courses and co-registering participants so the profits are shared accordingly."

### PARTNERSHIP

IUC is exploring partnership with Kings College in London to develop its Peace Institute. The IUC Peace Institute and Extended Learning facility is an expression of the missional calling of the International University of the Caribbean. The Centre will aim to rise to the challenge of meeting one of Jamaica's greatest need at present that of contributing to the creating of a society less characterized by conflict and violence. Currently the university offers short courses in areas such as community leadership and accredited peace building modules. The goal is to offer a full programme in January in areas such as conflict resolution and peace-building, Adolescent Resiliency and



Well being will be offered in collaboration with Dr. Kim Scott Fisher from the Child Resiliency programme. This programme began in 2006 as an outreach programme of the Hope United Church, under the umbrella of the Hope Counseling and Wellness Centre. IUC will also be going to the marketplace—NGOS and other groups to encourage them to send their staff for training. These are likely to be 6-10 week programmes.

### STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

A strategic business plan is being developed which will be a turn-around document that impacts at every level of the university. The first draft has already been shared with the IUC Council. It is anticipated that by September the second draft will be ready. This will become the document for stakeholder buy in.

*Cont'd on page 8*



# 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".



# IELTS EXAM AT IUC

(International University of the Caribbean)

## Breaking news alert!!!!!!

International University of the Caribbean is pleased to confirm that they are now an approved test venue to sit your IELTS exam in Kingston, Jamaica! bookings now available for **August 12th. Register now!!!**



Make your dream of living abroad come true by taking the IELTS™ test



Book your exam with confidence at

<https://www.multilingua.com.co/ielts-international>



1876 8136177



[international.prep@iuc.edu.jm](mailto:international.prep@iuc.edu.jm)



<https://iuc2.edu.jm/online/>





# Help Haiti



My sisters and brothers,

Greetings.

The earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on Saturday August 14, 2021, has been devastating for that nation. The severe physical, economic and social impact on Haiti have been made more challenging as shortly thereafter they experienced the passage of Tropical Storm Grace. All of this follows the recent assassination of their President.

The earthquake has caused much disruption in the lives of the people of Haiti, particularly in the Les Cayes Region. At the last count over 1,400 persons have lost their lives, and more than 6,900 persons have been injured. It is anticipated that these numbers will continue to rise. Additionally, there has been significant damage to, or the destruction of, homes and other buildings. Many persons are now homeless and desperate and the livelihood of others is severely threatened.

As part of our initial response as a church, we wish to offer financial support to the relief efforts in Haiti, through our established contacts there.

We are therefore requesting that your congregation/charge makes a contribution to this effort through a special offering over the next two Sundays August 22, and August 29, 2021. We are aware of the restrictions on attendance in worship in Jamaica and would suggest that, where possible, congregations make a contribution from their own funds.

Please remit your contributions in Jamaica to:

Bank: National Commercial Bank Jamaica Ltd

Address: 90-94 Slipse Rd. Kingston 5

Account Name: United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Account #: 234297392

Type of account : Savings

In Grand Cayman, please send your contributions to your local congregations, which will then remit the same to the Cayman Regional Office.

While we offer this much needed support, let us also continue to pray for those affected in our sister nation.

Blessings,

From the Office of the General Secretary

**Send comments and news about your congregation to:** [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)

# YOUNG ADULTS PLANT TREES



The United Church Young Adults Action Movement (UCYAAM), as part of their Annual Conference (August 12 - 15, 2021), will be conducting a Tree Planting exercise in each Regional Mission Council. For this reason, members of the Savannah UC Young Adults group - the only currently existing group in the CIRMC - planted a Poinciana tree at the Prospect Youth Centre grounds on Friday, August 6, 2021.

With a deep sense of gratitude and an abundance of joy, the CIRMC welcomes back Rev. Donovan Myers, Minister of the John Gray Memorial United Church, West Bay. Rev. Myers and his loved ones have recently been through a particularly difficult time in their life, yet during the many trials and tribulations they remained strong in their faith and never gave up hope. We celebrate God's goodness and mercy toward them, for God has restored him and filled him with renewed strength and zeal. Rev. Myers has resumed the administrative duties of his Charge as of August 1, 2021, and will take on his full duties on September 1, 2021. We continue to keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers as they embark on this new phase of their life. The CIRMC also wishes to record its gratitude to all those who have assisted in various areas of congregational ministry during the temporary, yet prolonged absence of Rev. Myers. Their contributions proved to be invaluable during this critical

**WELCOME BACK  
REV. DONOVAN  
MYERS**



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# OVER CI6,000 COLLECTED FOR ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES



(Left to right): Rev. Rohan Forrester – Chair of CIRMC, Mr. Ormond Williams – Lay Pastor, member of the SVG-CISO, Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield – RDGS/CIRMC and Rev. Louis Sully, - member of the Council Executive, CIRMC)

The Congregations of the CIRMC have been in prayerful support of the government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) since the explosive eruption of the La Soufriere volcano on April 9, 2021. In addition to being in prayer, the members and adherents have collectively contributed the amount of CI\$ 6,511.35 towards the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community in the Cayman Islands Support Organization. We continue to hope and pray for the complete recovery of the well-being and livelihood of the people of SVG. May peace and justice continue to reign in Saint Vincent, Land so Beautiful.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

175th Anniversary

HOPE IS HERE!

Back to Church  
Sept. 12, 2021 Sunday

John Gray Memorial (West Bay) - 10:30am	Savannah United (Savannah) - 10:00am
Elmslie Memorial (George Town) - 10:30am	Webster Memorial (Bodden Town) - 11:00am
South Sound United (George Town) - 9:00am	East End United (East End) - 11:00am
Robert Young Memorial (Crewe Rd.) - 8:45am	Gun Bay United (East End) - 9:30am
William Pouchie Memorial (North Side) - 9:00am	

All are invited!

**BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY (BTCS)**, as an evangelistic outreach originated in the United Kingdom in 2004 focusing on inviting those who have been to church as casual visitors for a wedding, a baptism or funeral, or used to go to Sunday School. In 2009 it was 'reinvented' in the USA as a general evangelistic outreach and turned into an international movement. Since then it has spread worldwide, and with the participation of over 40,000 churches across 120 denominations in 90 countries, it reaches millions of people. As an annual evangelistic outreach event, it has been held in the CIRMC on the second Sunday of September since 2012. Leading up to that Sunday every active member in our congregations is expected to reach out to someone and invite them to the fellowship of believers, either as first-timers or returnees. To this end, we ask all of you to prayerfully and actively participate in this ministry.


Cont'd from page 3...Phoenix Rising

Other work already done is the engagement of persons through Council for World Mission to be part of the staff of the university who will cover priority academic areas. Another is to work with Council for World Mission to advance its Legacy of Slavery objectives.

The President shared that other income earners include collaboration with the Canadian Immigration services and the Caymanian Immigration services to assist applicants for visas with training.

It is anticipated that with these eight strategies pursued with diligence, indeed UCJCI will witness the rising of the phoenix that is the International university of the Caribbean strengthened and determined to Seek Peace and Pursue excellence.

*"And let us not grow weary of doing good,  
for in due season we will reap,  
if we do not give up."  
Galatians 6:9*



**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!



**Remember to wear Black on  
Thursday as you work for a world  
without violence**

Send comments and news about your congregation to: [ucjciupdate@gmail.com](mailto:ucjciupdate@gmail.com)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REV. DONOVAN  
MCPHERSON

AUGUST 20

REV. ANTHONY  
WALLACE



## 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

- Cayman and Jamaica and the effects of Tropical Storm Grace
- Patients, families and workers in the health sector in Jamaica
- Rev. Garwell Bacchas and family with the illness of his brother and death of his sister-in-law
- Miss Jonielle Daley, UCJCI Communication and Information Technology Coordinator who lost a cousin and aunt in quick succession.
- Mrs. Sheila Arscott Smith's son Jerone and family who are unwell.
- The people of Haiti and Afghanistan
- Rev. Dr. Norman Francis in hospital

#### A PRAYER-AT THIS TIME

In this time of COVID-19, we pray: When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm; when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern; when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant; help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

## LITURGY FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

August 22, 2021



### THE CENTRALITY OF GOD: THE KEY TO HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS

When God is the centre of our lives, that which exudes from us is godliness or righteousness. When we are anchored in God our relationships reflect Christlikeness.

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34: 15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29, 2021



### REACHING OUT TOWARDS PEACE

When peace is present and experienced, is it such a beautiful thing. It makes for light and warm relations and an inspirational environment. We must imagine my peace; we must desire it; we must reach out to it and work for it

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Psalm 45: 1-9

James 1: 17-27





MON OCT 25 | WED OCT 27 | FRI OCT 29 2021

**EDARE**  
discernment & radical engagement

the **commitment**

the **call**

the **agonies**

**3 SESSIONS/DAY**  
LONDON/WEST AFRICAN TIME (GMT+1):  
| SESSION 1 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM  
| SESSION 2 | 2:30PM - 4:00PM  
| SESSION 3 | 5:00PM - 6:30PM

**RISE TO LIFE**  
doing theology in public places

**THREE ENERGIES MEET AT THIS EDARE EVENT**

3 DAY ONLINE FORUM

- 1 **the commitment** of CWM to “chant down Babylon” and its shitstems in order to allow all life (not just humans, but creation and the planet) to flourish;
- 2 **the call** upon church and community agents, biblical critics and theologians, to practice and perform our trades in public places;
- 3 **the agonies** that current endemics (esp. racism, sexism, covid) bring which require collaborative theological, biblical, and missional responses.

**REGISTER NOW!**

<https://edare.cwmission.org/register>

## UCJCI VALUE S

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

### **A Loving Fellowship and Unity:**

Strengthening our community of believers in a Christ-like manner, by affirming each other and responding to each other's needs with understanding and compassion, so as to encourage others to be drawn to a life in Christ (Romans 15:17); constantly acting in love towards one another, while acknowledging our diversity, but always seeking the unity of the Church for the building of the kingdom (Romans 14:19, Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:1-16).

## **IN THE COMING ISSUE...**

**Reparations  
— Why Not Forgive and Forget?**

## **THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

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*Tel: 876 926-8734*

*E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://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)”**