



October 6, 2021

A Weekly Update from The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands



Vol.7 Issue 39

Beyond the Pulpit

Young man, arise!

by Markel Virgo, Public Relations Officer of the United Church Men’s Fellowship

This coming Sunday is Synodical Men’s Fellowship Sunday in the United Church. Gods willing, I will be enrolled as a member of the United Church Men’s Fellowship, through the Hope United Church where I presently worship.

In relaying this to a friend via WhatsApp, she seemed perplexed by my intention. As the conversation ensued, I picked up the reason behind her perplexity: that I, a young man in my mid-20s, am about to join an auxiliary of the church that is traditionally filled with older men, who are somehow seen as tired, lazy, very rigid and stubborn about their operations.

As that friend asked me “Why?”, I thought very deeply about the negative perceptions and stereotypes that abound about the Men’s Fellowship, and I responded with the question “Why not?”.

The Constitution of the United Church Men’s Fellowship states that all men, 18 years or over, are eligible to be members. I know I fit the constitutional qualifications.

Constitutional qualifications aside, I feel that, as far as my involvement in the Men’s Fellowship is concerned, my youth is my greatest asset.

At the risk of sounding boastful, I think that my youth is my greatest asset because my youth carries with it sufficient energy, insight, forward-thinking and technological savviness that is required to help keep the movement current and relevant, as well as to help remove the negative perceptions and stereotypes that exist about the movement.

Throughout my lifelong experience in and association

with the United Church, I have met and encountered several young men who are either equally or even more intellectual, energetic, progressive than I, who would also be assets to the movement. Some have taken the time to join the movement, others have been thinking about it, others have sidestepped it. The Men’s Fellowship must seek out and encourage them. I make a heartfelt appeal to all the young men of the church: get involved! The United Church and its Men’s Fellowship movement need us! Let us put our talents, technological savviness, energy and ingenuity to use in the service of the Master.

“Lift High the cross of Christ!
Tread where His feet have trod
As brothers of the Son of Man



2020 Men’s Fellowship Convention at the Ridgemount United

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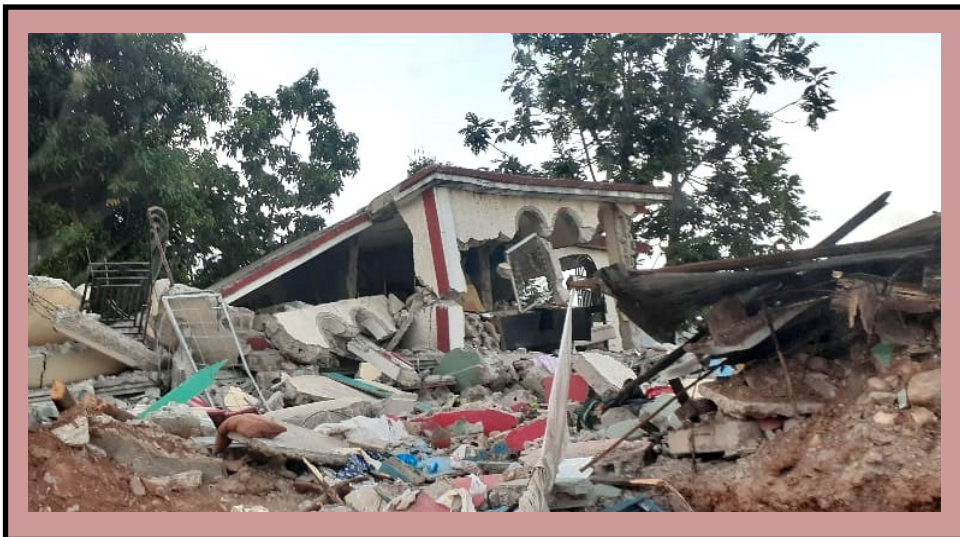
Men’s Fellowship Sunday

October 10, 2021

HAITI RELIEF

Since the earthquake, which had its epicenter near Haiti, on Saturday August 14, 2021, has devastated the nation, the country has been experiencing strong tremors. Many persons are still homeless and living under rubbles. Some are hesitant to erect concrete structures as they fear another earthquake at any given time.

At the last count, the death toll was 2,207, with 344 people still missing. 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.



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 aware of the restrictions on attendance in worship in Jamaica and would suggest that, where possible, congregations make a contribution from their own funds.

How to Donate **Cayman Islands:**

Send your contributions to your local congregations, which will then remit the same to the Cayman Regional Office

Jamaica:

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

NEWS FROM CAYMAN

Sunday School Presentation at SSU



Sunday School teacher, **Valerie Anderson**, explains to the congregation, with the help of her class, what they have been doing in Sunday School classes. These presentations are regular features and are much enjoyed by all.

New Member for Elmslie



On Sunday, 5th September, **Susan Solomon** (pictured with **Rev. Chris Mason**) was received into membership at Elmslie.

PRAYER CORNER

- ◆ Mrs. Karen Francis, whose husband Rev. Dr. Norman Francis has passed on.
- ◆ Rev. Delia Picard-Hibbert whose mother, Mrs. Escelene Picart passed on.
- ◆ Rev. Garwell Bacchas and family with the passing of his brother, Mike and sister-in-law, Marcia. .
- ◆ Rev Rohan Kong who lost his father .
- ◆ The climbing number of COVID 19 infections in Jamaica.
- ◆ Patients, families and workers in the health sector in Jamaica.
- ◆ Members of staff with relatives affected by COVID 19.
- ◆ The people of Haiti and Afghanistan.

A prayer :

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer
Amen.



Elmsie Memorial United Church

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

AFFECTING CONGREGATIONAL LIFE IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

-From the Office of the General Secretary

There is now evidence of a community spread of COVID-19 in the Cayman Islands and as such the Government has reintroduced regulations to control the spread of the virus, including but not limited, to protocols for travel and gatherings. **Consequently, indoor gatherings are now restricted to 100 persons.** Please find attached suggested protocols for congregations in the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council (CIRMC).

The Government of Jamaica, on September 22, 2021, announced amendments to an order under the Disaster Risk Management Act (DRMA) to facilitate in-person worship at churches on Saturdays and Sundays. These provisions are for the period **September 25 to October 28, 2021.**

Please note and be guided by the following:

1. **Church Services** – Sundays have been designated *No Movement Days*, however Church Services are allowed under the following conditions:
 - **Persons are allowed movement to attend worship services between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.**
 - **The number of persons allowed in the sanctuary for worship on Sundays should be determined by the physical distancing requirement of a minimum of six feet between persons, but should not exceed 50 persons.**
 - **Each person attending worship is required to have a completed Place of Worship Authorization Form (amended version attached).**

Please do the following prior to the service:

- i. Print and fill out all sections of the Authorization Form
- ii. Insert the name of the person who will participate in the service (use one Form for each person who will participate, do not exceed 20 persons)
- iii. Each Form should be signed by the Minister or Lay Pastor, including her/his own Form
- iv. Place your Church Stamp/Seal where indicated on each completed Form. This is a critical requirement (if you do not have a Church Stamp, visit your regional office and have them stamp each document)
- v. Ensure that each participant in the worship service has her/his copy of the Authorization Form, along with a valid form of identification, for presentation to the police at a check point

2. **Weddings** – the maximum number of persons allowed has moved **from 20 to 50 persons.**

The other relevant provisions remain the same as under:

3. **No crusades, conferences or conventions** will be permitted.
4. **Funeral services are allowed with at a maximum of 20 persons within the place of worship or facility.**
5. **Burials** are allowed for **30 minutes** Mondays to Fridays between **9 am and 4 pm** with a **maximum of 15 persons** at the graveside.
6. **Physical Gatherings** are limited to **10 persons.**
7. **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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WEBSTER MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

"It's Crunch Time! Let's Erase COVID-19"

Webinar
 Thursday, October 7, 2021
 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
 via YouTube 

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WebsterMemorialUnitedChurch/videos>



Moderator
 Rev. Norbert Stephens
 UCJCI General Secretary

PANELIST



Prof. Wendel Abel
 Professor of Mental Health Policy & the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, UWI Mona Campus



Rev. Newton Dixon
 President of Jamaica's Council of Churches



Dr. Orville Nembhard
 Medical Doctor & Public Health Specialist

Sponsored by:  Ennis Medical & Dental Supplies 'Your One Stop CRAP Supplier' 11 Cunningham Avenue, Kingston 5 (876) 214-8780-81   **DAVIDSON & HANNA (K&H)** Clearance Quality Services 62a Hope Road, Kingston 5, Jamaica Tel: 01-7380111-7380112 Fax: 01-7380111 Email: info@davidsonhanna.com  **RICS**

Please send your questions to: contact@webstermemorial.org or (876) 861-9656

St. John's United Church



Anniversary & Memorial Service

Sunday
Oct 17
2021

Worship
begins
10:00am

St. John's United Church Jamaica

End Violence Against Women and Children



Share your *Thursdays in Black* photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Use the hashtags:
 #WCC, #UCJCI,
 #evgw, #ThursdaysinBlack,
 #endviolenceagainstwomen

Towards a world without rape and violence
THURSDAYS IN BLACK
 World Council of Churches

St. John's United Church



HARVEST SERVICE

Sunday November 7, 2021

Worship Begins at 10:00AM

St. John's United Church Jamaica



Tune in to Our United in Faith Programme Every Sunday on **RJR 94 FM** at 6:30 am .

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- 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>

We are **IUC** International University 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
- M.Sc. COUNSELLING & CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGY
- MA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- MBA LOGISTICS & PORT MANAGEMENT

ACCREDITED REGISTERED & READY

SHORT COURSES AVAILABLE RIGHT THROUGH THE YEAR

APPLY FOR 2021

Add us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter

www.iuc2.edu.jm
Email: iuc.recruiting@iuc.edu.jm

REGIONAL CENTRES

KINGSTON: 876.754.1921 / 7869 / 8727
MANDEVILLE: 876.631.8716 / 876.632.4075
TOWER ISLE: 876.341.0734
MONTEGO BAY: 876.940.0382 / 876.971.8401

The Jamaica Diaspora Behavioral & Mental Health Task Force & the Jamaica Diaspora Worldwide Organizations Taskforce (JDWOT) PRESENTS

Faith & Mental Wellness

Register for sessions at bit.ly/jdtan-faithmh. Zoom login will be sent upon registration

Saturdays Sept 11 - Oct 30 @ 10 AM ET / 9 AM JA Time

Week 1 Saturday, Sept 11, 2021 Intro to Mental Health & Mental Illness Presenters: Henry Lewis & Joshua Smith	Week 2 Saturday, Sept 18, 2021 Engaging & Motivating the Youth Population Presenters: Melanie Baker & Nia Jones	Week 3 Saturday, Sept 25, 2021 Understanding Trauma & Its Effects on Mental Health Presenters: Lauren Capel & Tierra Sydnor-Diggs
BREAK		
Week 4 Saturday, Oct 16, 2021 Coping with the Stress of Congregational Isolation Before & After Quarantine Presenters: Lauren Capel, Nia Jones, Feona Kerr & Henry Lewis Jr.	Week 5 Saturday, Oct 23, 2021 Healthy Grieving While Maintaining Spiritual Faith Presenter: Joshua Smith	Week 6 Saturday, Oct 30, 2021 Selfcare for Leaders: Learning to Put Your Mask on First Presenters: Lauren Capel & Tierra Sydnor-Diggs

PRESENTERS

 Lauren Capel, LCSW Co-founder Keys of Hope Consultants	 Tierra Sydnor-Diggs LCSW-C, Director Keys of Hope Consultants	 Joshua P. Smith, LPC CEO J.P Smith LLC	 Melanie S. Baker M. Sc. Special Education	 Henry Jason Lewis Jr. Executive Coach & Author	 Nia Jones Licensed Social Worker & Consultant
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A licensed social worker with over 13 years experience, with experience in trauma informed care. She provides services to children, adults and families and serves in ministry.

A speaker and trainer, Tierra has over 19 years of experience as a Restorative Practices Practitioner and certified trainer. Tierra serves in ministry.

A best-selling author, speaker, entrepreneur and life/ministry coach, Joshua has worked in the mental health field for 12 years and serves in a pastoral capacity.

Melanie Baker is a Grant Writer, Curriculum Development Specialist and Special Education Teacher with over 20 years experience working with students, parents, educators and families.

A trained teacher and mental health therapist, Henry has worked in education and serves in a pastoral capacity. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Organizational Psychology.

Podcast co-host, Nia has worked with youth for 15 years. A mental health advocate, she has been recognized for her work with NAMJ, Baltimore through the "Always Forward" yearly fundraiser.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE WILL BE GIVEN FOR ATTENDING AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SIX SESSIONS

The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) is a worldwide network of sectoral-focused Diaspora Taskforces with members across 30+ countries. Taskforces have been operating since 2013 as a collaborative approach to engage and mobilize the Jamaican Diaspora to join forces and support national development. It started with Education followed by Agriculture and has expanded to cover over 15 sectors. Our behavioral and Mental health Taskforce has coordinated a series focused on increasing mental health awareness for the Faith Community in Jamaica. The series will be presented by individuals who are licensed professionals in varying capacities as is evident by their biographies. The attached flyer outlines the topics that were developed in collaboration with persons living in Jamaica who identified specific present-day issues and concerns in their communities. The series is designed for multi-denominational pastors, ministry staff and volunteers.

At Home Liturgy- October 10, 2021

The Call to Evangelism – Proclamation
Job 23:1-9, 16-17 || Psalm 22:1-15
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 || Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16 || Mark 10:17-31

Evangelistic preaching is the proclamation of the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with the aim of making disciples for Christ. It concerns the immediate and urgent message of salvation that carries with it the imperative that all persons must repent and believe the gospel. What Jesus

wants us to preach He preached – the gospel of the Kingdom. This proclamation involves praying the message through, lifting up Jesus, using Scripture, dealing with unbelief and sin, keeping to the point, making the message simple, pleading for souls, calling for a response/verdict and depending on the Holy Spirit. Yet remember that what matters in proclamation is not just what is heard but also what is seen whether through our faithful presence or our willingness to draw alongside others.

Happy Birthday



Rev Novlyn Hanson



Rev Noel Murray



Ms. Monique Lofters
October 13



Rev. Dr. Marjorie
Lewis October 16

The United Church in Jamaica and The Cayman Islands
Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian

Moderator

Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott

General Secretary

Rev. Norbert Stephens

Regional Deputy General Secretaries

- ◇Cayman Regional Mission Council-
Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield
- ◇North Eastern Regional Mission Council -
Mrs. Rose Wedderburn
- ◇Southern Regional Mission Council-
Rev. Norbert Stephens (Interim)
- ◇Western Regional Mission Council-
Mrs. Maureen Henry

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Our Vision Statement: "Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation Through Christ"