



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

February 16, 2022.

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 07

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

### Charge Realignment and the Sustainability of the Ministry and Mission in the CIRMC

#### Theological and Ecclesiological Rationale

Our Reformed ethos constantly calls us to discern the direction of the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the sake of ministry and mission.

At the 42<sup>nd</sup> Synod to the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, held in April 2021, Regional Mission Councils accepted the mandate to examine the Charge alignments and the effectiveness of ministry and mission.

#### Strategic Direction for Mission in the Region

In the last five years, there was minimal growth in the membership of some of our Congregations. While three of the nine Congregations were experiencing dynamic growth, the others were either stagnant or in decline, the latter being due in part to the constant change in personnel between 2015 to 2020.

An example of this is the East End/Gun Bay Charge which changed four ministers in five years. The result was the attrition of membership and declining community engagement. Ministerial changes also happened at John Gray Memorial, the George Town Charge, and the Robert Young Memorial/Savannah United Charge.

In 2019, the Council named a Strategic Development Task Force, but that work did not progress. In 2020, the Council identified a new Task Force with the mandate to look at the ministry and mission and make recommendations for the rationalization of Charges. Unfortunately, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the illness of a Task Force member prevented the work from moving beyond the planning stage.

It was urgently felt towards the end of 2021 that there was the need to:

- Identify the strategic direction that would enable Congregations to keep faith with meeting the spiritual, physical, social, and emotional needs of the persons being ministered, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ensure that the ministry to children and youth was sustainable and relevant and to work more closely with the Youth Ministers and Youth Directors in the Congregations.
- Pivot in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of technology by increasing the virtual presence of the

Church on the various social media platforms and by ensuring that the Congregations had the human and other resources necessary to make the transition.

- Reposition the Ministers to Charges where their experience and insight would be more relevant.
- Reposition the Council staff to make them more effective and efficient.

#### Financial Catalyst

From 2014, the then Treasurer of Council indicated that Council's finance was unsustainable because the percentage of income generated by the Cayman United Church Corporation (CUCC) used primarily for recurring expenditure was above the original intent.

The CUCC is also planning to carry out more capital projects. These will target the maintenance of facilities and generate more income for mission purposes.

When the Council started the 2022 budget preparation cycle in September 2021, the stark realities of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Congregational life and revenue and the Council's income streams became very apparent.

#### Prayer and Spiritual Discernment

A time of prayer and discernment led us throughout the process. The Holy Spirit has indeed guided our decisions and actions. In keeping with the need to bring glory to God, faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and keep to faith with the Synod's mandate, the process of change has started.

#### Goals

The goals identified were as follows; wanting to impact the lives of persons in the Cayman Islands with the Gospel, develop and strengthen relationships within Congregations and Charges, be effective and efficient in how the Council functions administratively, and ensure the best use of resources. The Council discerned a need to reduce the number of Charges from five to four. Combining the Congregations most effectively, repurposing the Council staff, and decreasing expenditure seemed the most efficient way to achieve the set goals.

#### Synodical Approval

The Church and Ministry Committee of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands accepted the realignment of Charges of the CIRMC and approved the Calling of the Ministers.

### Voting for Ministry

The Council appointed the following **Interim Ministers** to oversee the Call of the Ministers to the Vacant Charges:

1. Rev Rohan Forrester (Interim) - John Gray Memorial and South Sound United [**Rev. Donovan Myers to be Called**]
2. Rev. L. Christopher Mason (Interim)- Savannah United and Webster Memorial [**Rev. Euthman Wray to be Called**]
3. Rev. Donovan Myers (Interim) - William Pouchie Memorial, East End United/Gun Bay United [**Rev. Rohan Forrester to be Called**]

**On Sunday, February 20, 2022**, six Congregations will have Congregational Meetings to vote for their new Minister. The Congregations are John Gray Memorial, Savannah United, Webster Memorial, William Pouchie Memorial, East End United, and Gun Bay United.

If you are a **Member** of any of these Congregations, you are encouraged to attend Worship in person. If you are unable, please request a proxy vote document from the Congregation Secretary and submit it before Sunday.

The capacity to join the Congregational meeting via Zoom and vote will be available at John Gray Memorial and Savannah United. The South Sound United Church will meet on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, via Zoom.

**The new Charges will begin functioning on March 1, 2022.** The formal Services to delink former Charges and link the new Charges will be in March 2022.

### Pastoral Care:

Congregants:

Recognizing that the change process is a difficult one, opportunities will be available for Congregants to show appreciation, talk, grieve, and seek reconciliation as needed.

Sabbatical Leave:

Ministers, Lay Pastors, and the RDGS will take two weeks of Sabbatical Leave between February and April 2022.

Self-Care:

A Self Care Retreat will be on March 11, 2022, for the Ministerial Leadership Team in the Council and at the Congregational level. Lay Pastor Dr. Heather Fray of the WRMC will be the main presenter.

Congregational Staff:

Youth Ministers/Directors/Musicians, Church Administrators, Ministers, and the Human Resource teams at the Congregational level will discuss the implications of the changes for these individuals. The RDGS is available as needed.

Support:

The Moderator, General Secretary, Chair of Council, and the RDGS will continue offering support for Ministers/ Lay Pastors and their families.

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Taking proper care of ourselves is fundamental to our well-being. When we are attentive to our mental, physical, and spiritual needs, we do more than preventing ill health; we also promote a wholesome and vibrant life.

However, attending to our needs and finding times to do so is challenging even under the best of circumstances. Juggling between demanding jobs, family life, and other engagements often leaves us with no other option but to drop in our bed at the end of the day exhausted and feeling unprepared for another day with a long list of things to accomplish.

Finding ourselves unexpectedly in a new era marked by a global pandemic -with its additional challenges - has pushed many of us to our limits. We have been affected by some or all the following: Self-isolation, self-distancing, vaccinations, repeated testing, constant mask-wearing, refraining from physical contact, restrictions on gathering, lost jobs, economic hardships, trying to separate reliable information from fake news, and misinformation, lingering, long-term physical and psychological effects of the virus and the loss of so many lives is taking a heavy toll on all of us. We feel stressed out, overwhelmed, uncertain, helpless, and discouraged more than ever before.

“We need to pay attention to self-care,” says Ms. April Lewis, Licensed Therapist of the Bethesda Counselling Centre. “As a therapist, during these times of Covid-19, I frequently teach and encourage my clients the following: eat regular meals, get enough sleep, care for personal hygiene, and anything else that maintains good health.”

She also suggests, “Make self-care a priority, set specific self-care goals, make self-care a habit, set boundaries to protect your self-care, and keep up with self-care, even when you’re feeling good.”

Self-care is - in a way - becoming rooted via attitude, activities, and relationships that help us find much-needed stability, strength, and nourishment. Becoming grounded this way, we will not only survive but thrive.

Here are a few additional tips for taking care of ourselves:

1. ‘Daily walk’ with the Lord.
2. Regular engagement for mutual support with our spiritual brothers and sisters.
3. Frequent exercise (even if it is only 5 minutes)
4. Time spent in the fresh air and sunlight.
5. Walking, gardening, etc.
6. Using and not abusing technology.
7. Practicing gratefulness and appreciation
8. Looking for ways to help others
9. Listening to music, singing, reading books.
10. Not feeding our mind on news and information that create anxiety.
11. Playing games with our family.

Self-care is about finding the balance between the demands of life and the measures we must take to meet those demands and unexpected challenges as wholesome persons, who can thrive and flourish even in the harshest circumstances, who are “like a tree planted by streams of water, yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.” (Psalm 1:3 NIV)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 17. (Thursday)

**Training for Lay Leaders Module 1** (Topic 2) – 6:00 pm - 8:00pm - via zoom

February 20. (Sunday) 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**Congregational Meetings** – to vote for the new Minister (John Gray Memorial, Savannah UC, Webster Memorial UC William Pouchie Memorial, East End UC, Gun Bay UC)

February 22. (Tuesday)

**Congregational Meeting** – to vote for the new Minister (South Sound UC)

February 23. (Wednesday)

**Congregational Deputy Chairs and Secretaries Meeting (Examination of Records)** - 5:30 pm Council Office

February 26. (Saturday)

**Women's Fellowship Annual Breakfast** – 8:00 am at Morritt's Resort (see flyer on the last page)

# Fellowship Breakfast



February 26, 2022

at 8 AM

Morritt's Resort

Queen's Highway, East End

**Theme: An Ordered Life**

Guest Speaker

*Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble- Bloomfield*

Deputy General Secretary  
The United Church in Jamaica and the  
Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council

Cost : \$25.00

All are invited



Cayman Council Women's Fellowship

fresh  
expressions

NEW WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Sunday February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4-5p.m.

John Gray Memorial Church

24 West Church Street, West Bay

Relaxed - No Dress Up

Contemporary Music

Message of Hope

ALEX PANTON  
FOUNDATION

BETHESDA  
COUNSELLING CENTRE

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

HAVE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
LOST A LOVED ONE TO SUICIDE?

The APF's Bereavement Support Group provides free, private, and confidential grief support, in a safe place for adults to heal from their loss and to be equipped with the tools for moving forward.

JOIN THE APF'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP  
24 FEB - 31 MAR | BETHESDA COUNSELLING CENTRE

Location: Bethesda Counselling Centre, Unit 4, 68 Mary St, George Town

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Frequency: Every Thursday for 6 weeks

Dates Active: Thursday, 24 February - Thursday, 31 March

Contact: [edu@alexpantonfoundation.ky](mailto:edu@alexpantonfoundation.ky)



### About the Facilitator:

**April Lewis** is a licensed Mental Health Counsellor with over 20 years of experience in therapy and counselling. Ms Lewis holds a Master of Arts degree in Christian Counselling and a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She has worked with the Cayman Islands Government as a Counsellor, for the Employee Assistance Program as Director, and installed one of the first online therapy programmes in the Cayman Islands.

WORSHIP  
THE LORD  
Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council  
Blessings of Faith in our World Community

on Radio Cayman 89.9  
every Sunday at 7:45 am

February 20, 2022  
Ms. April Lewis


CWM WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
4th March 2022 Friday @ 18:00pm (SGT)



Calling churches to pray and stand  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH

**MYANMAR**

Kingston 05:00am New York 05:00am London 10:00am Johannesburg 12:00pm Auckland 23:00pm




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

**Men's Fellowship  
National Convention 2022**

**MEN FILLED WITH HOPE**  
Responding to the Crisis


**Speaker:**  
Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott  
Moderator of the United Church



26th February, 2022 10 a.m.

Join the live stream on YouTube:  
UCJCI'S CHANNEL

CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL






**Ash Wednesday  
Virtual Gathering**

March 2, 2022  
9:00 am

Guest speaker: Rev. Norbert Stephens  
Tune in to Elmslie Church YouTube channel

**Rooted, Resilient: Responding in HOPE  
In the Spirit of Transition**

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
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**Cayman  
Keswick**  
2022  
'All One In Christ'

All meeting Sunday evenings: 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Feb 6 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church  
Mar 6 @ First Baptist Church  
Apr 3 @ First Baptist Church  
May 1 @ Cayman Islands Baptist Church  
Jun 5 @ Church of God Chapel GT

**SPEAKERS:**

Torrance Bobb (First Assembly of God)  
Jonathan Lamb (Guest Speaker, Keswick Ministries UK)  
Winston Rose (Church of God Chapel BT)  
Steve Brady (First Baptist Church)  
Donovan Myers (John Gray Memorial Church)

[www.facebook.com/caymankeswick](http://www.facebook.com/caymankeswick)

TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS,  
PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONS

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Keep 6 feet away from others wherever possible and respect others' space.

**HAND HYGIENE**

Wash your hands frequently with soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds and rinsing well.

**FACE MASKS**

Wear non-medical face coverings