



# UCJCI UPDATE

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

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THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

*Congregational Disciples of Christ and Presbyterian*

12, Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10. Tel: 926-8734, email: synod@ucjci.com. Website: www.ucjci.com

OUR VISION: "Touching lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation through Christ."

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## PRAY FOR:



- Thanksgiving Service for **Mrs. Ivy Clarke** will be held at Salisbury Plain United Church on February 17, at 11 am.
- Rev. Gary Harriott**, whose uncle Renartus Harriott passed. Thanksgiving Service will be held at Bryce United Church on February 24, at 10 am.
- We continue to pray for **Revds. Euthman Wray, Carlington Douglas, Leroy Walters and Carlene Walford**, who have all lost relatives in recent weeks.

# CONVOCAION

**U**nder the theme: **"Disciples for Life; Disciples of Peace"**, the UCJCI has put forward a proposal for a **'Peace Promotion Initiative,'** to promote the theme of **'Convocation 2018'**, over the ensuing weeks until Convocation day **April 15, (Jamaica) and April 22, (Cayman) 2018.**

Congregations are being asked to dedicate five (5) minutes to undertaking a symbolic exercise that communicates the message of **PEACE**, backed by spiritual and practical action. Each Congregation is to establish a circular **Peace Table** and place on it a bible, oil and a lit candle.

- On **Sunday, February 18, 2018: PEACE IN OUR HOMES** may be celebrated by inviting to the Peace Table, families in congregations that are challenged **because of conflict, and/or violence.** The congregants could stand and join hands, as the Minister/Lay Pastor leads in prayer for them.
- On **Sunday, February 25, 2018: PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES** could be marked by

inviting representatives of neighbouring communities to join in worship. Congregations are being encouraged to invite them to the Peace Table where, while the congregants stand, they could join hands and be led into prayer, for **peace or sustained peace in their communities.**

- On **Sunday, March 4, 2018: PEACE IN OUR SCHOOLS** may be celebrated by asking students to wear their uniforms to church. During the service, they, along with teachers and principals could be prayed for. **Youth groups** within the congregations could also be asked to offer a **dramatic presentation** that promotes peace in schools.

- On **Sunday, March 11, 2018: PEACE IN THE CONGREGATION** may be marked with sermons addressing the issue of **PEACE IN THE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS;** establishing linkages to the proposed Synodical Sub-focus for the week: **"How to Use the Word in Decision-making"**. -What does the Word of God say about how our decisions impact the peace between Believers in Christ? Members of the con-

gregation who are challenged by situations of conflict within the congregation., could be invited to the Peace Table for prayer.

- On **Sunday, March 18, 2018: PEACE ACROSS DENOMINATIONS** is the suggested theme. The proposal is to Invite members of five (5) denominations to our worship service. They are then to be invited to the Peace Table, along with a member of The United Church; joining hands, as the Minister/Lay Pastor prays for unity among believers across denominations. The congregation stands and joins hands in solidarity.
- On **Sunday, March 25, 2018: PEACE IN OUR PARISH** will be an opportunity to highlight the work of the Peace Management Initiative (PMI) and/or community groups working for peace in the community. Invite to the Peace Table members of the **Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)/ Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS),** Judiciary, Justices of the Peace, Mediators, and Political Representatives among others. **(Contd.)**

**CELEBRATIONS**



**70:**

**Rev. Valerine Reynolds**  
February 19th.

**Rev. Norman Francis**  
February 23rd.

**AD CORNER**

**MEN'S MINISTRY**

The United Church Men's Fellowship will be holding it's **ANNUAL CONVENTION** 9:30 am, February 24<sup>th</sup> at **RIDGEMOUNT UNITED CHURCH** Mandeville.

Theme will be: **"STANDING ON GOD'S WORD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS"**

ST. JOHN 3:16  
**Gospel in the South**  
1 Edition  
FREE  
The New Broughton Charge Under the Leadership of Rev. Kevin Nana Moses Calvert Presents "Gospel in the South" Featuring Dr. Lester Lewis & Singing Rose, Nicole Robinson-Arkins & Lyrical Miracle Music by: DjGODni  
FEBRUARY 25, 2018 AT 4:30PM. CROSS KEYS SQUARE, MANCHESTER

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
**CONVOCATION 2018.**  
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, April 15.  
Theme: *"Discipleship for Life, Disciples of Peace"*  
**SPEAKER: REV. ASTOR CARLYLE**  
**MONTEGO BAY CONFERENCE CENTRE, ST JAMES.**  
**WEAR BLUE!**  
Come, broker for PEACE, Worship, Fellowship, and Celebrate! - There will be fun activities for the children and empowering engagement for the Youth.  
**ADMISSION: FREE! - SEE YOU THERE!**

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• On **Sunday, April 1, 2018: PEACE IN OUR NATION.** The suggestion is to close the worship service, with the singing of the National anthem (Jamaica) and National Song (Cayman).

• On **Sunday April 8, 2018: PEACE IN THE WORLD** will be the final theme. The suggestion is to have a child read a poem of **"PEACE"** as the benediction. The poem such as that which follows, could be printed in the Order of Service:

**'WORLD PEACE'**

BY PAULINE DIBENEDETTO

"**WORLD PEACE** is what we now need.

Forget the **STRIFE!** Let go of **GREED.**

Give up your **ANGER, HATE!**

REPLACE that **PAIN,** with **LOVE** and **FAITH.**

To have **WORLD PEACE,** we must take a **STAND;**

God placed the **POWER** in "ALL" of our **HANDS.**

We can't just **HOPE, WORLD PEACE** will **COME.**

We need to **ACT,** for the **TIME** has **COME.**

It's up to **"ME"** and it's up to **"YOU!"**

Let us **WITNESS** what the **POWER** of **LOVE CAN DO!"**

(This Peace Template is part of a larger document, which is available from your Regional Offices and which highlights the Pre-Convocation, Convocation and Post-Convocation events and activities.)

**CONVOCATION IS FOR THE CHILDREN TOO!!**

**T**he children of the Convocation will benefit from a special programme which has been crafted under the theme: **"PEACE: The Disciple as Peacemaker"**. The children will watch videos, on how to be a peacemaker, engage in handicraft based on the theme of peace, and share in identifying Bible Passages that teach about **"Peace"**.

They will also be encouraged to craft their own poems and songs based on the theme of **Peace!**