



# The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

March 1, 2023 || Volume 10 Issue 07

Lent

## Day of Fellowship

*In Review*

# Reigniting the Call in the SRMC

On February 22, 2023, the Southern Regional Mission Council made the grand return to Clarendon College for the annual Ash Wednesday Convention under the theme Re-igniting the call: From a spark to a blaze!



The Clarendon College auditorium was full with over 1000 people in attendance, 157 of which were children and youth. The Girls' and Boys' Brigades along with Cadets from Clarendon College participated in the procession, which also featured a literal flaming torch.

An Olympic motif was utilized to symbolize the need for partnership and succession in ministry.

Speakers blazed a trail with the word in a relay with the passing of a real baton:

1 st Leg Rev. Alice Blair: The Call to Minister to Adults

2 nd Leg Pastor Alexander Bourne: The Call to Minister to Youth

3 rd Leg Rev. Thomas Phiri: The Call to Minister to Children

Anchor: Rev. Anthony Chung: "Answer the Call"

The convention also featured a joint praise team, dancers, the Lowe River choir and the new SRMC Male Ensemble.

In the "Finale" attendees were invited to share testimonies and to an act of final commitment.

The SRMC sought to reignite the call to Christ's mandate to grow the church in the Southern Regional Mission Council. Good feedback has been received on the inspiration and encouragement that the proceedings of the day offered. Indeed, it is to



# North Eastern Mission Council



The NERMC Day of Fellowship was hosted at Meadowbrook United (utilizing the Sanctuary, the Prep School and the High School facilities), under the theme “RETURN to Fellowship”. What a *return to fellowship it was, with hundreds of people attending in person and viewing live on YouTube.*

About 70 children participated in and enjoyed the exciting and engaging Church School lessons and activities centered around the theme. The team of 16 teachers felt satisfied with their efforts. At the Church and over at the High School Auditorium, the fellowship was *lit; the atmosphere was charged, and persons were able to worship freely in response to the liturgy, the music, the mime ministry, the youth charge, and the sermon.*

Feedback indicates that “the Day of Fellowship responded to the theme as we had the opportunity to worship and fellowship with brothers and sisters we had not seen in years”. Both messages were powerful and impactful; the Youth Charge challenged youth to return to God, return to church and return to fellowship, while the Sermon highlighted the importance of “life in community”, brought the “identity of the Church” into sharp focus, and reminded listeners that “God’s Church” must reflect the heart of God - speaking the truth in love. The Praise Fest which followed in the afternoon was exhilarating and uplifting. It reflected spiritual depth and it ensured that people left feeling refreshed, renewed and revitalized.



The NERMC 2023 Day of Fellowship: an invigorating return to fellowship. Mission accomplished!

# WRMC ASH WEDNESDAY MISSION POSSIBLE

“Long, long, long, long time, wi nuh have nuh nice time...”

Truer words were never quoted. The last Ash Wednesday gathering of the Western Regional Mission Council to observe the beginning of the Lenten Season was in 2020 and since then, when it became safe enough, we have been trying to **re-connect**: that’s the buzz word widely circulated within the Region via the local congregations.

The biologist will share with you the importance of each cell, contributing to the well being of the whole body and the importance of each cell being in good physical health. The WRMC focused on the importance of good physical, spiritual and emotional health, in the cells we call Congregations; in the hope that the dislocation due to the pandemic; would not further erode employment, education, and social and economic health.

Adopting the word reconnection, we work towards well-being in our homes, our congregations, our communities. Ash Wednesday 2023 was a re-connection among friends, young and not so young. Our preacher, Rev. Lembe Sivile helped us celebrate the deeper meaning of our re-connection, through his Sermon, which reminded us of the

reality of re-alignment. The fresh new thinking to our re-connection was that it involves re-alignment, and re-alignment brings pain as we are bent into shape for the new, hopefully smooth journey.

With eyes wide open, the gathered people of God, in songs and hymns, prayers and praise, committed ourselves to the theme of the day: ‘Realign and Reignite... by the Holy Spirit.’

As we continue to re-connect, we commit to putting up resistance to anything which would seek to threaten our walk of faith. We are survivors, only because **“WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO SHRINK BACK AND ARE DESTROYED, BUT THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND ARE SAVED.” Hebrews 10:39**

On Ash Wednesday, the gift of hospitality was evident, the exchange of hugs and animated conversations filled the air, goodwill and the support for others told the story of our being re-connected.

Approximately 800 adults and 75 children occupied the sanctuary of the Farm Heights United Church in Montego Bay on Ash Wednesday. The children 12 years and under

had their own Ash Wednesday Celebration. Our Intergenerational morning worship was spirited and truly life-giving. Praises and testimonies served to strengthen our faith in God and re-connection with each other. At least 200 persons responded to the truth of the message from our Preacher, Rev. Lembe Sivile. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated.

During the Afternoon Session, worship via the performing arts of mime, choral singing and dance, not only entertained, but served to search our hearts in preparedness for the return to our local spaces as we contemplate the 40 days ahead of us.

17 Lay Pastors were re-licensed, 10 Church School Teachers who served for upwards of 25 years were rewarded and three persons were recognized by the Regional Mission Council for extraordinary service to the Administration of the Council. Lay Pastor Canute Salmon who is now retired was honoured for 12 years of service.

The day was well spent. We believe that what God saw, caused Him to smile and what God remembers of our efforts to re-connect, God will reward.



# CIRMC Ash Wednesday Gathering

On February 22, 2023, close to 150 persons gathered from the nine Congregations of our CIRMC on the beach located behind the Prospect Youth Centre for the annual **Ash Wednesday Gathering**, under the Synodical theme '**Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit**'.



The meditation was followed by a time of personal reflection and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In all, 15 people received the Sacrament of Baptism at the end of the Ash Wednesday Gathering. Refreshments and drinks were served, courtesy of the Women's Fellowship.



The day began at 6:30 am with songs of praise and worship, led by musicians and singers from the Elmslie Memorial, Savannah United and John Gray Memorial Churches. In her message, the Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield (RDGS-CIRMC) pointed out that many who look physically well yet, carry deep wounds and pain and long for 'wholeness' and peace. She urged the Church and those present to seek God's Healing, for God "heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

Special thanks are due to members of the Discipleship MAT of the Council for organizing the event and all those preparing the grounds and serving in various capacities.

## Liturgy for Worship at Home

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

## Transforming our Witness

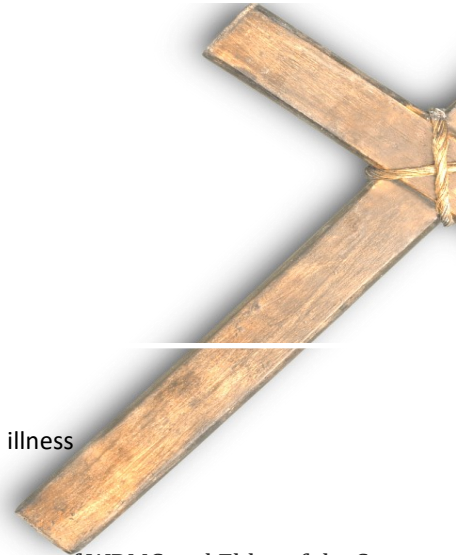
- Genesis 12:1-4a

- Psalm 121

- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

- **John 3:1-17** or Matthew 17:1-9

# PRAYER Corner



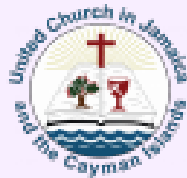
- Rev. Walter Russell who lost his sister, Ms. Janet Grey
- Rev. Bryan Stone who was briefly hospitalized but is now at home recuperating from illness
- Those affected by recent earthquakes
- The McNish family as they mourn the passing of Mr. Leslie McNish, former Chairman of WRMC and Elder of the St. Paul's United Church
- Rev. Tamara Smith Coleman who lost her father
- The son of Mrs. Sheila Arscott Smith, Jerome, who is recovering from injuries from car crash
- Ms. Joy Williams who lost her brother and sister
- People affected by the war between Ukraine and Russian
- Crime and violence in Jamaica and the security force and government as they respond

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way. And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind.

For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.



# NOTICEBOARD



## TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS

*Equipping the saints for the work of ministry*

### IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

**Register now for Module 1.**

Training begins **March 11, 2023** and continues **2nd and 4th Saturdays** (9 - 1:30 pm) and **Thursdays** (6 - 8 pm) following each training Saturday. Module 1 concludes in August.

Delivery online via Zoom. Learners may join online from one location in each region by special arrangement with Regional Mission Council offices.  
**Cost: \$9000**

### ORIENTATION SESSION

**Come and learn about the Training**

An Orientation session is planned for those who register as well as others who are interested in learning more about the Training for Lay Leaders Course.

This will be held on Saturday **March 4, 2023** online from 9 am - 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

Meeting ID: 879 2238 3834  
Passcode: 192859

**UCJCI Lay Leaders Certificate Course is designed to prepare lay persons to serve in leadership.**

For more information, contact your Regional Mission Council or email: [laytraining\\_admin@ucjci.com](mailto:laytraining_admin@ucjci.com) or WhatsApp 876 8818783



# UCJCI NOTICES



United Church Young People's Fellowship

## SYNODICAL SPORTS DAY



**"Rooted, Resilient: Reignited by the Spirit"**

**Noranda Sports Complex**

**Saturday March 18, 2023 at 8:00am**

**General: \$200 // CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$100**





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 and  
 United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands**

*presents*

**A  
 Symposium  
 on  
 Peacebuilding in Schools**

**THEME: Overcoming Conflicts through  
 Peacebuilding in Schools**

DATE: THURSDAY MARCH 9, 2023  
 TIME: 9AM - 3PM  
 VENUE: ALHAMBRA INN  
 1 TUCKER AVENUE,  
 KINGSTON

For Further Information Contact: Alicia Lamonth (876) 754-1921



**UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
 OF THE WEST INDIES**

**FOUNDERS' DAY 2023**  
 March 6 - 8, 2023

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Monday, March 6 @ 6:00 p.m.**  
 Preacher: Rev'd Dr. Collin Cowan  
 Minister of the Emmanuel/ Boscobel Charge of United Churches  
 Former General Secretary of the Council for World Mission

**LECTURES**  
**Tuesday, March 7 @ 9:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.**  
 Theme: "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains... (Isaiah 52:7) - The Caribbean Pulpit"  
 Speaker: Dr. Winston A. Thompson  
 President, Jamaica Theological Seminary

**THE INAUGURAL CLEMENT GAYLE  
 COLLOQUIUM ON PREACHING**  
**Wednesday, March 8 @ 9:00 a.m.**  
 Topic: "The Celebration of Preaching in the Caribbean Church."  
 Speaker: Rev'd Neville Callam  
 Former General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance

**RESPONSE**  
 Speaker: Bishop The Rev'd Christine Gooden-Benguche  
 President of the Methodist Church, Jamaica District

Meeting ID: 823 2586 7640 Passcode: FD2023      876-927-1724/2868  
 UTCWI Chapel      YouTube @utcwi

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Enquires and offers can be made at the Synod Office.

- ✓ 2016 Hyundai Tucson 4WD
- ✓ 2017 Volkswagen Tiguan

Address: 12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10  
 Telephone No: 876-926-8734



THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
presents

# 43RD SYNOD

## Theme

"ROOTED, RESILIENT:  
REIGNITED BY THE SPIRIT"

STAY  
TUNED FOR  
MORE  
UPDATES

Blended Modality  
**REGISTER  
NOW!**

The registration portal closes  
on Feb. 28, 2023.

\*For those applying for Cayman Visa  
registration ends on Feb. 15, 2023.

**START**

**APRIL  
23**

**END**

**APRIL  
30**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL OFFICES OR VISIT  
<https://synod.ucjci.com>

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

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Rev. Norbert Stephens

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Bloomfield

**North-Eastern Regional Mission Council -** Mrs. Rose  
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**Southern Regional Mission Council-** Mrs. Janet McConnell

**Western Regional Mission Council-** Mrs. Mauleen Henry

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Please send your comments and input to  
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