



# UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 10, 2023 VOL 10 ISSUE 13

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



MR. RADLEY REID WAS CELEBRATED BY THE UNITED CHURCH FOR SERVICE TO THE CHURCH DURING THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND WITNESS.

## ON THE INSIDE

- SYNOD IS OVER. NOW WHAT?
- YOUTH VOICES
- TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS
- WORSHIPPING AND PRAYING TOGETHER

## UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHURCH, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS AND LOCAL CONGREGATIONS,, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND STUDY OF THE BIBLE, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### SYNOD IS OVER. NOW WHAT?

IN RECENT WEEKS, UCJCI UPDATE HAS FOCUSED ON THE PLANNED SYNOD FOR APRIL 23-30, 2023. NOW THAT SYNOD IS PAST, WHAT SHOULD OUR MEMBERS BE EXPECTING TO HAPPEN? HOW DOES SYNOD IMPACT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH? TODAY WE BEGIN A SERIES - SYNOD IS OVER. NOW WHAT? SEE PAGE 2





## **SYNOD IS OVER. NOW WHAT?**

Jesus' commission to His disciples recorded in Matthew 28: 19, 20 continues to constitute the marching orders of the United Church. Guided by the vision - Touching Lives, Nurturing disciples and Seeking Transformation through Christ, UCJCI carries out its ministry and mission among people in communities on a local, regional and global scale.

The Synod, constituting representation from congregations in partnership with lay pastors, ordained and commissioned ministers have reviewed reports on work done in the synodical period. This highest court of the denomination listened to children and youth, recognised existing challenges and celebrations in national, regional and global contexts, and informed by those pieces of information, discussed and discerned the way forward through identified priorities.

Over the next few weeks, this series: Synod is Over. Now What? UCJCI Update will explore those priorities which ought to constitute our 'To Do' list as a denomination.

Today we begin with the first step, an important step - **Communication**. Our members must be adequately informed, and effectively motivated in order to be involved in the necessary action embodied in Christ's commission.

### **COMMUNICATION**

The following are key first steps in Communication:

- **Ensure** the wider church has information on what took place and what decisions were made. The Popular Report has been produced to aid this task. UCJCI Update will continue to feature the work to be done and the work being done.
- **Help** the membership to understand the information. This responsibility is included in the role of delegates, lay pastors and ministers, regional and Synodical levels..
- **Continued sharing** of information on the points of celebration and concern in our church and societies. This responsibility is included in the role of the leadership at local, regional and Synodical levels.
- **Keeping members of Council informed** as regions plan, encourage and monitor action while developing strategies, sourcing training and collaborating on action in support of local congregations.

In a real sense the work of communicating rests with us all. Let us be willing to share what we know.

# YOUTH VOICES



## How has youth ministry impacted you and aided your growth?



**JENNEL COLE**  
**SRMC PRESIDENT**

have been a part of the United Church Young People's Fellowship for approximately 10 years and it has impacted my life tremendously. It is being a part of this ministry that allowed me to realize and acknowledge my purpose and calling of being a youth leader and advocate. A once shy and timid girl is now more outspoken and outgoing, all thanks to the wonderful individuals who I have met and worked with over the years. I have grown in my capacity as a leader owing to various youth activities and engagements I've been involved in representing young people at the local and regional level. Being a part of this ministry is the best decision I have ever made.



**KASHIEF BARTON**  
**NERMC, MEADOWBROOK UNITED**

When I think about the impact youth ministry has had on my life, I think about community. Having a wealth of persons who will encourage, admonish and support you as you endeavour to live for Christ is very comforting and reassuring. Relationships that have been fostered with like-minded young people whom I have met through youth ministry have helped me to grow spiritually but also in many other areas of life thus aiding in my holistic growth. Numerous important life lessons and useful transferable skills, such as leadership and dedication, were taught to me in youth fellowship and church school. Youth ministry has had a tremendously positive impact on my life. I am truly grateful to be a part of such an outstanding group of young people.



# YOUTH VOICES

(Cont'd from page 3)

## How has youth ministry impacted you and aided your growth?



**KHDREA JONES**  
**UCYPF SYNODICAL**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**

As a young person, life can come at you fast, and it can also be really challenging. As a young Christian, it can get even more complicated because you believe you have found yourself in Christ; however, it can be hard to find where you fit in even though you were made to stand out. UCYPF gave me a place to fit in and stand out. It gave me a space with individuals who shared not only my struggles but my faith, the one thing that makes sense when all else is stripped away. I thank God for a youth ministry that has been alive and active in helping youth learn more about God and His grace and reckless love, as well as giving youth a place to discover, hone, and develop their leadership skills. Every bold step I've taken has been empowered by my time in youth ministry because it has given me a strong, solid foundation, and I think that is something necessary for Christian, community, and world development.

# YOUTH HAPPENINGS

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
(PRESBYTERIAN, CONGREGATIONAL AND DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**CAMP MINISTRY**  
presents  
**CAMP 2023**

VENUE:  
**MADGE SAUNDERS**  
CONFERENCE CENTRE

**COST PER CAMPER:**  
\$10,500

**GET READY!**  
**GET READY!!**  
**GET READY!!!**

**SCHEDULE:**

- Children's Camp (Ages 8 - 10)
  - Saturday July 8 - Thursday July 13, 2023
- Junior Camp (Ages 11 - 13)
  - Saturday July 15 - Thursday July 20, 2023
- Pacesetter Teens (Teens 1) (Ages 14 - 17)
  - Saturday July 22 - Thursday July 27, 2023
- Discovery Teens (Teens 2) (Ages 14 - 17)
  - Saturday July 29 - Thursday August 3, 2023

**CAMP MINISTRY**  
**SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023**  
(Bring a special offering & help send a child to camp)

**MORE INFO COMING SOON!**

THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

**DEEPA INNA CHRIST...**  
**FIRMA INNA FAITH...**  
**RESILIENT!**

*Help Send A Child to Camp*

**CAMP SUNDAY**

**WALK-UP OFFERING**

**June 04, 2023**

# 2023 TRAINING OF LAY LEADERS RESUMES

## MODULE 1 OF UCJCI CERTIFICATE COURSE CONTINUES ON SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023



**PRESENTER: REV. ANTHONY CHUNG**  
MINISTER, RIDGEMOUNT CHARGE

Learners participating in the Training of Lay Leaders Module 1 are reminded that classes continue on Saturday May 13 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. online via Zoom. Please join at 8 am to ensure there are no connection problems. The topic then continues with another session on Thursday May 18 between 6 and 8 p.m. Please join at 5 p.m. to ensure there are no connection problems.

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### TOPIC THIS SESSION

## THE CHURCH THEN AND NOW. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

For further information contact your Regional Mission Council or the Administrator - [laytrainingadministrator@ucjci.com](mailto:laytrainingadministrator@ucjci.com)  
The Coordinator [karen-francis@ucjci.com](mailto:karen-francis@ucjci.com)

Persons are welcome to join in this class because of your interest in the topic . If this describes you, please contact your Regional Mission Council to register. The cost is \$1500 for this topic on its own.





# THEME FOR WORSHIP AT HOME

## RECONNECT FOR BLESSINGS: A MOTHER'S LOVE

**Suggested Scripture: 1 King's 17:17-24**

One of the greatest blessings God has bestowed on us, is the gift of a mother's love. This Mother's Day we celebrate all mothers and, in the course of our reconnecting, we thank God for the blessing of any mother whose love is sacrificial and grounded in faith. The love of God can be compared to a mother's love, freely given and generously bestowed.

**No Charge [Pastor Shirley Caesar]**

### LET US PRAY FOR...

- Rev. Nicole Ashwood, family, friends and members of Greendale United Church at the death of Nicole's mother, Mrs. Myrtle Johnson
- Our members and leaders as we set to the task of ministry and mission following our recent Synod.
- Children in both nations; for their safety, provision, nurture and care.
- The witness of the Christian community in the face of crime, corruption, compromise and injustice in community and countries.
- The effects of drought on the livelihood of Jamaican farmers and the budgets of consumers.
- Health in the midst of a current heat wave.
- Preparedness of our nations for the upcoming Hurricane season.
- Our neighbour Haiti as they continue to face major challenges.

# Celebrating Birthdays

Belated Greetings  
May 7



Rev. Rohan Forrester



Rev. Dr. Leroy Walter

May 10

May 14

**BLESSINGS!**



Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle



Rev. Kevin Calvert



# Celebrating our Children



Ministry of  
Education &  
Youth



## CHILD MONTH 2023 Daily Tips

**Teach children to value and respect their teachers**



**THEME: "Children need our love and protection...Get involved!"**

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# SYNODICAL THEME



## Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit

**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-**  
Mrs. Janet McConnell

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

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**YouTube:** UCJCI's Channel

**Instagram:** @UCJCI

We appreciate your feedback.  
Please send your comments and input to  
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