



# UCJCI UPDATE

MAY 17, 2023

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



Praise in Worship at Savanna-la-Mar United Church

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## 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

REACHING OUT IN THE CARIBBEAN - THE UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES IS A THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION OF WHICH THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IS A FOUNDING MEMBER. WHILE IT IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN JAMAICA ITS REACH GOES BEYOND THE BORDERS OF JAMAICA. A RECENT SERIES OF TRAINING IN CHAPLAINCY IN GUYANA PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THAT REACH. [SEE PAGE 2](#)



# UTCWI REACHING OUT IN THE CARIBBEAN



by Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle



**GRADUATES PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR CERTIFICATES**

Over the past two years The Guyana Congregational Union (GCU) has been part of an initiative among churches in a number of denominations in Guyana to increase their impact in the schools across Guyana. In preparation for that thrust, I was invited by the GCU leadership to conduct a week-long training workshop on school chaplaincy.

The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) has enjoyed partnership relations with GCU for many years including through common mission organisations such as Council for World Mission (CWM), with both churches constituting CWM Caribbean, and Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM). Currently a CWM Partner in Mission from Jamaica, Ms. Faithlyn Stephens, serves GCU in an administrative capacity and coordinated the training in school chaplaincy.



**A PROUD MOMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT**



**REV. DR. DAVE HAZLE, GUEST SPEAKER AT THE GRADUATION**

The targeted participants were from various denominations in Guyana. Participants were excited by the focus on youth and acknowledged the strategic need for the church to reach out to young people in a rapidly changing Guyanese society. However, the workshop also uncovered the necessity for further training in counselling skills. It was at this point that UTCWI was invited to offer online training in basic counselling skills to potential chaplains in GCU. These included some of the ministers of the GCU but some of those being trained were teachers who were already active and present in the school environment.

On April 28, 2023 it was my distinct joy and privilege to be the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony for the sixteen GCU trainees who are now equipped to more effectively engage with young people in the school setting. We wish GCU every success as they seek to make an impact on the young people of Guyana.



**GRADUATES PRESENTED TO THE AUDIENCE**



**MS. FAITHLYN STEPHENS, CWM PARTNER IN MISSION FROM JAMAICA SERVING IN GUYANA, TAKES A MOMENT WITH REV. DR. HAZLE.**

*Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle lectures in the Practical Theology Department of UTCWI which includes Pastoral Care and Counselling. He is also the Warden for UCJCI students at the College .*

# COUNCIL NEWS

CIRMC

## THE DISCIPLING PROCESS BEGINS



On Sunday, April 30, 2023, thirteen (13) new members were admitted into membership in the John Gray Memorial (top photo) and South Sound United Churches under the leadership of the Rev. Donovan Myers. The new members received a heartfelt welcome from the Elders and members of the Congregations. Those received at South Sound had the special pleasure of being welcomed by UCJCI Moderator, Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, who worshipped there on that day. May their joining be a blessing for them and their new spiritual fellowships.

Mike and Mary Bowerman - members of the Elmslie Memorial United Church - spent ten days in SVG at the invitation of Pastor Walford Thompson of the Arnos Vale Covenant Assembly (AVCA) during Holy Week.

Mike was asked to preach at the Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter services and, during the week, led a Bible conference from Monday to Thursday on the book of Philippians, speaking in all on eight occasions. In addition, Mike and Mary were also guest speakers on separate events held for men and ladies on Saturday.

Many in Cayman know that Pastor Walford has visited Cayman on many occasions, holding evangelistic meetings, providing training in church growth strategies, and encouraging many short-term mission trips, especially to Haiti.



Pastor Walford and Jen Thompson standing with Mary and Mike in front of AVCA on Easter Sunday morning.



Mike conducting a mid-week Bible study.

AVCA was a primary focal area for relief donations following the eruption of La Soufriere Volcano two years ago, raising a million EC dollars and continually providing 50% of its income to missions and relief work.

Mike and Mary appreciate and thank the many who supported them with their prayers in what proved to be a rewarding and worthwhile trip.

We are all aware of the challenges with lack of men in our congregations and the Mt Hermon Charge is no different. We needed to restart men's Fellowship at Mt Hermon but, looking at the other three congregations in the charge, we decided not to leave them behind hence the idea of a joint Fellowship.

The group met on April 21, 2023 at 1:15 pm at Mt Hermon United. Four men came out that day; three from Mt Hermon and one from Retrieve. The meeting was chaired by the minister, Rev. Icylyn Parkinson and the matters discussed included - The role of men in the home, in the Church and Society. This led to a very good discussion.

## JOINT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INITIATIVE IN HANOVER



The men of the Synod gathered on Saturday April 29, 2023 at the home of former Regional Deputy General Secretary, CIRMC, Mr. Bryan Bothwell for fellowship and to encourage and strengthen each other.

**During the recent Synod, celebratory stories were invited of good news in congregations. One such story came from the Mount Hermon Charge in Hanover; a story of work to reach men.**

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The gathering decided to meet on a third Friday of the month at 5:30 pm with the venue rotated in order to get more participants. The men are working on a project at Mt Pisgah United, helping to rebuild a perimeter wall that was broken down by a motor vehicle.

Contributed by Rev. Icylyn Parkinson, Minister of the Mt. Hermon Charge

# SAVE THE DATE

★ ★ ★  
**UCJCI MEN'S GATHERING**

# JULY 1

# SO SYNOD IS OVER. NOW WHAT?

## FACILITATE AND ENGAGE IN LIFE-GIVING WORSHIP IN OUR CONGREGATIONS



First and foremost...

**Worship is identified as an important function of the church because it is an essential spiritual discipline in the life of a believer. Worship priorities arising out of the 43rd Synod are the following:**

These priorities are further broken down into **congregational, regional and synodical** responsibilities.

### CONGREGATIONAL

- Continue to engage in life-giving worship
- Evangelism
- Strengthen congregational life by attending to matters such as fellowship, online ministries and maximising training opportunities
- Discipleship
- Ministry to Men

### REGIONAL

- Support for congregational life
- Promote collaboration among congregations/charges
- Ensure availability of Discipleship resources
- Provide required training

### SYNODICAL

- Assessment/survey instruments
- Definitions and practices
- Training
- Discipleship model

The congregation remains the locus of activity and efforts at regional and synodical levels are meant to support the work of congregations as they minister to members and the wider community. Ideas from discussions, story-telling and prayerful discernment at Synod will inspire the work of Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples and Seeking Transformation through Christ in the are of WORSHIP.



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE WEST INDIES

## Certificate in Basic Chaplaincy Care

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will assist participants to define the theoretical framework and practice of a chaplain and to be introduced to the practice of spiritual care services in healthcare, workplace, disaster and emergency management, prison, disaster, law enforcement, sports, and educational institutions.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

All levels of congregational leaders  
(including clergy, theological student)

Firemen

Healthcare Professionals

Law Enforcement Officers

Jail & Prison Community Officers

Corporate/Industrial Employees  
including Human Resources  
Personnel

Cost: USD 75 OR JMD 12,000

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON  
Date: June 3 - June 24, 2023  
(Saturdays Only)  
Delivery: Online

Tel: 876-927-1724/ 2868  
Email: [jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm](mailto:jthompson@utcwi.edu.jm)  
[@utcwiconnect](#)



# SUMMER SHORT COURSES



UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
OF THE WEST INDIES

## Certificate in DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to offer participants opportunities to learn about the vast potential of social media as a teaching and instructional tool for influencing a digital audience with appropriately designed social media content amidst the continuous changes in teaching and learning globally.

### COURSE GOAL:

Participants will become familiar with the concept of digital discipleship, be able to assess the advantages and disadvantages of various social media platforms with respect to their intended audience, and successfully implement a programme of nurturing disciples digitally.

### TARGET AUDIENCES

All levels of congregational  
leaders (including clergy)

Information Technology  
specialists within the  
congregation.

General church membership  
interested in exploring the  
possibilities of digital media  
as a tool for discipleship.

June 24 - July 29, 2023

(Saturdays Only)

9AM - 12PM

Duration: 6 Weeks

Delivery: Online

Registration:

Early Bird (ends June 2)

JMD 15,000

Regular:

JMD 17,000

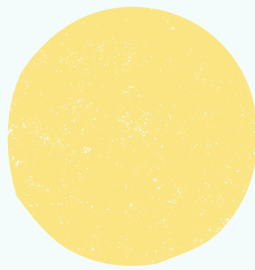
@UTCWIconnect

Call us at 876-927-1724 / 2868





REV. DR. LORNA LETTS JONES  
MAY 17



MRS. DOREEN BARNETT  
MAY 19

# Birthday Celebrations

Rev. Kimberley  
Hines - May 19



REV. L. CHRISTOPHER MASON  
MAY 20



REV. RAYMOND COKE  
MAY 20



REV. LEMBE TONTELA SIVILE  
MAY 22

The blessings of God be  
upon you!

# LET'S WORSHIP AND PRAY TOGETHER

## Theme for Worship at Home

### RECONNECT WITH ANTICIPATION

**Suggested Scripture: Acts 1:6-14**

For we know not when..., but we have the assurance of power in the promise of the Holy Spirit. We do not reconnect only in 'this moment', we have the assurance of power in the promise of the Holy Spirit. We also have several admonitions not to worry or be afraid because the Lord our God is with us, and He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine. They say that a promise is a comfort to a fool, but God's promise is a covenant that we can absolutely rely on. So, our reconnection is charged with the anticipation, the certain expectation, of power to be and to do all that God wants and expects of us.

***I anticipate the inevitable, supernatural, intervention of God.***

### LET US PRAY...

Rev. Henley Bernard and wife Pat. Pat has lost her brother Owen Gilbert this past week.

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.

Preparedness of vulnerable nations for the upcoming Hurricane season.

Our neighbour Haiti as they continue to face major challenges.

BUFF BAY UNITED CHURCH  
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

# ONE DAY CONVENTION

Sunday May 28, 2023  
at 10 a.m.  
Buff Bay United Church, Portland

Come expecting to be  
richly blessed!



**Remember to wear black on  
Thursday.  
Take a Stand! Work for a world  
without violence.**



## SYNODICAL THEME:

# Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit

(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

## OUR VISION

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation  
through Christ*

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

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### 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. Mauleen Henry**