



# UCJCI UPDATE

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



ANGELA MARTINS (SECOND FROM LEFT) BESIDE PRESIDENT OF THE WCRC, REV. NAJLA KASSAB (SECOND RIGHT)

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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

MINISTERS IN THE UNITED CHURCH ARE ON THE FRONT LINE OF MINISTRY AND AS SUCH, THE UCJCI DESIRES THAT THEY BE PREPARED AND SUPPORTED TO ENGAGE IN MINISTRY. SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE PAST EXPERIENCES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS, THE MINISTERIAL FORMATION UNIT IS DEEPENING THE PROCESS OF ACCOMPANIMENT AND THE STRATEGY OF PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY SO THAT PASTOR AND DENOMINATION WORK TOGETHER. **PAGE 2**



Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle offers prayer for colleague Rev. Khereen Wilson Bailey after her presentation at the Ministerial Formation Retreat.

# MINISTERS IN FORMATION EXPLORE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP



**PASTOR DONALD WEST, INTERN AT CARRON HALL UNITED**

Recently ordained ministers and interns of The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands are currently gathered at Kendall Conference Centre in Manchester for a Ministerial Formation Retreat. The group of three women and five men were ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the last five years. The retreat, organized by the Ministerial Formation Unit has been guided by the theme: Partners Together: The Pastor and the UCJCI with the motif of covenant at the centre.

The programme, facilitated by the Ministerial Formation Unit of UCJCI which has the responsibility for the preparation of persons for the ordained ministry aims to engage participants in reflection and action that will clarify and illustrate the principle and practice of partnership in ministry. A stated aim is "To foster a credible and more productive culture of partnership between the UCJCI (polity, policies, colleague pastors and denominational administrators) and each of its recently ordained (last 5 years) pastors".

Topics will include - 'Ordination as Covenant' where retreat participants will interrogate Ordination Vows, 'So I'm A UCJCI Pastor! [Profile of UCJCI Pastor]' and 'Re-igniting the Covenant'.

The retreat (May 30 - June 2, 2023) is being led by members of the Ministerial Formation Team – Director, Rev. Henley Bernard; Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle, UCJCI Warden at The United Theological College of the West Indies, and



**REV. SANDRA COLLINS, MINISTER - SANTA CRUZ - ORDAINED 2021**

and Associate Warden, Mrs. Karen Francis; Mrs. Janet McConnell, Regional Deputy General Secretary (RDGS), Southern Regional Mission Council (SRMC) and Rev. Anthony Chung, Chair of SRMC. Facilitators include Rev. Euthman Wray, Chairman of Church and Ministry Synodical committee which has responsibility for personnel; Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott, Moderator of the Synod of UCJCI, and Rev Norbert Stephens, General Secretary UCJCI.

**OTHER ATTENDEES WERE**  
REV. LADDIA YOUNG (ORDAINED 2019),  
REV. ALEX HAYDEN (ORDAINED 2019),  
REV. ANNAKAY HENRY-MCGREGOR (ORDAINED 2021)  
PASTOR ELCE LAURISTON, REV. ALJA DIAS (ORDAINED 2022)



**REV. WENDELL MCKOY, MINISTER OF SALEM CHARGE OF CHURCHES, ORDAINED 2021**



# COVENANT CONVERSATIONS



## COVENANT: THE FOUNDATION OF PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships are rooted and guided by covenants.

- It is where accountability is rooted.  
Where its authenticated and affirmed and reaffirmed  
Where it begins and ends.  
It is ultimate.
- It is where our work is gauged and guided.
- It is what gives us marching orders.
- It is that which propels.

REV. EUTHMAN WRAY, CHAIRMAN - CHURCH AND  
MINISTRY SYNODICAL COMMITTEE



## PARTNERS TOGETHER: THE PASTOR & THE UCJCI

"At the heart of the relationship between the Pastor and the UCJCI, between the Minister and the denomination is the sense of partnership. The Pastor and the Church are in partnership."

"Within the context of the UCJCI, the ministry formation process takes place through various arms of the church (congregation, Council, Synod)."

REV. ANTHONY CHURCH, CHAIRMAN - SOUTHERN  
REGION MISSION COUNCIL



## TRUST IS CRITICAL TO COVENANT

"Covenant relationship with God and each other invites us to:

- Count the Cost
- Understand the weight of the calling and the accountability required
- Be people of integrity "

REV. KHEREEN WILSON BAILEY - MINISTER,  
EBENEZER/ANDREWS CHARGE



## ORDINATION AS COVENANT

"Our Ordination Vows represent an expression of our Covenant with the Church of Jesus Christ as is experienced in and through the UCJCI. It is of critical importance that we continually reflect upon these vows that speak to our faith in Jesus Christ and our responsibilities within the UCJCI."

RT. REV. GARY HARRIOTT, MODERATOR OF THE  
SYNOD OF UCJCI

# UCJCI IN PARTNERSHIP



WITH CANACOM

## CARIBBEAN MISSION GATHERING IN GRENADA

CONTRIBUTED BY JENNIFER MARTIN AND OMINELLE BOYCE

**Caribbean and North America Council for Mission (CANACOM)** held its

Biennial Council Meeting and a Disaster Preparedness Training in Grenada from May 10 -15 and May 16 -17, 2023, respectively at the Allamanda Beach Resort in Grand Anse, St. Georges.

This meeting should from have been held in 2020, however had to be repeatedly reschedule because of covid 19. The Presbyterian Church in Grenada was the honoured host and the Local Planning Committee was headed by Rev. R. Osbert James.

This council meeting was held under the Theme: - "Mission 2023 and Beyond: Reflection for Action" and the scripture reading was taken from 2nd Corinthians chapter 12 verse 9,

which says 'My Grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness'. This passage was further undergirded by the story of 'valley of dry bones' found in Ezekiel 37: 1-10.

# SO SYNOD IS OVER.

## NOW WHAT

## DO THE WORK OF LEADERSHIP

### Congregations

- ▶ ·Maximize training opportunities
- Use technology to maximize ministry efficiency
- Recruitment for ministry
- Identify potential leaders

### Regional Mission Councils

- ▶ ·Assessment and realignment of congregations and charges
- Assessment of leadership and resource needs

### Synodical Leadership

- ▶ ·Food Security
- Moral issues
- Perso·Task Force on Gender Issues in Ordained Ministry
- Assessment instruments
- Work of the RMC
- Leadership recruitment
- Training
- Continued support for worker engagement and vocational re-tooling

### PRIORITIES FOR WORK





# COUNCIL NEWS

## NERMC TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION MAY 2023

NERMC Vice Chair for Missions Mrs. Audrey Francis and her team feted teachers of the United Church School in the North-Eastern Regional Mission Council in May 2023 in appreciation for their dedicated service to our schools.

Personalized tokens were presented to teachers from Seventeen (17) schools in the Council, Eleven (11) in St Mary, Four (4) in St Catherine and Two (2) in Kingston. Each teacher received a Mug with their name and the Church (UCJCI) Logo as well as pens with the UCJCI's logo.



SEAFIELD PRIMARY & INFANT AT BAHIA PRINCIPE RUNAWAY BAY



RICHMOND ROAD PRIMARY AT JEWELS RUNAWAY BAY

Teachers from Richmond Primary and Infant enjoyed their Day Pass at the Jewels Runaway Resort on May 11, 2023. While Teachers from North Street Primary, Seafield Primary and infant and Derry Primary and Infant Schools enjoyed their Day Pass at Bahia Principe Hotel in Runaway Bay on Friday May 19, 2023.



NORTH STREET PRIMARY AT BAHIA PRINCIPE RUNAWAY BAY



# COUNCIL NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF NERMC TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION MAY 2023



DERRY PRIMARY AND INFANT AT BAHIA PRINCIPE RUNAWAY BAY



ADDITIONAL GIFTS FOR THE TEACHERS

## COVENANTING IN GOD'S MISSION

The first face-to-face World Communion of Reformed Churches Executive Committee meeting was held on May 20-24, 2023, at the Mannah Conference Center in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme, "Covenanting in God's Mission". The meeting was hosted by South African member churches. Angela Martins, former Chair of CIRMC and current Chair of CANAAC, attended the meeting.

Angela Martins (second from left) beside President of the WCRC, Rev. Najla Kassab (second right)



SEND NEWS OF YOUR CONGREGATION OR REGION, AND COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO [CITC@UCJCI.COM](mailto:CITC@UCJCI.COM)



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



# REPORT ON REPARATIONS

## >>> FOR TRANSATLANTIC CHATTEL SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

All are invited to attend the Launch of the Report on Reparations for Transatlantic Chattel Slavery in the Americas and the Caribbean which will take place at the Regional Headquarters of the University of the West Indies, on Mona Road, from 10:00 am to noon on Thursday, 8 June 2023.

The assessment of the reparations was carried out by Brattle, an internationally recognised group of valuers. The Report determines the reparations to be paid to the descendants of the enslaved in 31 countries in the Caribbean, Central America, South America and North America; it will be introduced by Patrick Robinson, who is a Judge of the International Court of Justice.

The Report is the culmination of work over a period of four and half years by the American Society of International Law, of which Patrick Robinson is a former Honorary President, and the University of the West Indies, including the Centre for Reparation Research, headed by Professor Verene Shepherd. The Launch will be streamed by UWI TV for those who may not be able to attend physically.

**Ministers/Lay Pastors are asked to promote this event during notices at your church services on Sunday, June 4.**

MARK THE DATE  
THURSDAY  
JUNE 8 2023  
10 AM TO 12  
NOON



# THEME FOR WORSHIP AT HOME



## TRINITY SUNDAY- RECONNECT WITH THE TRIUNE GOD

Relationships are difficult and challenging. It takes effort to maintain harmony in relationships, and our relationship with the Triune God is no different except that any shortcomings are on our part because God, our Heavenly Father, has already done His part. He is always there waiting on us. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for our sins, and we remain connected with God through the Holy Spirit. That connection is vital to our spiritual wellbeing, and sometimes we need to reconnect. To coin the words of the Psalmist, as the deer pants for the water, so our souls should be longing after the Triune God.

*Father, Jesus, Spirit* [Fred Hammond]

### SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES:

GENESIS 1:1–2:4A;

PSALM 8

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11–13;

MATTHEW 28:16–20

## LET US PRAY FOR...

- The approaching hurricane season, for our preparedness and safety.
- Camp ministry in the United Church, for wisdom and thoroughness in planning, success in execution and a harvest of souls for commitment and service in the church..
- Efforts in reaching men for Christ.
- Our members and leaders as we set to the task of ministry and mission following the Synod.





THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA  
(PRESBYTERIAN, CONGREGATIONAL)

**CAMP**

presented by

**CAMP**

with

**MADGE SAUNDERS**

**THEME:**  
"DEEPA INNA  
CHRIST... FIRMA  
INNA FAITH...  
RESILIENT!"

## 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

Meadowbrook United Church  
PRESENTS

**A Feast of Music**  
Meadowbrook United Church

Under the distinguished patronage of  
MR. COURTNEY CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT AND CEO  
Victoria Mutual Building Society

**04 JUNE 6:30PM**  
at The Little Theatre  
4 Tom Redcam Drive, Kingston, Jamaica

**CONTRIBUTION \$4000**

**FEATURING**  
The University Singers

**COMPERE**  
Markland Edwards

**Tafane (Saxophonist)**  
D Major, Paulette Bellamy, Jon Williams, Desi Jones & Friends, YCATS Dance Troupe

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:**  
MEADOWBROOK UNITED CHURCH - 2 Flemington Dr. Kgn 19  
876 925 5860 / 1876 969 6918  
www.meadunited.org

ANSWERS - Shop 1, Tropical Plaza, Constant Spring Rd.

PROCEEDS from this fundraising venture go towards assisting the education and other outreach activities of Meadowbrook United Church.



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



## 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)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

### 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**